

Order of Worship

March 26, 2023 10:00 AM

Welcome to this time of worship, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Dry Bones

arr. Hart Morris

Wesley Ringers II

Welcome

Rev. Nilse Furtado-Gilliam

Greeting

Leader: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

People: Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

Leader: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

People: Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

Leader: If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house.
Hope lives here. So, come. Rest your weary bones.

People: Let us worship our Holy God.

Hymn

Breath of God

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Jesus of Nazareth,

I confess: I forget that you know this feeling.

I forget that you, too, have wept.

I forget that you, too, have lost.

I forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb,

have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity.

Forgive me for all the times I place blame on you.

Forgive me for all the times I create distance,

imagining that you could never feel what I feel.

Forgive me for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us.

Pour yourself into the cracks in my heart.

Bring these bones back to life.

Bring me closer to you.

With gratitude I pray, Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Furtado-Gilliam

Leader: Friends, you could spend your whole life ignoring God,
pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on your own,
and God would still love you all the same.

Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved.

So hear and believe this good news:

**People: We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God.
We are not alone.**

All: Amen.

Children's Message

Scripture

John 11:1-45

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Seeking:

Rev. Laura Kigweba James

Can These Bones Live?

Prayer of the People

Rev. Furtado-Gilliam

Offering

You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.

*You may text to give at 84321 or go to the Online Worship page of our website
and click "Make your online offering."*

Anthem

Taste and See

Tom Porter

Youth Choir and Congregation

Hymn

Can These Bones Live?

Benediction

Rev. Wines

Postlude

This Little Light of Mine

Wesley Ringers I

African-American Spiritual
arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Reverend Laura Kigweba James is the director of Grassroots Organizing at the General Board of Church and Society. In her position, she builds, strengthens, and equips United Methodists to transform the systemic conditions of injustice in both the church, community and world through faith-based community organizing.

“Part of my role is to facilitate and develop trainings that deepen the capacity and leadership for United Methodists to organize and respond to matters of social injustice in their communities,” Laura said.

Before joining the General Board of Church and Society, Laura studied at Wesley Theological Seminary where she learned tools of faith-based grassroots organizing and missional church strategies. After graduating, she was appointed as a local pastor in Baltimore, Maryland where she used grassroots organizing tools to equip the local congregations to address conditions of homelessness and poverty in the community.

“I am a devout believer, who is passionate about people of faith living out their God given call to faith and justice,” she said.

Laura holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Non-profit Management from the University of Tennessee and a Master of Divinity in Missional Studies from Wesley Theological Seminary.

Laura is a member of Emory Fellowship United Methodist Church and a provisional elder in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

“Breath of God” words and music by Vicki Beeching

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