



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



May 19, 2024

10:00 am

AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moriah Park

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'On Pentecost They Gathered'

No. 237

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: The Spirit of God has brought us here.

People: God has set us down here, though our bones are tired.

Leader: Can these dry bones live?

People: Yes! The Breath of God will revive us! The Word of God will awaken us!

Leader: Today, we come together to experience new life.

People: Let us give thanks to the Wild, Life-Giving Spirit of God!

OPENING PRAYER²

*PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE³

Leader: You call us to be your voices in this world,

People: and we stay silent.

Leader: You call us to be your hands in this world,

People: and we keep them hidden.

Leader: You call us to be your feet in this world,

People: and we go our own way.

Leader: When we meet those who are doubting, and we say nothing,

People: forgive us.

Leader: When we meet those who need your touch, and do nothing,

People: forgive us.

Leader: When we are called to take up your cross, and we carry nothing,

People: forgive us.

Leader: Breathe life into these bones, O God. Bring freedom to our lives and the lives of your people that we might declare with heart and soul and voice,

People: You are our God who breathes life into us, into your world, and into your work among us. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

***SUNG RESPONSE** 'Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove' (vs. 1&3) No. 248

A TIME FOR ALL AGES Dani Kardisco

***HYMN OF PREPARATION** 'Breathe on Me, Breath of God' No. 254

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 37:1-14

37 The LORD's power overcame me, and while I was in the LORD's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. ² He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

³ He asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?"

I said, "LORD God, only you know."

⁴ He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the LORD's word! ⁵ The LORD God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. ⁶ I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the LORD."

⁷ I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. ⁸ When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

⁹ He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, human one! Say to the breath, The LORD God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live."

¹⁰ I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.

¹¹ He said to me, "Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.' ¹² So now, prophesy and say to them, The LORD God proclaims: I'm opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel's fertile land. ¹³ You will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. ¹⁴ I will put my breath^[a] in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the LORD. I've spoken, and I will do it. This is what the LORD says."

SERMON

Pastor Jeff Kardisco

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Alex Green

During this time, we invite you to embrace the transition from hearing the word to gathering ourselves in prayer by taking a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayer(s) on your heart that have no words to be expressed.

Come and Light a Candle...



PASTORAL PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

Our Creator (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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY 'Shine, Jesus, Shine' (Kendrick/Hayes)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** 'Sweet, Sweet Spirit' No. 261

PRAYER OF DEDICATION⁴

HYMN 'Ours the Journey' No. 458

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fanfare No. 1 in Ab/Fanfare no. 2 in Ab (Buxtehude/Hopson)

Participating In Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Alex Green, Music Director
Susannah Thornton, Soloist
Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Loving, Amy. "Call to Worship: Ezekiel 37: 1-14." *Call to Worship: Ezekiel 37: 1-14*, Re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/call-to-worship-ezekiel-37-1-14.html. Accessed 14 May 2024.

²Dilley, Rev. Elizabeth. "Call to Worship, Opening Prayer: Lent 5A." *Call to Worship, Opening Prayer: Lent 5A*, Re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/03/call-to-worship-opening-prayer-lent-5a.html. Accessed 14 May 2024.

³Birch, John. "Confession: Breathe Life into These Bones." *Confession: Breathe Life into These Bones*, Re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/03/confession-breathe-life-into-these-bones.html. Accessed 14 May 2024.

⁴Laidlaw, Moira. "Prayer for the Offering: Ezekiel 37: 1-14." *Prayer for the Offering: Ezekiel 37: 1-14*, Re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/03/prayer-for-offering-ezekiel-37-1-14.html. Accessed 14 May 2024.



On Pentecost They Gathered

Descant

4. O Spir - it, sent from heav-en on that day long a - go,

1. On Pen-te-cost they gath-ered quite ear-ly in the day,
 2. The peo-ple all a-round them were star-tled and a-mazed
 3. God pours the Ho-ly Spir-it on all who would be-lieve,
 4. O Spir-it, sent from heav-en on that day long a-go,

re-kin-dle faith a-mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

a band of Christ's dis-ci-ples, to wor-ship, sing, and pray.
 to un-der-stand their lan-guage, as Christ the Lord they praised.
 on wom-en, men, and chil-dren who would God's grace re-ceive.
 re-kin-dle faith a-mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

Give ears to lis-ten and tongues a-flame with praise,

A might-y wind came blow-ing, filled all the swirl-ing air,
 What u-ni-ver-sal mes-sage, what great good news was here?
 That Spir-it knows no lim-it, be-stow-ing life and power.
 O give us ears to lis-ten and tongues a-flame with praise,

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
 MUSIC: *Gesungbuch*, Meiningen, 1693; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847;
 desc. O. I. Cricket Harrison, 1994

MUNICH
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so ev-ery na-tion glad songs shall raise.

and tongues of fire a-glow-ing in-spired each per-son there.
 That Christ, once dead, is ris-en to van-quish all our fear.
 The church, formed and re-form-ing, re-sponds in ev-ery hour.
 so peo-ple of all na-tions glad songs of joy shall raise.

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove 248

1. Come, Ho-ly Spir-it, heav-en-ly dove, with all your quick-en-ing powers;
2. Ho - san-nas lan-guish on our tongues, and our de - vo - tion dies.
3. Come, Ho-ly Spir-it, heav-en-ly dove, with your en - liv - ening ways;

kin - dle a flame of sa - cred love in these cold hearts of ours.
Wak - en our souls to joy - ful songs; let pure de - vo - tion rise.
come, shed a - broad the Sav-ior's love, and teach our hearts to praise.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1707, alt.
MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1866

ST. AGNES
CM

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will to do and to en - dure.
 un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1878, alt.
 MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
 SM

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.

Refrain
Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

WORDS and MUSIC: Doris Akers, 1962

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
lrr. w. refrain

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with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings

we lift our hearts in praise; with - out a - doubt we'll know

that we have been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

Unison

1. In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2. Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ples, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3. Though we reach the high-est heav-ens, hold-ing worlds at our com-mand,
 4. Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-der-ing their sep-'rate ways?
 who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 we are yet a des-ert peo-ple search-ing for the prom-ised land.
 may your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar,

we your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er-more.

WORDS and MUSIC: Julian B. Rush, 1979

OURS THE JOURNEY
 87.87 w. refrain

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