

“Freedom in My Bones” | Jan Richardson



Grace Episcopal Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Martin Cockroft

A bell rings. We listen to the longing in our hearts.

Gathering Song | Gather Your People

Words: Mary Louise Bringle | Music: Tony Alonzo



Gath - er your peo-ple, mer - ci-ful God,



gath - er the long - ing, the lost, and un-sure.



Gath - er your peo-ple, mer - ci-ful God,



name us and claim us as yours.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

After the gathering song, the *Officiant* invites us to stand.

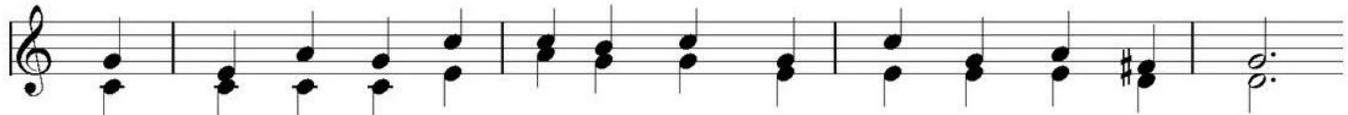
Officiant God above us, God beside us, God beneath us,
People **God at our center, God at the edge, God with us.**
Officiant God, you are gracious and full of compassion.
People **Your mercy endures forever.**

Adapted from a prayer written by Richard Carter in Liturgy on the Edge: Pastoral & Occasional Worship.

We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Words: Isaac Watts, alt.; para. Of Psalm 90 | Music: St. Anne, att. William Croft; harm. William Henry Monk



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;



1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

We hope in you, listening God. Hear us as we cry out for wisdom, healing, and new life. Meet us in our loss, and give us courage to embody your tenderness as we walk new pathways together. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 130

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

**If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?**

For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be feared.

**I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;
in his word is my hope.**

My soul waits for the Lord,
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

**O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;**

With him there is plenteous redemption,
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

After the reading, the reader will say
The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | Farther Along

by W.B. Stevens



Far-ther a - long we'll know all a - bout it,



Far-ther a - long we'll un-der-stand why; Cheer up my bro - ther



live in the sun - shine, We'll un-der - stand it all by and by.

The Officiant then introduces the Gospel by saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

(The reading is continued on the following page.)

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

After the Gospel the Officiant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.



Far-ther a - long we'll know all a - bout it,



Far-ther a - long we'll un-der-stand why; Cheer up my bro - ther



live in the sun - shine, We'll un-der - stand it all by and by.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The Homily

Affirmation of Faith

We stand and say

We believe in God above us,

**maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of all humanity.**

We believe in God beside us,

**Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor,
he was tortured and nailed to a tree.
Knowing full passion and deep sorrow, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
and his Kingdom will one day be known.**

We believe in God within us,

**the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church.
She is the Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of life everlasting. Amen.**

We gather in prayer.

The Prayers of the People

Stefan Waligur

5 Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on _____ us.

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, on _____ us

Leader We pray to you for the forgiveness of our sins.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts

**All Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

5 Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on _____ us.

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, on _____ us

Leader We breathe in and we breathe out.

We pray for the people of our world who are suffering from the impacts of COVID-19 and other illnesses and for all who know isolation, loneliness, financial hardship, housing loss, sickness, or grief.

We pause for prayers to be offered silently or aloud.

Leader In your mercy,
All hear our prayers.

Leader We breathe in and we breathe out.

Give strength and clarity of purpose to all who are working to help find a vaccine for COVID-19, for those who produce medical equipment, and for all who serve in hospitals, clinics, and care centers.

We pause for prayers to be offered silently or aloud.

Leader In your mercy,
All hear our prayers.

Leader We breathe in and we breathe out.

Guide leaders of our world's governments to respond to the needs of the poor, to nurture the young, to care for the vulnerable, and to seek the healing of the earth.

We pause for prayers to be offered silently or aloud.

Leader In your mercy,
All hear our prayers.

Leader We breathe in and we breathe out.

We pray for those on our prayer list.

We pause for prayers to be offered silently or aloud.

Leader In your mercy,
All hear our prayers.

Leader We breathe in and we breathe out.

We give thanks for our church, for the communities in which we live, for our families and pets, and for the beauty of the earth.

We pause for prayers to be offered silently or aloud.

Leader In your mercy,
All hear our prayers.

5 Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy on _____ us.

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, on _____ us

Officiant Let us pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

GOING OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Blessing

The Officiant offers a blessing.

The love of God, the peace of Christ, and the hope of God's Spirit fill you, and the blessing of God rest upon you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Song | Dem Bones

by James Weldon Johnson & J. Rosamond Johnson, from *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

Ezekiel connected dem dry bones
Ezekiel connected dem dry bones
Ezekiel connected dem dry bones
Now I hear the word of the Lord!

Well, your toe bone connected to your foot bone
Your foot bone connected to your heel bone
Your heel bone connected to your ankle bone
Your ankle bone connected to your leg bone
Your leg bone connected to your knee bone
Your knee bone connected to your thigh bone
Your thigh bone connected to your hip bone
Your hip bone connected to your back bone
Your back bone connected to your shoulder bone
Your shoulder bone connected to your neck bone
Your neck bone connected to your head bone
I hear the word of the Lord!

A dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around
A dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk around
A dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk around
I hear the word of the Lord!

Disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones
Disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones
Disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones
An' I hear the word of the Lord!

Well, your head bone connected from your neck bone
Your neck bone connected from your shoulder bone
Your shoulder bone connected from your back bone
Your back bone connected from your hip bone
Your hip bone connected from your thigh bone
Your thigh bone connected from your knee bone
Your knee bone connected from your leg bone
Your leg bone connected from your ankle bone
Your ankle bone connected from your heel bone
Your heel bone connected from your foot bone
Your foot bone connected from your toe bone
An' I hear the word of the Lord! Oh well.

A dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones
A dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones
A dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones
An' I hear the word of the Lord! Mmmh.

A dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones
A dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones
A dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones
An' I hear the word of the Lord!

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**