

Pentecost Sunday

May 23, 2021

“Mere mortal, can these bones live?”

-Ezekiel 37.3 (The Inclusive Bible)

St. John United Church of Christ - Bellevue KY

Welcome

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.
If you would like more information about St. John Church go to www.StJohnChurch.net.
If you would like to receive *The e-Weekly* let us know at Office@StJohnChurch.net.

Re-Gathering Music

“Awesome God” -*Rich Mullins, arr. Bill Wolaver* Steve Phillips, piano

“God of Praise and Glory” -*Paul Manz* Mark Behnken, organ

Greeting, Prayer, & Imparting Peace

Keith M. Haithcock, pastor & teacher

One: May the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Worship Song

St. John Handbell Choir

“Ring Out Wild Bells” -*arr. Lahee*

Statement of Faith (Spoken in unison)

Sue Jelinek

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior.
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Instrumental

St. John Handbell Choir

"Down to the River to Pray" -arr. Anna Laura Page

Community Prayer

Keith M. Haithcock

Ezekiel 37.1-14

Sue Jelinek

The hand of YHWH was upon me, and it carried me away by the Spirit of YHWH and set me down in a valley—a valley full of bones. God made me walk up and down among them. And I saw that there was a vast number of bones lying there in the valley, and they were very dry. God asked me, "Mere mortal, can these bones live?"

I answered, "Only you know that, Sovereign YHWH."

And God said, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: 'Dry bones, hear the word of YHWH! Sovereign YHWH says to these bones: I am going to breathe life into you. I will fasten sinews on you, clothe you with flesh, cover you with skin, and give you breath. And you will live; and you will know that I am Sovereign YHWH.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and all the bones came together, bone to matching bone. As I watched, sinews appeared on in them, flesh clothed them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them.

Then God said to me, “Prophesy to the wind; prophesy, mere mortal, and say to it: ‘Thus says Sovereign YHWH: Approach from the four winds, Breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’”

I prophesied as I was commanded, and breath came into them; they came alive, and stood up on their feet—a vast multitude.

Then God said to me, “Mere mortal, these bones are the whole House of Israel. The people keep saying, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is gone, and we are doomed.’ Prophesy, therefore, and say to them, ‘Thus says Sovereign YHWH: I am going to open your graves and raise you up from the dead, my people. I will return you to the land of Israel. When I open your graves and raise you up, you, my people, will know that I am YHWH. Then I will put my Spirit into you and you will return to life, and I will settle you back on your own land. Then you will know that I, YHWH, have spoken and made all this happen, says Sovereign YHWH.’”

One: Here ends the reading inspired by God.

May God grant to us wisdom and courage for interpretation.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“CAN THESE BONES LIVE?”

Keith M. Haithcock

Ministry of Music

Charmaine Moore Kitsinis, vocalist; Steve Milloy piano

“I Then Shall Live” -*Jean Sibelius, arr. Lloyd Larson*

Generous Giving

Sue Jelinek

As we leave today follow the one-way direction signs to exit through the Fairfield Avenue door, non-accessible door to the parking lot, or through the accessible lobby to the ramp and parking lot. You will find an offering plate in the back and in the front as you exit the Church house.

God has given each of us skills, talents, and abilities. Just think of the impact we can make through the ministry of St. John Church when our giving matches our mission.

Not only do we sustain this ministry, but we also experience change in ourselves and our community as we seek for the common good. We give thanks for each moment of time, each talent expressed, and each offering given. May God continue to bless you as you give generously.

Send Out

Keith M. Haithcock

Going Forth Music

Steve Milloy, piano

“Come Alive (Dry Bones)” -*Lauren Daigle, arr. Lloyd Larson*

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