



Sunset United Church

March 29nd , 2020– Lent 4A

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey

Choir Director: Nancy Edwards

Pianist: Shirley Hill



WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Invitation

Opening Hymn: MV14 Where Two or Three are Gathered

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

Suspended between life and death,

Between beginnings and ends

Is the mystery of the unknowing...

On our Lenten journey

We ask ourselves and

We companion those who ask in every age:

“Can these bones live?”

Whispered on the wind,

Borne on the Spirit’s breath

Comes the question:
Can these bones live?
Entering into the mystery of unknowing
Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer

Gracious, Living God

There are times when we feel dry and empty,
Like the dry bones Ezekiel saw in the valley.
Breathe on us, God, and revitalize us,
Reanimate us, reawaken us, rekindle in us
The first of your Spirit
So that we may share fully in the grace
And life you give,
Not only as we worship,
But as we live.
Amen.

Hymn: VU375 Spirit of Gentleness

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation:

During the season of Lent,
We focus, in part, on our relationship with God.
Confession is one of our relational avenues
For turning back to God.
Confession is the means by which
We look deeply inside to discover the ways
Love has been blocked by our self-interests.
Confession is our way of opening our heart
Unreservedly to God.
Let us invite God's healing love
To soften our hearts,
Opening the way for wholeness.

By offering our prayers:

Reviving Spirit, we cry to you:

“Our bones are dried up!”

But we mean:

**“Our souls are hungry, and all we have
Purchased cannot give the strength
to live.”**

We cry out:

“Our hope is lost.”

But we mean:

**“We are afraid. If we work to change
the world, what will we lose?”**

We cry out:

“We are cut off completely.”

But we mean:

**“We are selfish. We resist connection because
it may cost us our comfort.”**

But you, Holy One, have been promised to us. The prophets have spoken truth and through this truth, we know you, O God.

**Breath of Life, tear us from our graves. Clothe
our fearful bones and fill us with the wonder of
your love and compassion, until we dance the
dance of truth, of justice, of peace, and of joy.
Spirit, live within us, as we dance the kingdom
into being. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Sung Response: VU619 Healer of our Every Ill
(refrain only)

Passing the Peace

WE LISTEN

Anthem:

Sharing the Story

Hymn: MV48 I Can Feel You Near Me God.

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

Reflection

Hymn: VU326 O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

WE RESPOND

Offering Collection and Dedication

Hymn: VU#538 For the Gift of Creation

Offering Prayer

Lenten Prayers & The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Hymn: MV150 Embracing Change.

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude