

## **December 5, 2021 Worship**

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Advent Candle lighting**

**Songs:** *Shout to the Lord, Rock of Ages*

Call to Worship:

L: Come into God's house with a hope and a promise:

C: Despite the darkness, the light awaits us.

L: Despite what looks like the end,

C: Restoration and new life can be found here.

L: In this house we speak and listen for God's word,

C: And it accomplishes its purpose: restoration to new life.

L: Come into God's house with a hope and a promise:

C: Despite the darkness, the light awaits us.

L: We look for the one who walks among us,

C: The light that will shine...soon!

L: With hope in the one that lights our way, we worship now in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

A: Amen

**Songs:** *Made to Worship, Beautiful Things*

**Scripture Reading:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

#### **Children's Message**

**Message:** *In the Valley*

**Songs:** *Holy Spirit*

**Affirmation of Faith (9:00)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Offering**

Out of dry bones, you can restore a nation to new life. Out of lifelessness you can create vibrant abundance. Take our humble offerings and make of them an overflowing blessing from which the thirsty may drink and the dead may find new life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Confession**

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: Healing God,

C: We come into this time of worship, both broken and lost. We bring our worries and our fears. We bring the weight of having acted out in ways that hurt others, you, and ourselves. We wonder if there will ever be a time when light will find us. Forgive what we have done and heal

us, for the sake of the one who gave everything for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. We confess these sins as well as the sins we confess in silence...

L: God offers light and healing. God invites us into a new way of being. Despite our sin, God forgives. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority alone, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all of your sins. You are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! Receive and welcome God's forgiveness, for you are made clean and whole again. In Jesus' name we pray.

**A: Amen!**

### **Communion**

God breathes new life into our lifeless souls and continues to feed us with grace and goodness. As we gather at this holy meal, we are revived to new life so that we might serve a new day as God's faithful followers. Arise, come, and be renewed!

**Song:** *Breathe*

### **Prayers and The Lord's Prayer**

C: 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.

## Ministry Opportunities

### Blessing

Compassionate God, the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you.

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 hope you grant to all who call on you.

Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death may be revealed as but the quiet time before the emergence of new life. As people with renewed hope, we leave this time of worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

A: Amen!

**Song:** *That's Why We Praise Him*

### Dismissal

L: This worship service is over. Now let the service to others begin. Let us go in peace to love and serve our Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

**Next Sunday:** Isaiah 55:1-13

*A few questions to consider throughout the week ...*

- Can you picture in your mind a valley filled with dry bones?

- If the Lord asked a question, would you be able to answer?
- Can we have breath without the word of the Lord?
- What do dry bones have to do with Advent?