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Weekly Letter – 22 March 2026 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

John 11.1-45

'Jesus Wept'

I suspect you have quietly shed a few tears over something that has happened. Often they come without you realizing it, and the tears slowly run down your cheeks. At times, you may have pressed your lips together, but the tears quietly roll down. After a while, you wipe the tears away, and you find it difficult to talk, and you may well have to try a few times.

Jesus weeps for a man he loved – Lazarus, for he has a sense that his dear friend suffered in his dying. Jesus Christ, our Saviour, Messiah and teacher of the greatest truths is one of us. And precisely because he is one of us, he wants us to know that, like him, when we are moved to tears by a profound sadness, we can continue to trust that our tears will be wiped away.

A Prayer

Jesus, gentle and humble of heart,
you who wept for a friend,
help me to weep with those who weep,
to comfort as you comfort, and to trust that even in death,
You are the resurrection and the life.
Amen.

Stephen

**Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling
Bible Readings: Matthew 11: 16-19; Zachariah 8: 1-8.**

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Christ Well

Tuesday, 24th March - Tea and Chat - 2-4pm – Easter Craft

Lent Connections – Tuesday 24th March, 7pm on Zoom

We will be considering Isaiah 5:1-7, Matthew 20:1-16 and Matthew 21:28-46, parables about a vineyard. You don't need to know a lot about the Bible to join the conversation. Sharing our experience of life and faith will help us on the journey through Lent.

Saturday, 21st March – Synod will meet in Haverfordwest

WHEN WE WEEP (Ezekiel 37.1-14: Psalm 130: Romans 8.6-11 **John 11.1-45**)

Out of the depths we cry to you, loving God.
From shadowed places in tired hearts,
and with questions too heavy to carry alone,
we cry out in hope that you will hear.

You are the one who weeps with us.
You linger at the edge of the tomb,
daring to stand beside us in our grief,
calling us, even then, to life.

Forgive us, O God,
when we hurry past the pain of others,
hiding our wounds and rushing to despair,
when we forget your redeeming power.

We wait for you, not in silence but in trust,
bringing our sorrow, our sin, our longing.
We know that with you there is mercy,
steadfast love, and resurrection.

Restore us by your presence
and lead us, once more, into the light.

Amen.

Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley (URC Prayer Handbook 2026)

