

Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament, April 26, 2026
The Fourth Sunday in Easter
Liturgical Color: White
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California

Visit the church website: www.wpctiburon.org, 415-383-5272
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This weekly study guide seeks to help members, friends, and visitors prepare for the upcoming Sunday service and teaching.



Call to Worship

One: Breathe in God's peace to you...
Many: We breathe out God's peace to others...
One: Breathe in God's love for you...
Many: We breathe out God's love for others...
One: Breathe in God's grace for you...
Many: Breathe out God's grace for others...

Opening Blessing

Breathe in God's peace to you...
Breathe out God's peace to others.
Breathe in God's love for you...
We breathe out God's love for others...
Breathe in God's grace for you...
Breathe out God's grace for others...
Amen.

Community Prayer

Breathe on us, breath of God. Flow between us, that we might be drawn together as people. Fill us with a lifegiving love for one another. We pray asking that we might be released from past failures, reinvigorated where we have grown weary, reanimated where we have become stuck. Amen.

McClellan

Today, we explore the potential and tendency of God's Spirit to draw us back together when we are broken in our relationships. Ezekiel paints a picture of a broken people, dried up and disconnected. The Spirit breathes new life not just into the individuals, but to the community. We talk about our own disconnectedness and pray for our ability to rejoin and rise to new life.

Scripture(s)**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

37 The 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. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I 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."

7 So 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. 8 I 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. 9 Then 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." 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11 Then 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.' 12 Therefore 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. 13 And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I 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."

Hymns

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song 285

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove 279

Quotes, Questions & Prompts for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

"Peace is possible only when diverse peoples feel a deep connection to and responsibility for each other, when people of every belief and background embrace each other as siblings."

- Rabbi Michael Knopf

1. What is unity built upon?
2. What is the role of the Spirit in Ezekiel's text?
3. What is the role of the Spirit in your life, our world, today?
4. Who needs to be drawn together and what is your role in that?
5. Where is the hope in this passage and what difference does it make for your life?