



seeking:

Can these
bones live?

PRELUDE:

WELCOME:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Have you ever felt bone-tired and worn-down?

Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

Have you ever wondered, *can these bones live?*

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.

Let us worship Holy God.

OPENING PRAYER:

Creator God,

Why is bad news so loud?

**In the midst of violence, hunger, and injustice,
it often feels like suffering has a microphone.**

How do we hear you? How do we find you?

How do we know that these bones can live?

We pray that you would rush through this room like a mighty wind.

Remind us that these bones *can* live and that good news rests in you.

Help us listen to the hope that you breathe into every word.

With open hearts we pray,

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *"How Can I Keep from Singing" - (All Services)*

Verse 1

There is an endless song
Echoes in my soul
I hear the music ring
And though the storms may come
I am holding on
To the rock I cling

Chorus

How can I keep from singing Your praise
How can I ever say enough
How amazing is Your love
How can I keep from shouting Your name
I know I am loved by the King
And it makes my heart (want to sing)

Verse 2

I will lift my eyes
In the darkest night
For I know my Savior lives
And I will walk with You
Knowing You'll see me through
And sing the songs You give

Bridge

I can sing in the troubled times
Sing when I win
I can sing when I lose my step
And fall down again
I can sing 'cause You pick me up
Sing 'cause You're there
I can sing 'cause You hear me Lord
When I call to You in prayer
I can sing with my last breath
Sing for I know
That I'll sing with the angels
And the saints around the throne

Ending

I am loved by the King
And it makes my heart
I am loved by the King
And it makes my heart want to sing

CCLI Song # 4822372
Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Matt Redman
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GATHERING SONG 2: "Our God" - (Sunday Tempe only)

Verse 1

Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You
None like You

Verse 2

Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You

Chorus

Our God is greater
Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer
Awesome in power our God our God

Bridge

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
(Then) what could stand against

CCLI Song # 5677416
Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves | Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus, He loves me
He loves me, He is for me
Jesus, how can it be
He loves me, He is for me

Sat 5pm Tempe: **NO** Children's Message
Sunday Gilbert: *Music only*
Sunday 10:30 Tempe: *Music and Lyrics*

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then

he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *"Let Your Steadfast Love" – ELW Setting 8*

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON:	
<p><i>"Seeking Life"</i> Pastor Andrea Cain <i>(Sat 5pm / Sunday Tempe)</i></p>	<p><i>"Believe"</i> Pastor Thaddeus Book <i>(Gilbert)</i></p>

SERMON SONG: ELW 574 - *"Here I Am, Lord" – (All Services)*

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

**We believe that God loves us—
God loves us enough to weep when we are gone.
We believe that God does not give up on us—
breathing new life into tired bones.
We believe that God returns to us—
always seeking us when we are lost.
We believe that God holds hope for us—
so we hold onto hope as well.
We believe; help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.**

*written by rev. Sarah Speed |
sanctifiedart.org*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You redeem the world and its peoples. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness (especially). You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in worship. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

OFFERING:

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

In days of old, God was seen as far from the people. But we know Christ, and in him we know God. When we share what we have out of love, our hearts grow closer to God, and we shine with Christ's glory. Let us offer our gifts to God today.

The Hunger Jar is an offering above and beyond regular offering. A special hunger designated on March 25/26 sponsors underprivileged children in Maricopa County with the annual Shop with the Sheriff Day at the 2023 "Cops for Kids" Event.

You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at www.desertcross.org with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel.

OFFERING RESPONSE: "The Potter's Hand" – (All Services)

Verse 1

Beautiful Lord wonderful Saviour
I know for sure all of my days are
Held in Your hand crafted into
Your perfect plan

Verse 2

You gently call me into Your presence
Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit
Teach me dear Lord to live all of my life
Through Your eyes

Pre-Chorus

I'm captured by Your holy calling
Set me apart I know You're drawing

Me to Yourself
Lead me Lord I pray

Chorus

Take me mould me
Use me fill me
I give my life
To the Potter's hand
Call me guide me
Lead me walk beside me
I give my life
To the Potter's hand

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OFFERING PRAYER:

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Friends in faith,
there is nothing that we have to keep hidden from God—
not our anger, our grief, or the ways in which we have fallen short.
In confession, we speak honestly and are met with grace.
So let us bring our full selves to this prayer, knowing that God is already running to
meet us. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus of Nazareth,
We confess: we forget that you, too, have wept and have lost.
Forgive us for all the times we place blame on you and create distance,
imagining that you could never feel what we feel.
Forgive us for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us.
Pour yourself into the cracks in our hearts.
Bring these bones back to life.
Bring us closer to you.
With gratitude we pray,
Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:

We could spend our whole lives pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on our own, and God would still love us all the same.

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

So hear and believe this good news:

You are saved by grace through faith. ✝

You belong to God. We are not alone.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Are you seeking? Come to the table of forgiveness, love, and new life and be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life and the heart of God.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER: ELW p.134

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,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. All are welcome!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Come forward to receive the bread and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. Children may commune or receive a blessing. All are welcome.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS:

"Above All" - (All Services)

Verse 1

Above all powers above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Verse 2

Above all kingdoms above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure
What You're worth

"Refiner's Fire" – (All Services)

Verse 1

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
And precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
Pure gold

Chorus

Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy

Chorus

Crucified laid behind the stone
You lived to die rejected and alone
Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me
Above all

CCLI Song # 2672885

Lenny LeBlanc | Paul Baloche

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Set apart for You my Master
Ready to do Your will

Verse 2

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin
Deep within

CCLI Song # 426298

Brian Doerksen

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

BENEDICTION:

As you leave this place,
may God bless you with seeking.
Seek out God in each of us.
As you seek and as you wonder,
may you find what you are looking for.
In the name of our loving God, +
who is always seeking us,
go now in peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: "Blessed Be Your Name" – (All Services)

Verse 1

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Verse 2

Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 3

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Verse 4

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Bridge

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name

CCLI Song # 3798438

Beth Redman | Matt Redman

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DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Thank you for supporting the Desert Cross mission. Here are the ways you can donate today:		
ONLINE GIVING:  Get your smart phone and scan the QR-code with your phone camera	SECURE TEXT GIVING: Text "GIVE" to 833-636-1502	USPS: 8600 S. McClintock Drive Tempe, AZ 85284