

**May 31, 2020 Dem Bones (Gonna Rise Again)
(Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-12)**



GATHERING MUSIC “Trust in the Lord,” African American spiritual, arr. Shoup

WELCOME

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS Acts 2:1-12

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we feel alone, when we feel rejected

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

When we feel drained and dried up, and we can't give any more,

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

When we are unsure of how to move or where to go or what to do,

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Come, Holy Spirit, Revive us, move in us, and encourage us on the journey of faith.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come! Amen!

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, one breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you, and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children. Let our whole lives be filled with your Spirit, so that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks like death may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life. **Amen.**

HYMN *The Congregation sings No. 747 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"*

CONFESSION OF SIN (Acts 2)

Holy Spirit, we're not sure we're ready for your power to blow through our lives; we're grown comfortable with our familiar habits and our bland routines; we're afraid to give up our waking slumber and face the truth that we do not truly live. When we cling to our ways and the safety of familiar paths, wake us up, shake us up, heat us up, and breathe your life into us. Walk with us, O God, and give us the courage to follow the way that is lit by the fire of your Spirit.

Hold us close in these moments as we come to you with our personal prayers of confession . . .

Hymn No. 749 "Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

WORDS OF GRACE (John 14)

Hear these words of Jesus:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. . . . Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." In the midst of our fears and doubts, the peace of the Holy Spirit will prevail. You are forgiven. Amen.

RESPONSIVE ALLELUIA “Celtic Alleluia”

Please sing as you are able:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

TIME OF DISCOVERY

Please sing as you are able:

*Let the children come, let the children come, let the little children come to me.
Let the children come, let the children come, let the little children come to me.*

SCRIPTURE Ezekiel 37:1-14

“Two Part Invention in C minor” by J.S. Bach
Scott Jackson, xylophone

MESSAGE Dem Bones (Gonna Rise Again)

MISSION AND MINISTRY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN *The Congregation sings No. 238 “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”*

CLOSING PRAYER/BENEDICTION

Holy Spirit,
we are not ready for you,
but we know that you are ready for us—ready to change our lives if we will let you.
Help us prepare by setting our hearts on fire with love;
by blowing away our fears and doubts;
by tuning our ears to the rich diversity of language and life around the world;
by opening our eyes to the amazing beauty and power of your creation;
by breathing into us the joy and hope of the resurrected Christ,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE “Two Part Invention in E major” by J. S. Bach *Scott Jackson, xylophone*

Thank you to percussionist Scott Jackson who is joining us today to play xylophone as a sonic expression of the “dry bones” in the Ezekiel passage. Scott is an exceptional percussionist with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and serves as the General Manager of the Virginia Arts Festival where he directs and produces the Virginia International Tattoo. Scott enjoys “extended family” status with SPC, as he is married to our dear friend Karen Jackson. We are deeply grateful for Scott’s generous and creative spirit in the planning and playing of today’s Pentecost celebration.

SIDEBARS:

“The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people.” —A.W. Tozer

“Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.” —Corrie Ten Boom