



seeking:

Can these
bones live?

10:45 A.M. | WORSHIP IN-PERSON & YOUTUBE LIVESTREAM

GATHERING

Gathering Song

Can These Bones Live?

Rev. Jim West

WORDS: © Anna Strickland, 2021. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC.

MUSIC: John Goss, 1869

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*When the past is dead and buried
Lifeless in the barren ground
What good can emerge from ashes?
Where can any life be found?
Breathe in deep the rushing Spirit
Life is growing all around*

*When our hearts are bowed in sorrow
And the grief is newly wrought
Crying, "If you'd only been here"*

*Weeping for what we have lost
Resurrect our hearts and spirits
Living God whom we exalt*

*When our spirits feel so broken
Wrapped in linens and entombed
Without hope and without feeling
As the storm clouds 'round us loom
Hear the words of life from Jesus
"Come out, be unbound" and bloom*

Gathering

One: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

All: Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

One: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

All: Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

One: If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.
Hope lives here.

All: So, come. Rest your weary bones.

One: Let us worship Holy God.

Entering the *Land of the Seeking*

WORDS & MUSIC: © 2023 Spencer LaJoye

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*There's a place you can get to without any sound
It's a place where the wick has burned out
There's a place at the point that's past turning around*

*There is a place to be lost long after you're found
There's a land you can reach if you follow yourself
It's a land beyond hoarding your fears so to quell
There's a land where the bottom falls out of the well
There is a land where your worry and wonder can dwell*

*Coax your quiet questionings
Speak your soft uncertainties*

*There is room for these
In the land of seeking*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Jesus of Nazareth,

I confess: I forget that you know this feeling.

I forget that you, too, have wept.

I forget that you, too, have lost.

I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb,

have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.

Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you.

Forgive me for all the times I create distance, imagining that you could never feel what I feel.

Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us.

Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart. Bring these bones back to life. Bring me closer to you.

With gratitude I pray, amen.

*Draw a map without borders and see where you go
In the cover of night, call a question a home
Past the edge of defenses you're never alone
There is a place where your worries and wonder are known*

*Coax your quiet questionings
Speak your soft uncertainties*

*There is room for these
In the land of seeking*

*The compass points straight to the heart of a shadow of a doubt
The key is the most honest thing that you can't speak aloud
There is no wrong way to be unsure of things
There is no wrong way to the land of the seeking*

*Coax your quiet questionings
Speak your soft uncertainties*

*There is room for these
In the land of seeking*

Words of Forgiveness

One: So hear and believe this good news:

All: **We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God. We are not alone.**

*Coax your quiet questionings
Speak your soft uncertainties
There is room for these
In the land of seeking*

WORDS & MUSIC: African American spiritual
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Oh, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's
laid his hands on me.
Oh, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's
laid his hands on me.
Did ever you see the like before?
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me;
King Jesus preaching to the poor!
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me.

Oh, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's
laid his hands on me.
Oh, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's
laid his hands on me.
Oh, wasn't that a happy day
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me;
when Jesus washed my sins away!
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me.

Oh, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's
laid his hands on me.

Oh, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's
laid his hands on me.
Some seek the Lord and don't seek him right;
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me;
they fool all day and pray at night,
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me.

Oh, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's
laid his hands on me.
Oh, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's
laid his hands on me.
My Lord's done just what he said;
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me;
he's healed the sick and raised the dead;
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me.
Oh, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's
laid his hands on me.
Oh, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's
laid his hands on me.

ENGAGING

Prayer for Illumination

The Word

John 11:1-45 | Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Word in Music

Lazarus Come Out

Rev. Jim West

Message

seeking: Can these bones live?

Rev. Rebecca Dunger Peak

Affirmation of Faith

One: We believe that God loves us—

All: God loves us enough to weep when we are gone.

One: We believe that God does not give up on us—

All: breathing new life into tired bones.

One: We believe that God returns to us—

All: always seeking us when we are lost.

One: We believe that God holds hope for us—

All: so we hold onto hope as well.

One: We believe, help our unbelief.

All: In Christ's name we pray, amen.

THANKSGIVING

Prayers of the People

Breathe on Me, Breath of God, #420; WORDS: Edwin Hatch

MUSIC: Robert Jackson

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*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.*

Offering

You may send your gifts to the church at
719 Court St.
Fulton, MO 65251
Courtumc.org/give

Prayer of Dedication

One: Let us pray...

All: O God of Boundless Abundance, whose grace is greater than our rebellious nature, whose love is higher and wider and deeper than our imagining, don't just take the gifts we offer today but bless and utilize both the gifts and the givers to fuel ministry that enables the whole world to hear your voice and, in hearing, to follow. Amen.

Doxology

Maker in Whom We Live

#88 Vs 4

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

MUSIC: George J. Elvey

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*Eternal, Triune God,
let all the hosts above,
let all on earth below record
and dwell upon thy love.*

*When heaven and earth are fled
before thy glorious face,
sing all the saints thy love hath made
thine everlasting praise. Amen.*

SENDING

Upcoming

Song of Faith

Lord, If You Had Only Been There

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MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1986; © 1986 Hope Publishing Co.

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*"Lord, if only you had been here,
one I love would not have died."
Martha shared her grief with Jesus
in these words she sadly cried.
Jesus said, "I'm resurrection.
Martha, do you know it's true?
I'm the life for which you're longing."
She said, "I believe in you!"*

*"Lord, if only you had been here!"
Jesus heard these words again.
Mary, sitting home and waiting,
spoke to Jesus of her pain.
So our Lord was deeply troubled
in this world of death and sin.
Sometimes all we see is struggle;
death and evil seem to win.*

*"Lord, if only you had been here,"
we cry out when all goes wrong —
When our grief is overwhelming,
when life's troubles seem so strong.
Then, O Lord, we hear your answer:
"I am resurrection — See!
Not just in some distant future —
I am life! Now live in me!"*

*When we share your resurrection,
when we know that you are life,
We find courage for our living
in this world of pain and strife.
We your church will work for justice,
welcome strangers, help the poor.
Faced with death, we'll be a witness:
you are with us, Risen Lord.*

Blessing

Postlude

Come Ye Faithful Raise the Strain

Rev. Jim West

MUSIC: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872

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Liturgy written by and adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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seeking:

honest questions for deeper faith

daily devotional prompts & prayers

Beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through the beginning of Easter, use these daily devotional prompts and prayers to expand and deepen your spiritual walk through Lent. You might read them first thing in the morning or incorporate them into your bedtime routine. Perhaps use the questions as prompts to journal and reflect. Day by day, may these prayers remind you that, as you seek God, God is always seeking you.

sunday

03.26.23

prompt: Where do you find peace?

prayer: God of peace, it's not often that I slow down to think about the things that truly calm my spirit and anchor me to you. However, with the world threatening to run us ragged, I have to ask: what is it that brings me peace? How do I find it? How do I hold onto it? Help me sift through the pieces of my life to recognize what truly brings me peace so that even in hard seasons, these bones may live. Amen.

monday

03.27.23

prompt: What do you worry about?

prayer: Jesus of Nazareth, I imagine that you worried. I imagine you worried about your friend Lazarus and whether or not he would be okay. I imagine you worried about returning to Jerusalem and what would happen when you did (*John 11*). Maybe worry is a symptom of love, but it is not a symptom that you let control you. So give me the courage to recognize my worries and to continue moving forward, just as you did. With hope I pray, amen.

tuesday

03.28.23

prompt: When all seems lost, how do you hold onto hope?

prayer: God, some days feel like dead bone days. Like Ezekiel in the desert, I'm not sure these bones can live (*Ezekiel 37*). Like Ezekiel in the desert, I'm not sure anything good can come from this day. When those days come, remind me that you are a God who breathes life into dust. May I rest in that promise. Amen.

wednesday

03.29.23

prompt: Jesus weeps for his friend Lazarus (John 11). What grief do you carry in this season?

prayer: Jesus, friend of Lazarus, Lent has a way of stirring up the grief we carry from year-to-year. Lent brings to mind the various endings in our life—the end of relationships, identities, seasons, and opportunities. Remind us that you know what that grief feels like, which means we are not alone in the heaviness of it all. Thank you for the companionship. Amen.

thursday

03.30.23

prompt: Even though it is dangerous for Jesus to go to Judea, he goes in order to be with his friend Lazarus (John 11). Who in your life has gone that extra mile for you? Who would you walk the extra mile for?

prayer: Holy God, my life would simply not be complete without friends and family. When I look back over the years, it is the memories created with the people that I love that gives me the greatest sense of joy. Help me cherish that for the sacred gift that it is. For just as Jesus had Lazarus, I have people of my own. Thank you for those people, God. Amen.

friday

03.31.23

prompt: What makes you weary?

prayer: God, is there truth embedded in my weariness? Is there something for me to learn from the exhaustion that knows my name? Show me how to be gentle with myself. Show me how to sift through my weariness, and how to lift my eyes when the yoke is heavy, so that I can find you in my midst. Amen.

saturday

04.01.23

prompt: What relationship matter most to you in this season?

prayer: Triune God, from the very beginning you wired us for friendship, for community, for belonging. And yet, relationships are so hard! Vulnerability and trust can take so long! Give me an open heart to pour into the people in my life that mean the most to me. Do not let me withhold my care, but instead, may the love I feel for those who matter the most to me draw me closer and closer to you. Amen.