

Light in the Valley

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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I.

Nothing moves in the valley of dry bones.
Living people once walked here, but now
Nothing moves in the valley of dry bones.
The earth warms and seas rise
Nothing moves in the valley of dry bones.
Hopes dashed for peace in Palestine and Israel
Nothing moves in the valley of dry bones.
Two men in California planning their wedding
Nothing moves in the valley of dry bones.
Another round of cuts,
Nothing moves in the valley of dry bones.
Newlyweds and one has a brain tumor
Nothing moves in the valley of dry bones.
Yet another relationship that did not work out
Nothing moves in the valley of dry bones.
Morten Lauridsen's mother gasping for breath as she succumbs to
her final illness
Nothing moves in the valley of dry bones.

II.

Then... click. The slightest breeze.
Ezekiel,
Brought there by the spirit of God,
Shown the valley of dry bones,
Bones without spirit, without respiration, without breath,
Asked by God, "You who will one day die, can these bones live?"
Ezekiel answers, "You are the one asking. You must know the
answer."
(But we know what he really wanted to say: "Huh? Of course not.")
"Speak to them," says the Spirit of God,
"Speak to them as they lie there, lifeless."
"Say, 'O dry bones, hear.'"
Click click rattle

“I, Yahweh, will cause breath, respiration, spirit, life to enter you.”

Click click click rattle rattle

Then sinews, muscle, and skin.

Click click rattle rattle click click

The word of God reverses the destruction of life

The creator is always recreating

The spirit conspires with the one willing to trust and to speak

To speak into the places of death:

Peace is still possible

To speak into the culture of despair:

We have come today to witness the covenant of marriage

To speak into the corners of defeat:

You will not be cut off but restored to vocation

To speak into threatened lives:

The tumor will not define you

To speak into the broken space:

Relationship with God deepens all human relationships

To speak a word of life and of light:

Choral music in the valley of the shadow of death

III.

O Nata Lux - born light of light

Lux Aeterna - eternal light

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

A light in the valley

Flesh on once dried bones

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

Light in the life of a grieving son,

Flesh on bone in a once dry world.

IV.

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come Holy Spirit

Come, Breath of God

Breathe on these dry bones

Speak to these dried out lives

Lying in desperation

Breathe upon the church, gathered again in the upper room
Breathe upon the church, Afraid of the authorities
Breathe upon the church, Afraid of its own authority
Breathe upon the church, Afraid of the challenge of diversity
Breathe upon the church, Afraid of not finding its voice
Breathe upon the church, full of individuals comprising a
multiplicity of pain
Breathe upon the church, speak to these rattling bones
Bind us together again
No longer breathless
But breathed upon
No longer isolated
But a vast multitude
Standing on our feet
Ankle deep in the dust
Waiting to be sent.
Amen.