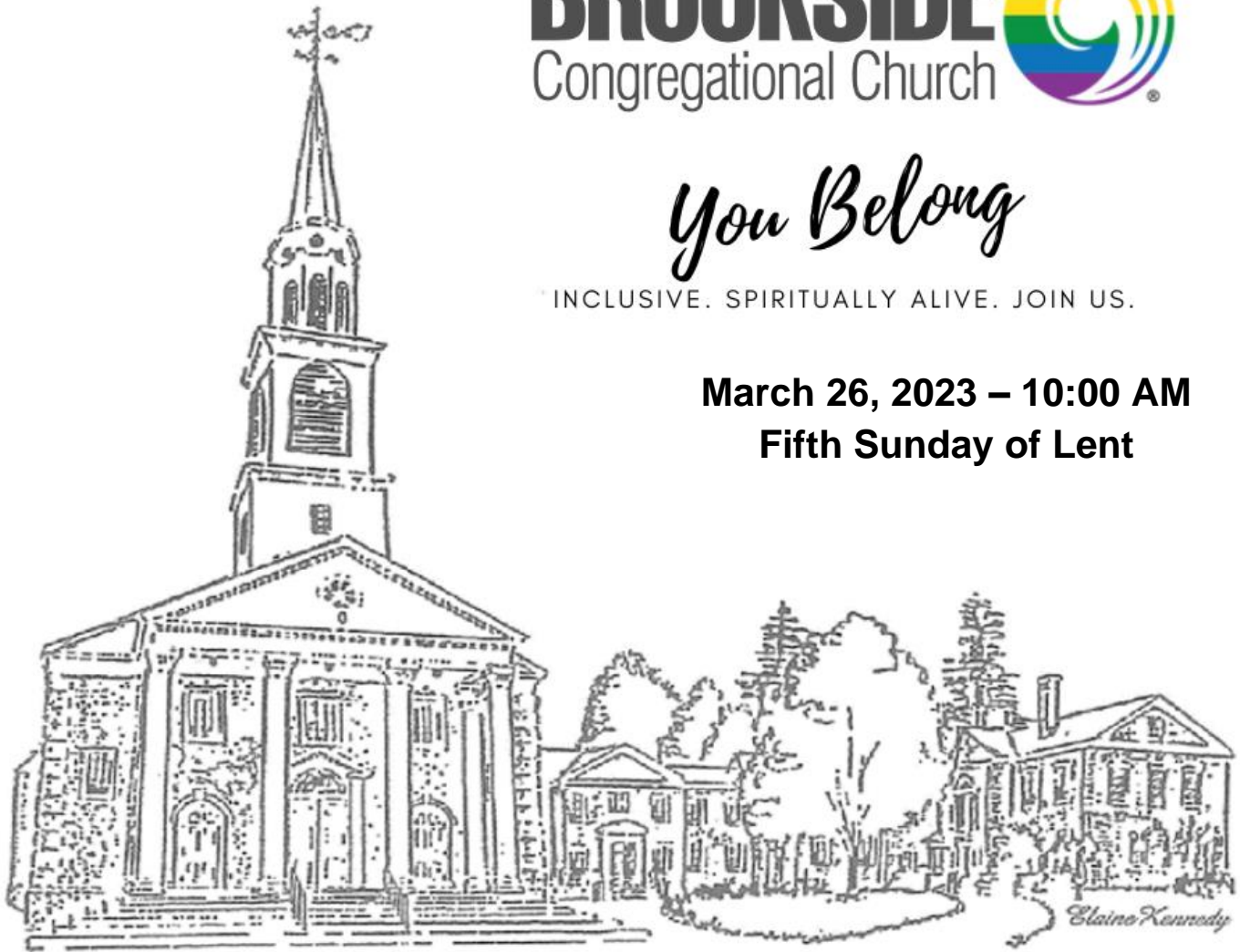




*You Belong*

INCLUSIVE. SPIRITUALLY ALIVE. JOIN US.

**March 26, 2023 – 10:00 AM**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**



Rev. Laura Biddle, Minister  
Kim and Ken Clark, Music Directors  
Louise Popp, Church Administrator

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
2013 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03104-2528  
Tel. (603) 669-2807 ~ Fax (603) 668-9041  
admin@brookside.org ~ www.brooksidecc.org

Children go directly to Spiritual Art  
\*Please Stand

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Just As I Am; Elliot*

Bell Choir

### GREETING

The **flowers** this morning are given by Martha Cushing in loving memory of her husband, Earl. Flowers are also given by Ethelda Chamberlain in loving memory of her parents, George and Mattie Towle, and her brothers and sisters.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

VanAmburg Family

Leader: God calls us from the valley of dry bones. Come listen for a word from our God.

**People: We hear God calling us in a far distant voice. Yet we trust that God is very near.**

Leader: The Spirit breathes life into our dry bones. God offers hope when we have lost our way.

**People: Our souls wait for the refreshment God offers. Our spirits are filled with great expectation.**

Leader: The teacher is calling for us. Christ unbinds us that we may see and believe.

### INTROIT

*Spirit of the Living God*

### OPENING PRAYER

God of steadfast love, bring new life and hope to this community of your people. We are eager to hear your voice and be filled with your Spirit. Come from the four winds, and bring vitality and purpose to our gathering. Energize us and encourage our faith to deepen. Hear our voices lifted in prayer and song, crying out for your guidance. Only you can set us free and enliven our bodies. AMEN

### \*HYMN

*Breathe on Me Breath of God*

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### SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Christina Alvarez

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, "Prophecy 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, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to 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 prophecy, 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.

SERMON

These Dry Bones

Rev. Laura

ANTHEM

*Solid Rock; Krug*

Bell Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God for all that love has done:**

**Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.**

\*HYMN

*Now the Green Blade Riseth*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE     *Now the Green Blade Riseth (Instrumental Reprise)*

Reader: Christina Alvarez  
Spirit Squad: VanAmburg Family & Sharon Carter  
Deacon of the Week: Amara VanAmburg



*Please Remember in Prayer*



Ruth Bodge  
Judith Chiasson  
Thomas and Julie Cleary  
Dacota Hewitt  
Ann Lachance  
Carolyn Monday

Anna O'Donnell  
Herb Pence  
Rachel  
Stacy  
Kim Woodruff

Brookside's sponsor children: Eben Gulo and Praise Mupaahlwa  
~ Sakubva Church, UCC – the center candle celebrates our  
Ukama Partnership since 1996 ~

Please be aware that Brookside Church may take photographs and videos of attendees at church services and events. By attending and being present, you agree that we may use your name, likeness, photographs, and video in connection with the promotion, marketing and advertising of Brookside Church and its events. Please notify [admin@brooksidecc.org](mailto:admin@brooksidecc.org) if you do not wish to have photographs or video taken of you at services or events.



### Maundy Thursday Service

Please join us for a time of peace and quiet reflection as we remember the Last Supper, the supper right before Jesus was crucified. In our Tenebrae dramatic reading you will meet some of the people who followed Jesus in the shadows as he took his journey to the cross.

Bring your friends and neighbors on **Thursday**,

**April 6th at 7:00 pm.** (also available on Facebook Live)

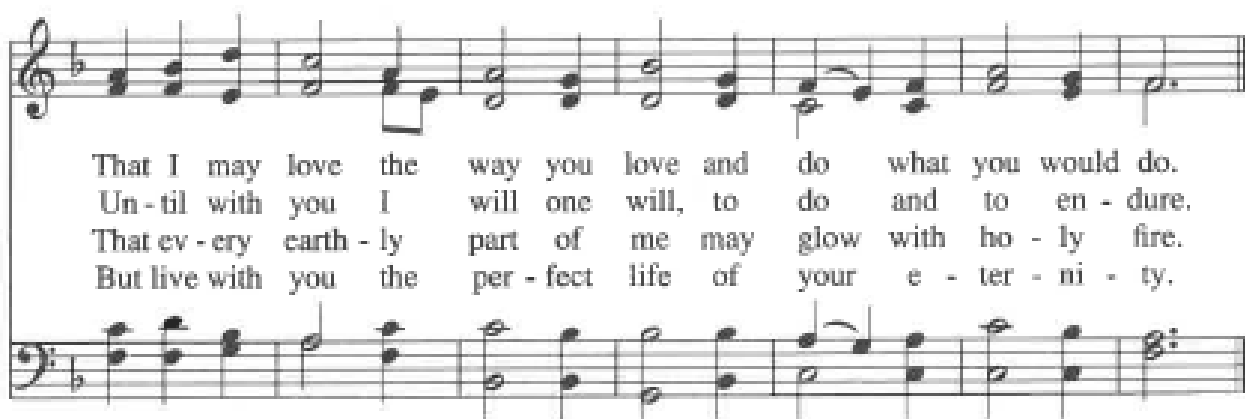
# Breathe on Me, Breath of God

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*Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.*



1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new  
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire;  
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,



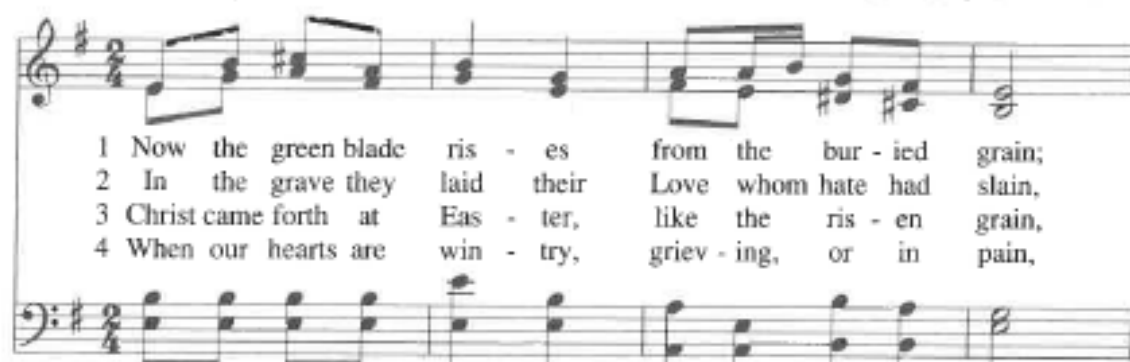
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.  
Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure,  
That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.  
But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

# Now the Green Blade Rises

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John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.

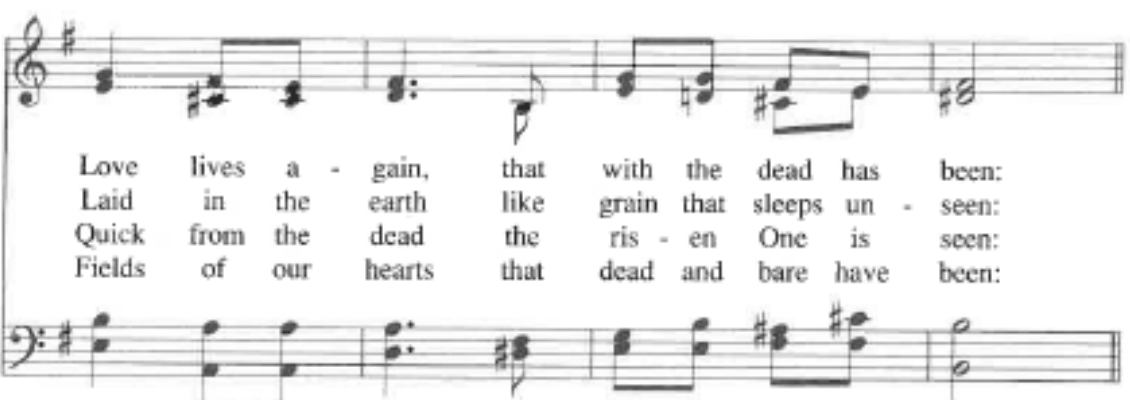
Mat. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;  
 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,  
 3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;  
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,  
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:  
 Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:  
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

*Refrain*



Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.



Don't know where to go?  
Ask a Deacon or Spirit Squad Member!  
Elevator available.

*Let's get to know each other!*  
**COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS**  
AT POST-WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP HOUR DOWNSTAIRS

*Join us!*



## Easter Flowers

Donate an Easter plant to help us adorn the altar on Easter (April 9) with a profusion of lovely flowering plants – in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special person or event, or “just because.” If you would like to donate a plant for Easter Sunday, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by **Thursday, March 30**.

I/We \_\_\_\_\_

wish to donate \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Plant (s)

in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ and/or:

in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of Plants:	Quantity	
Easter Lilies	_____	@ \$12.00 each
Tulips	_____	@ \$10.00 each
Hyacinths	_____	@ \$10.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Donate my plants

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plants

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Made payable to Brookside Congregational Church). Plants may be picked up after the 10 am service on Easter Sunday.



**Brookside's special collection for the UCC One Great Hour of Sharing is occurring during the month of March** – One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

This year, Brookside is making an initial donation, on the behalf of the church as a whole, through our general Mission Ministry funds. However, given the tremendous need around the world at this time, such as the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, additional donations to OGHS are encouraged. Take a moment to read and watch this thoughtful video & message provided through UCC.org.

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>

Donations towards this special effort may be made by sending a check to Brookside Congregational Church, UCC or using the Donate button on our website ([brooksidecc.org](http://brooksidecc.org)) – please note: OGHS special collection in your donation.