

## **Ezekiel 37:1-14 The Valley of Dry Bones**

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 round 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 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.'

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### **BEYOND OUR CONGREGATION:**

- **Bells and Whistles with Strings Attached, April 6, 7:30 p.m., Great Hall** - the evening will feature CMU's Handbells, Flute and Guitar Ensembles.
- **Steinbach Bible College Fundraising Fasba, April 6, 4:00 p.m. at SBC** - Enjoy music by "Ignite", an update by alumni Ben and Christina Kroeker, and a light Fasba meal. Funds raised will support the Summer Ministry Scholarship. Reserve your free ticket at 204-326-6451.

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Most Holy and merciful God, we confess to you, to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

Out of our depths, we cry to you O Lord.  
**Lord, hear our voice.**

If you were to count our transgressions and number our sins, Lord, how could we stand before you?  
**Have mercy on us, O Lord.**

We are nothing but bone and sinew and skin; our souls are empty.  
**Lord, hear the cries of your creation.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. We have set our minds on the things of the body and have neglected the building of your Kingdom.  
**Spirit of God, dwell within us and make us whole.**

We wait for you, as the dove waits for the morning sun.  
**More than those who watch for the morning, our soul waits for you.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*(Silent Prayer)*

## **Words of Assurance**

Our hope is in God, the creator of all. In the Lord, there is steadfast love. In the Spirit, there is forgiveness and eternal life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Worship Service for Sunday April 6, 2014

### Lent 5

#### Encountering God: What we have witnessed ... in our need for renewal?

**Focus Statement:** We encounter God in our mortality and our need for renewal. God replenished the dry bones of Israel, and Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. As we breathe, we witness God's breath, which restores creation. We wait with hopefulness for resurrection.

#### **Encountering**

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

Congregational Singing      HWB 327 Great is Thy faithfulness  
STJ 46 O breathe on me, O breath of God

Offering      Sokjakriya  
Ezekiel 37:1-14

Old Testament Reading  
Congregational Sharing  
Prayer of Confession  
Prayers of the People  
Words of Assurance  
Congregational Singing

HWB 506 I sought the Lord  
STS 121 Nothing is lost on the breath of God

#### **Witnessing**

Gospel Reading      John 11:1-45  
Special Music      There's a sweet, sweet Spirit  
Adrianna, Mikah, Kate and Nick  
John

Sermon  
Reflections  
Congregational Song      HWB 356 Breathe on me, breath of God  
Benediction

Worship Leader: Sol  
Song Leader: Kate  
Pianist: Marcia

#### **FOR YOUR CALENDAR:**

- **Aberdeen Food Bank** - Next meets on May 3 and May 17
- **July 4-6, 2014** - EMC Convention in Winnipeg



**Birthdays This Week:** Marvin April 9  
Darlene I April 10

#### **LENT AND EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES:**

- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 17 Maundy Thursday Supper at 6:00 p.m.
- April 18 Good Friday Service
- April 20 Easter Sunday Breakfast at 9:30  
Aberdeen Worship at 11:00

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Congratulations** to Murray and Marg and Marcia on the birth of a grandson/nephew! Hunter Jack was born to Scott and Sina on Wed. April 2 and all are doing well.
- **Executive Meeting** - Mon. April 7, 7:30 p.m. at Sunnie
- **Adult Sunday School, April 13** - Louis Sawatzky will speak about the Mennonite Benevolent Society's ministry in Ukraine.

#### **PRAYER REQUEST:**

- Pray for those concerned about family and friends dealing with cancer.

#### **EXECUTIVE HIGHLIGHTS:**

- At our recent congregational meeting there was strong affirmation to continue meeting for worship in our sanctuary.
- The Executive will make further decisions on how and when to incorporate chairs.
- There was a compelling desire to keep the fellowship together and so coffee time will be offered closer to the sanctuary.



Coffee for next week April 13 - John and Kathy  
Upcoming Coffee for April 20 - Easter breakfast

HWB – blue “Hymnal”, STJ – green “Sing the Journey”, STS – purple “Sing the Story”

## John 11: 1-45

### **The Death of Lazarus**

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 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.'

### **Jesus the Resurrection and the Life**

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for 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.'

### **Jesus Weeps**

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?'

### **Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life**

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 for 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 upwards 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.'

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

