

**Eden Uniting  
Worship Service  
Sunday 29 March,  
2020**

**Theme:  
Can these bones live?**

**All Welcome**

**Opening Hymn - Come as you are**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7mkPL9LO6w>

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God of the four winds, God of the seasons, God of all creation, we do not ask you to be present with us because there has never been and will never be a time when you are not with and in all your creation. There has never been and will never be a moment when we are apart from you. May our time together today be a revelation of how deep and vast is your presence in our lives and in all that is. Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

“Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” God, these words echo through time down to us today. We acknowledge that there have been many days when this has been our cry. There are many times when we have lost all hope, when we have felt completely desolate. God, there have been days when we have felt dead inside, when we have lived as if you do not exist and there is no hope in the world. Forgive us for not lifting our heads to see your glorious work in all the world, or not living in your world of generous welcome and joy. **Amen.** (See page 2 for ‘Words of Assurance’)

**Acknowledgement of Country**  
St Georges Uniting Church, Eden acknowledges that we are on the traditional lands of Aboriginal people. We pay respect to the Yuin people, especially to their elders past and present, and recognise the continuing gift of their culture to the life and spirit of Australia.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Friends of God, children of the living God, be assured, you are known, you are remembered, you are forgiven, you are loved. Thanks be to God.

**Bible Reading** - Read Ezekiel 37:1-14 and then consider the following Children’s reflection from Allan

**Children’s reflection from Allan**

See if you can find a dried sponge. (If not imagine it - as dry as very dry bone.) If you did find a dry sponge, describe its dry texture..... Then dip it in water ..... Oh how it has changed! If you can add a coloured dye to the water, you will see it change colour! We might be a little like this sponge. What we take into us will affects us. What sort of things do we take in?? (*discuss - food, water, what we watch in computer games, what we listen to, doing good or bad things?*) Do these affect us? E.g. anger, happiness, smiles, sadness Like the dry sponge we can take into ourselves what we think about good and bad. BUT - Think about Jesus - we can share stories of his life and mission for us and we can talk to him in prayer. Soooooo ....The bad stuff we tell God and other people that we are sorry and the good stuff makes us smile.

**Also you might like to consider:** The ancient text of Ezekiel is at least two and a half thousand years old and possibly older. It is a record of a people living in exile far from their home and the roots of their culture. In this context the question, ‘Can these bones live?’ is no academic query. How is it possible to be a whole person when major cultural markers are gone? What if you lose your job or are required to retire? What happens to you as a person when your children leave home, a partner dies or when you have a major relationship breakdown? How can we help each other in our faith communities to see that God is not only present with us but deeply shapes our identity as individuals and as a community?

Also you might like to see - <https://eden.uca.org.au/media/5388/dry-bones-inspirational-videos.mp4>

Please read Psalm 130 and be reminded of God's 'lovingkindness'

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice!

**Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.**

If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

**But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.**

I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope.

**My soul waits for the Lord More than the watchmen for the morning; Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.**

O hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is lovingkindness,  
And with Him is abundant redemption.

**And He will redeem me from all my iniquities.**

Bible Reading continued - Please read John 11:1-45

**Homily - Steve** (See 'content for Sunday at  
<https://eden.uca.org.au>)

The Church - <https://youtu.be/4Je4W7CPSTU>  
Could the World's Darkest Hour Become  
the Church's Finest Hour?

Hymn - Breathe on me breath of God  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5keJHZdWYM>

*Please see page 4 for the Intercessions*

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

God of hope,  
we thank you for the powerful vision of Ezekiel,  
a vision of the rebuilding of a people energized and brought together  
by you. In every place that is dry and death-ridden, breathe your life.  
We pray for the wisdom and the courage to be revitalised.  
We pray for the grace to bring new life to the barren places and  
communities. And we pray for the willingness to make our  
community places of welcome for all people.  
May we be one. This is our prayer. Amen.

*Opportunity for your own private prayers*

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in Heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the Kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen**

## COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

Can these bones live?  
Yes they can. Yes they will.  
The life of God is the life of the world.  
Let us go to share the life and love of God.  
May God's love restore the broken.  
May the grace of Christ bring wholeness.  
May the breath of the Spirit breathe new life in all.

**Concluding Song - Refiner's Fire -**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y8zP34AhuU>