**GATHERED FOR WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE, OPENING PRAYER, WELCOME, & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WORSHIP IN SONG**

**SONG: *“****Ashes”[[1]](#footnote-1)*

*Verse 1:* ***You will make a way; Teach me now to trust; To lift my eyes again; When all I hold is dust***

*Chorus:* ***From the ashes; From the ashes; You call my heart to life; Call my heart to life; From the silence; From the sadness; You call my heart to life; Call my heart to life***

*Verse 2:* ***You will breathe again; Resurrect these bones; And all Your promises; I won't forget; You won't let me go***

*Bridge:* ***And I have nothing but praise to give to offer; Nothing but praise to give; I have nothing but praise to lay at Your feet; Nothing but praise to give***

**SONG: *“****River,”* Leon Bridges

**HYMN:***“As the Deer”*

***As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.***

***You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you.***

***You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield***

***You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you.***

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)**

**O God, we who would be participants in your kingdom confess our unease with a faith that we cannot control. We fear the uncertainties of your Spirit’s movement and of lives that are ours only in as much as we offer them to you. We think of you as a supplement to our lives and not the ongoing source that animates us and gives us meaning. We ask for your mercy and the interruption of your Spirit. Lead us into a newness of life with you and free us to be participants in the grace of your kingdom. Amen**

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND THE PASSING OF PEACE**

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

**GENESIS 12:1-4** Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’\* 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

**JOHN 3:1-17** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2He came to Jesus\* by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ 3Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’\* 4Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ 5Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.\* 7Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You\* must be born from above.”\* 8The wind\* blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ 9Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ 10Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11 ‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you\* do not receive our testimony. 12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.\* 14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.\*

16 ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**SERMON**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**\*HYMN:** #410, *“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”*

**JOYS & CONCERNS, PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH, LORD’S PRAYER**

Lord, in your mercy… **Hear our prayers.**

**PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**OFFERING**: Thank you for [supporting our ministries!](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=DGA6YBE6Q8RX2&source=url)



**SENT TO SERVE**

**SONG:** *“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”[[2]](#footnote-2)*

*Verse:* ***Over the mountains and the sea; Your river runs with love for me; And I will open up my heart; And let the Healer set me free; I'm happy to be in the truth; And I will daily lift my hands; For I will always sing; Of when Your love came down yeah***

*Chorus:* ***I could sing of Your love forever, I could sing of Your love forever (2x)***

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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*To add to our prayer list please email Pastor Tim with a brief description of your prayer. Please indicate if you would like the prayer to be listed on an ongoing basis.* tim.hare@trumbullcc.org.

~Douglas Mihalko, Karolina Szabo’s son’s brother-in-law diagnosed with cancer

~Rev. Clayton Miller, prayers for healing

~Eric Farrell who struggles with his dialysis treatments while continuing his search

for a live kidney donor: learn more at ynhh.org/organdonation or 866-925-3897.

~Michelle Consolati, continued healing

~Herb Gratrix, continued healing

~Lori Patrice Murray as she continues her courageous battle going through

Treatments for cancer.

~Muirgheal Coffin, prayers for continued good health as she struggles with Epilepsy

~Ilana Ofgang, health concerns

~ Rose Heiser, Angela Hare’s mother, struggling with health concerns

~Caroly Gibson, recovering from surgery for colon cancer

~ Lori Nicoli, grieving the loss of her brother

~Amy Ronge and her family mourning the loss of Amy’s brother, David

~Holly Vetter, Pastor Tim’s niece, who is struggling

~Lynn Manson and family, grieving the loss of Virginia Bryan

~Barbara Post as she continues her courageous battle fighting cancer.

~The family of Margaret Sicari as they mourn her passing.

~Alessandro Mele, Pastor Tim’s friend and Cometa Director, whose father is experiencing

significant health problems

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**FREE COVID TESTS AVAILABLE: We have tons of kits. Some are in the narthex. Others are in the office. Please take as many as you want or ask for more from the office!**

**TREASURER NEEDED: Do you have accounting skills and a desire to serve the church? We need your help! Rob Schaab needs to step down from the position, but is available to help transition his replacement into the new role. Please contact Pastor Tim.**

**CANNED CHICKEN: Let’s fill the narthex with canned chicken throughout March to help Nourish Bridgeport distribute food to our hungry neighbors.**

**LENTEN OUTREACH EFFORT: Throughout the Sundays of Lent we’ll learn about the inspired work of Cometa, which is a fostering village in Como, Italy and one of the pilgrimage stops on Pastor Tim’s sabbatical. Our effort will be an opportunity to support their work and to enter into a relationship with their community. More information to come!**  [**(www.puntocometa.org)**](https://www.puntocometa.org/en/home-eng/)

**LENTEN BOOK READ: Free copies of Frederick Buechner’s The Remarkable Ordinary for the first 10 people who agree to meet with Pastor Tim to discuss on March 29 at 7pm (on Zoom). Contact: tim.hare@trumbullcc.org.**

**THS SCHOOL MUSICAL: Any interested congregation members who would like to attend the Trumbull High School spring musical performance of "42nd Street"? We will acquire a block of seats for the March 19th matinee (2:30 pm) show at Trumbull High School. Please email Todd Manuel ( toddmanuel5@gmail.com ) if you are interested in attending, and include "42nd street" in the subject line. We would like to get a headcount to the ticket office no later than Wednesday, March 8th.**

**POLAR PLUNGE: Save the date: March 17 at 5:30 for the Pastors’ Polar Plunge at Pinewood Lake in support of teen mental health and suicide prevention. Rumors abound that a firepit and Shamrock Shakes will be part of the festivities.**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Please feel free to reach out to Lisa – Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am-12pm at

203-268-2433 or at office@trumbullcc.org

1. CCLI Song # 7035696 Ingram, Fieldes © 2015 Be Essential Songs License # 11353163 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. CCLI Song # 1043199 Martin Smith © 1994 Curious? Music UK License # 11353163 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)