

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
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seeking:
 Can these
 bones live?



March 26, 2023 at 10:30am
 in Person & on Zoom

**Welcome to
 CAPC Oakland!**

We are a reformed, multicultural, politically purple, community of followers of Jesus. Together we seek to vigorously live our faith in our words, actions, and relationships in the East Bay.

In this time of disruption and new normal we gather hybrid-ly (both in person and via Zoom).

This allows us to gather together and be consistent with our values and commitments.

We ask that you wear a mask during worship as some of our community (our children in particular) have high health risks.

CHILDREN

We've reconfigured out how to do our Godly Play program for children via Zoom. We meet 9:30-10am on Sundays via Zoom. Info in the announcements on the back.

HYBRID WORSHIP

We do our Sunday Gatherings hybrid style – both in person and online for those that prefer that option. We're seeking to do that, using Zoom, to affirm our value of participation and collaboration in our gatherings.

PRAYER CARDS

To operationalize participation in our Prayers of the People we invite you to fill out a prayer card and share it with the liturgist or to share your requests in the chat on ZOOM labeling it with 'prayer.'

WIFI

Capc1 | PW 5106583666

CCL #1137062

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD BOTH IN PERSON & VIA ZOOM

PRELUDE "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me"

GATHERING SONG "We Come To You For Healing Lord" - *Glory to God #796*

CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PRAISE "Dem Bones" - *Insert*

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

HEARING SCRIPTURE Ezekiel 37:1-14 & John 11:11-45

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD "There's no point in going to Church"
 - *Rev. Monte McClain*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG OF RESPONSE "We Seek You With Our Questions God" - *Glory to God #807*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE USE A CALL AND RESPONSE LITURGICALLY PRAYED AT THE CONCLUSION OF SHARING A PRAYER.

Leader: God, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

COLLECTION OF OUR OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

OFFERING SONG "Breathe On Me Breath Of God" - *Glory to God #286*

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING SONG "Somebody's Knocking At Your Door" - *Insert*

SENDING CALL AND RESPONSE

Leader: God is good!

Leader: And all the time!

People: All the time!

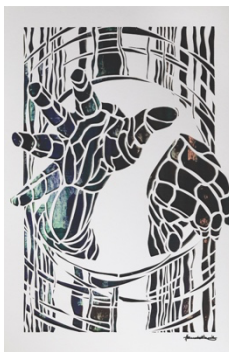
People: God is good!

EXHORTATION & BENEDICTION

PASSING THE PEACE OF GOD "Udo diri gi" (Udo, spoken in Nigeria)

POSTLUDE "Poor Wayfaring Stranger"

Reflections on Today's Readings Ezekiel 37:1-14 & John 11:11-45



“To be quite honest, very few things feel more ridiculous than hope these days. We’re facing a world of climate emergency, war, a growing immigration crisis, a terrifying surge in hate groups, rising global fascism, technological overload, and, in case we forget, an ongoing pandemic. If fear were an energy source, we could all power our homes and cars for a year. What kind of particular insanity is a Christian, who stands before all of this and says: ‘God is love. Peace is the way. Justice will arrive.’

If God personally came to my door and asked me if this world was going to make it, most days I’d probably say no. I’m not even sure our country is going to make it. How will we not fracture under all of this pressure, all of this collective anxiety wreaking havoc on every institution and system we have?

The good news for us is that God doesn’t seem as interested in that question. The question God has for Ezekiel is something else entirely: ‘Can these bones live?’ God doesn’t ask if it’s likely, or if the forecast looks promising. God doesn’t ask for pie charts and percentages. And, perhaps best of all, God doesn’t say, ‘Do you know how you’re going to get out of this?’ Because God knows, Ezekiel feels just as overwhelmed by that question as we would.

God asks, ‘Can these bones live?’

This is a question not of probability, but possibility.

What God wants to know is: ‘Can you see past the rubbish, the damage, the crisis, the violence, the signs of decay...and can you imagine that life still lingers there? Do you dare to believe – and even trust – that the power of life does not every go underground in such a way that God cannot revive it in glory?’

Many years later, Mary and Martha must answer this question in the face of two contradictory realities: their belief in Jesus, and a brother who has been dead for three days. They understand enough to know that Jesus brings life. But now this question asks more of them: ‘Do you have faith that life is possible, *always*?’

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & EXAMEN:

- What engaged, enraged, or surprised you in this text?
- Where is fear or cynicism holding you back from seeing life? Do you have faith that life is possible, *always*?
- What invitation do you hear the Spirit of God speaking to you – or to us, as a church – to act, speak, be, or change, through this word of scripture?



*Artwork by Hann Garrity, text by Rev. Danielle Shroyer | © A Sanctified Art LLC

March Birthdays

22 Ellen Brylawski
28 Lucian Haynes 2010

24 Marda Stothers

March Anniversaries

28 Maya Patil’s adoption date 2003

Today at & around CAPC Oakland

Post Service Garden Party! Join us for light snacks and the chance to connect after our service.

Letters of Love: *Everyone loves getting mail!* Pick up an addressed envelope in the back and write a note of encouragement and love to someone who could use a good word. Recipients and their situations are explained on the magnetic board.

Congregational Meeting today after worship– Save the date for our annual meeting to elect new elders and deacons, and receive the budget.

Godly Play: we’re beginning in person Godly Play today! Our Godly Players will stay with us in worship through the second song then head up to do their work and fun together in the Godly Play room.

This Week at & around CAPC Oakland
Community Bible Study (Wrestling with Scripture) – Tues 7pm on Zoom | We’re wrestling with Matthew 21:1-11

Session Meeting: Thursday, 3/30 - 7pm on Zoom.

Friday Night Meal – Fridays 6:00-7:00PM.
Sign up online to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up – this -or *any* Friday!

Women's Group: Saturday 9:30-10:30am on Zoom.

Spiritual Journey Groups during Lent – Look for information about these small groups in the entry.

Celebrating the Life of Anne Marie Adams, Friday, March 31st at 2:00pm at the church

Palm Sunday is next Sunday, April 2nd – the beginning of Holy Week. Info in the entry or online at www.capcoakland.org/easter-holy-week

Maundy Thursday Table Service – April 6th 6:30pm – potluck dinner service in the sanctuary. Bring a dish to share as we read of the last supper.

Good Friday, April 7th @ 7:15pm – Reading and entering into the story of the crucifixion.

Thank You to Today's Leadership:

Music: Pete Feltman, Dave Eagle, Ben Kramarz, Roger Kim

Prayer Liturgist:

Reader-Liturgist:

Video Tech: Thom Faulkner, Dann Wilkens, Albert Hussian

LYRICS & RESPONSES FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION

We affirm that God is neither male nor female – but wholly and holy other. In doing so, we seek to empower each person to participate fully in worship; able to identify with the lyrics of songs and the words of our communal prayers through our use of gender inclusive language

We Come To You For Healing Lord

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. (2002) | American folk melody
© 2006 GIA Publications, Inc | Glory to God Hymnal #796

1. We come to you for healing, Lord,
Of body, mind, and soul,
And pray that by your Spirit's touch
We may again be whole.
2. As once you walked through ancient streets,
And reached toward those I pain,
We know you come among us still
With power to heal again.
3. You touch us through physician's skills,
Through nurses' gifts of care,
And through the love of faithful friends
Who lift our lives in prayer.
4. Through nights of pain and wakefulness,
Through days when strength runs low,
Grant us your gift of patience, Lord,
Your calming peace to know.
5. We come to you, O loving Lord,
In our distress and pain,
In trust that through our nights and days,
Your grace will heal, sustain.

Call to Worship ~ Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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.

So, come. Rest your weary bones.

One: Let us worship Holy God.

Dem Bones

*This melody was composed by author and songwriter James
Weldon Johnson (1871–1938) and his brother, J. Rosa-
mond Johnson. It was first recorded by The Famous Myers
Jubilee Singers in 1928.*

Intro 1

Ezekiel connected dem dry bones,
Ezekiel connected dem dry bones,
Ezekiel in the Valley of the Dry Bones
Now hear the word of the Lord.

1. Toe bone connected to the foot bone
Foot bone connected to the heel bone
Heel bone connected to the ankle bone
Ankle bone connected to the shin bone
Shin bone connected to the knee bone
Knee bone connected to the thigh bone
Thigh bone connected to the hip bone
Hip bone connected to the back bone
Back bone connected to the shoulder bone
Shoulder bone connected to the neck bone
Neck bone connected to the head bone
Now hear the word of the Lord.

Chorus

Dem bones dem bones gonna walk around.
Dem bones dem bones gonna walk around.
Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around.
Now hear the word of the Lord.

Intro 2

Ezekiel disconnected dem dry bones, Ezekiel discon-
nected dem dry bones,
Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones, Now hear the
word of the Lord.

Verse 2

Head bone connected from the neck bone
Neck bone connected from the shoulder bone
Shoulder bone connected from the back bone
Back bone connected from the hip bone
Hip bone connected from the thigh bone
Thigh bone connected from the knee bone
Knee bone connected from the shin bone
Shin bone connected from the ankle bone
Ankle bone connected from the heel bone
Heel bone connected from the foot bone
Foot bone connected from the toe bone
Now hear the word of the Lord.

Chorus

Dem bones, dem bones gonna rise again. Dem bones,
dem bones gonna rise again.
Dem bones, dem bones gonna rise again. Now hear
the word of the Lord.

Finale

Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.
Now hear the word of the Lord.

We Seek You With Our Questions God

*Text: Hannah C. Brown, b.1980 © 2022 GIA Publications,
Inc. Meter: 8.6.8.6 D
Recommended tune: LUCY by Sally Ann Morris*

1. We seek you with our questions, God,
with open heart and mind;
we long to live a fresher life
and leave our past behind,
for all that we have known before
has faded and grown worn.
We seek you with our questions, God,
that we might be reborn.

2. We wonder why things come to pass
and how to come alive.
Where do your living waters flow?
How can dry bones revive?
Who are you, God, who meet us here
with wisdom and with sign?
We seek you with our questions, God,
we yearn for truth divine.

3. We search for you in garden green
where once you gave us birth;
We search for you in desert parched
and all throughout the earth.
With wonder, worry, doubt, and awe
we search through night and day.
We seek you with our questions, God,
at home and far away.

4. You seek us with your questions, God,
inviting us to dare
to know you and to love you more,
to grow through act and prayer.
"Who will you trust and follow now?
My truth is all around."
You seek us with your questions, God,
you seek and we are found.

Breathe On Me Breath Of God

*Author: Edwin Hatch (1878)
Glory to God Hymnal #286*

1 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.

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

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

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

Somebody's Knocking At Your Door

traditional spiritual

Somebody's knocking at your door
Somebody's knocking at your door
Oh sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knocking at your door

Verse 1

Knocks like Jesus
Somebody's knocking at your door
Knocks like Jesus
Somebody's knocking at your door
Oh sinner, why don't you answer?
Somebody's knocking at your door

2. Can't you hear him?

3. Answer Jesus

4. Jesus calls you

5. Can't you trust him?

6. Somebody's knockin' at your door