



## *Hope Lutheran Church Hybrid Worship Service* *March 26, 2023 — Lent 5*

*We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and worship on the Traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Hay ch'qa.*

### **Welcome & Announcements**

#### **Call to Worship**<sup>1</sup>

*O Holy One, who gives life to the dead and calls formless potential into fullness of being, we feel your tug to realize a resurrection. Bust open the cold tomb of made-up minds, massage our hardened hearts into supple softness, grant us the mind of Christ, and the courage of Spirit, to become the people we were meant to be. Show us where we have erected walls of fear and convinced ourselves that they are not only necessary, but sacred. Show us what we are pretending not to know on this sacred path of becoming. We commit to revealing and realizing your kin-dom, in our homes and houses of parliament in our boardrooms and business deals, in our policy making and in our peacemaking, all in the name of the ever-rising Christ. Amen.*

#### **Confession & Forgiveness**

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. **Amen.**

**Holy One, we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In +Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

#### **Gathering Hymn #407 O Living Breath Of God**

**O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning upon the waters;**

**O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth:**

**Refrain:**

***Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant,***

***O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.***

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<sup>1</sup> From *If Darwin Prayed, Prayers for Evolutionary Mystics* by Bruce Sanguin, 2010, page 79.

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**O living Breath of God, by whose power the Son came to birth among us;  
O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew: (*refrain*)**

**O living Breath of God, bearing us to life through baptismal waters;  
O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom's birth: (*refrain*)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

**Kyrie** (*Hymnal Setting Two, pages 120-21*)

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.***

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.***

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Children's Corner**

#### **First Reading – Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to

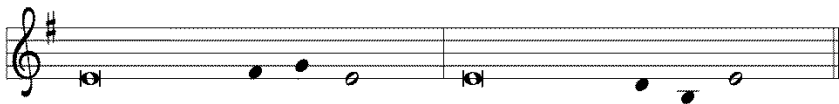
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the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.  
*Word of God, word of life.*  
*Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 130**

#### Evangelical Lutheran Worship tone 8



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I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope.

Psalm 130:5  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.  
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*I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)*

Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O LORD;

**<sup>2</sup>O LORD, | hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.**

<sup>3</sup>If you were to keep watch | over sins,

O LORD, | who could stand?

**<sup>4</sup>Yet with you | is forgiveness,**

**in order that you | may be feared. R**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;

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in your word | is my hope.

**<sup>6</sup>My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch | for the morning.**

**<sup>7</sup>O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast love;  
with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.**

**<sup>8</sup>For the LORD shall | redeem Israel  
from | all their sins. R**

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## **Second Reading – Romans 8:6-11**

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Word of God, word of life.*

*Thanks be to God.*

**Gospel Acclamation** (*Hymnal Setting Two, page 125*)

*Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.*

*Save us as you promised; we will trust in your word.*

*Save us as you promised; we will trust in your word.*

## **Gospel – John 11:1-45**

*The Holy Gospel according to John.*

***Glory to you, O Lord.***

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because

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they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

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Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you, O Christ.*

**Sermon**      **John 11:1-45**



*Someone told me one time, “No one ever died in the presence of Jesus.” From the stories that we know, I think they were right. I can’t recall anyone in the Gospels who died in his presence. Even the thieves on the cross were alive when Jesus died. Like Lazarus, many people woke up from death in these stories but no one ever died in his presence.*

*Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life,” which suggests that where he and his friends go, new life follows. Somewhere along the way, faith will take us through a cemetery and most of us already have experienced that. Our story today tells us that life can return in crisis, because Christ meets us when we are helpless, where there is pain, and when it is dark. His friends know about that, and you are among them.*

## ***He stayed two days longer***

Jesus had friends. They spent time with him and they got to know each other. Although often with a crowd, sometimes he just needed to be with his friends. With friends you can let your guard down, you can say it like it is, you feel safe, and maybe even shed a tear or two.

After healing the blind man last week, authorities began gathering rocks to stone Jesus. He escaped probably with the help of friends and went to the place where John had baptized him. He went “back to the water.” He spoke about water with Nicodemus; had the living water discussion with the woman at the well; and sent a blind man to the pool of Siloam. So Jesus retreated to what happened at the water. Promises at the water remind us that God is with us.

Then he received a message from Mary and Martha that Lazarus was very sick. Wouldn’t you do your best to attend the bedside of a dear friend? Why the delay Jesus?

What does it mean to be God’s friend? Martha and Mary discovered that God’s timing is not the same as ours; life still carries grieving and lament; and yet God is present. The disciples were always learning that God’s friends serve others; and

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sometimes needed to do what felt risky. Thomas put it well when he said, “*Let us go that we may die with him.*” Friends stick with you.

St. Paul put it most clearly: *nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.... Not life, not death, not anything else.* That is a resilient friendship.

### ***If you had been here***

After a few days, they travelled to Bethany, not far from where some wanted to stone him earlier. Martha met Jesus with her grief, and he tried to help her understand hope in the present, not just at some distant last day. Faith is for now.

We will confess the words of the ancient *Apostles' Creed* in a few minutes. Those words have helped people speak of their faith for centuries. Creedal forms focus on what we profess: what was, what will be and. Martha gave assent to the resurrection of the dead. I see Jesus smile, take her face in his hands, and look deeply into her eyes as he says, “*I am the resurrection and the life.*” It was a “right now” assurance for Martha and the rest of us.

*Some years ago, a man was so restless while dying at the hospital, that his daughter called the nurse who contacted me as the chaplain on call. I spoke briefly with the distraught daughter before entering the room. Her dad was very afraid and repeated in little breaths, “Help me!” It was a terrible moment. I moved around the bed and into his field of vision for eye contact. I said, “You are deeply loved by God, nothing can separate you from God’s love. God is already caring for you. You are God’s dear child.” He blinked and settled down. I turned to the woman and she said, “Thank you. I think you just saved me years of therapy.” We need to know God is present. Jesus shows us that present faith is our foundation.*

The other sister, Mary, was full of sadness because Jesus delayed and did not do as she had hoped. It is hard to be in situations where disappointment is the primary feeling. We know about this. All the weeping portrayed the hold that death and despair had on people. Jesus came into that pain which broke his heart as tears of frustration formed. God cares, but life carries the need to face death.

### ***Take away the stone... unbind him... let him go***

It is such an enemy. Death takes people away and can feel shattering. But the message of the Gospel is that it cannot exclude us from the love of God. I often encourage family members to write memories, tell stories, remember the good times, or work on a life display for a memorial service. Jesus asked those present to move the stone. WE are called to move barriers away from others as we follow Christ. In

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this story, a warm light entered the darkness as Jesus called Lazarus' name, and the power of death gave way. It was a preview of Easter.

His community of friends were asked to unbind Lazarus and let him go. Together they stepped forward, reached, touched, helped, and encouraged. We are involved today in restoring people today too. There are steps<sup>2</sup> we can take:

- We open arms to those who hurt.
- We wait and see if they will move toward us.
- We offer embrace with the grace of God.
- And then we open our arms again and let them go (inclusion with freedom).

Friends support life: food, quilts, clothes after jail, a coffee, time, a smile, kindness, a listening ear. Friends are there whatever happens — like Jesus for us.

Friends bring life even when there is sadness and sorrow on the road. The grave is not a barrier for us. Death is not the end. Life can still continue right now, because Jesus and his friends are here. Wherever they go, life follows, and you are among them. **Amen.**

### **Hymn of the Day #333 "Jesus Is A Rock In A Weary Land**

***Refrain:***

***Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;  
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.***

**No one can do like Jesus, not a mumbling word he said;  
he went walking down to Lazarus' grave, and he raised him from the dead. [Refrain]**

**When Jesus was on earth, the flesh was very weak;  
he took a towel and girded himself and he washed his disciples' feet. [Refrain]**

**Yonder comes my Savior, him whom I love so well;  
he has the palm of victory and the keys of death and hell. [Refrain]**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified died**

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<sup>2</sup> Jaroslav Volf, Exclusion and Embrace.



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and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(brief silence)

You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church Deepen our partnerships with the *Anglican Church of Canada* and other companion churches and their missionaries around the globe. We also pray for *Living Faith Lutheran* in Sechelt and **Pastor Richard Hergesheimer**; and *Lord of Life Mission* in Sandspit and **Pastor Jim Whaley**. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness, especially...

*Alyx M; Betty B; Ken B; Dave C; Cheryl & baby; Dunsmore family; Michaela E; Anne G; Gary G; Rosie G; Kathleen H; Stephen H; Jean J; Gail L & family; Garth N; Katie Rose & Magnus family; Ruth N; Carole & Clyde O; Jack R; Audrey S; Karl S & family; Lorne S; Dan; Doris; Heidi; Ingvar; Lil & Cal; Louise; Maya; Quinn; Zak & family...*

You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation, our musicians, and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

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You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**The Peace** [*unmute*]

*The peace of Christ is with you always!*

**And also with you!**

*(We greet each other gently with a wave, a smile,  
or some other gesture of peace)*

**Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... (*Pastor continues...*) ... and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy** (*Hymnal, Setting 2, page 130*)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread (*raise the bread*), and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: **“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

Again, after supper, he took the cup (*raise the cup*), gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread,**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those**

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who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

**Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*(those on Zoom will be communed first, and then those in the sanctuary)*

**Bread:** “Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you.”

**Cup:** “Take and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you.”

**Lamb of God** *(Hymnal, Setting 2, page 135)*

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.***

**Communion Hymn: #324 In The Cross Of Christ I Glory**

In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.

All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

**Benediction:**

God, the giver of love,

+ Christ, the resurrection and the life,

and the Holy Spirit of rebirth

bless you in this Lenten journey. Amen.

**Sending Song: #886 Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing**

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!

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**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.**

**The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.**

**He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.**

**Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!**

**To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.**

Go in peace. Serve in love.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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Worship Assistants Today

Hymnologist: (musician selecting hymns): *John Collett*

Reader: *Al Pope*

Prayers: *Audrey Strauss*

Communion Assistants: *Flo Bender, Marilyn Gross, Frieda Kalack*

Zoom Hosts: *Sue & Garth (Spotlighter); Marlis (C1/PTZ); Jamie (C2).*

Zoom Greeters: *Sue Grant, Dorothy Pagan, Bill & Caroline Fehr*

Musician: *Pippa Williams*

Presiding: *Pastor Terry Richardson*

*Readings for Sunday, April 2 — Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday*  
*Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 27:11-54*



**Announcements:**

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*Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) CLWR is appealing for funds to rush emergency assistance to people affected by the devastating earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. Donations can be made at [clwr.org](http://clwr.org) or in your church offering envelope.*