



Sunday 29th March 2020

If you can, please pray at about 11am so that we can feel connected and in spirit are together as a church community, even though we pray each from our own homes.

*God of new life,
God of risen hope,
as we gather today,
may we know your resurrection power in our lives.
May our spirits be renewed.
May our bodies be restored.
Amen.*

The lectionary Old Testament reading for this Sunday is: Ezekiel Chapter 37, the well known story of the valley of dry bones

The LORD said:

Ezekiel, now say to the wind, "The LORD God commands you to blow from every direction and to breathe life into these dead bodies, so they can live again."

¹⁰ As soon as I said this, the wind blew among the bodies, and they came back to life! They all stood up, and there were enough to make a large army

"O breath of life, come sweeping through us, revive your Church with life and power, O breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us, and fit your Church to meet this hour"

This hymn reminds us that God will breathe life into us again – this along with the Gospel reading of the raising of Lazarus (John 11) reminds us that God not only gives life but also restores life. – something for us to cling to when we feel life has been taken from us.

You can hear the hymn here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKz1BwFe6uE>

A prayer of thanksgiving:

Thank you, Lord, for your constant presence.
Thank you for holding us and comforting us.
Thank you for crying with us when we are hurting.
Thank you for weeping with us when we are broken-hearted.
Thank you, Lord, that you never let us down,
that you always give us hope.
God of new life,
we give you thanks and praise today

A prayer for all frontline workers:

Lord, today we pray for all front line emergency staff, those working in the NHS and others who are risking their own health for the sake of others. Grant them wisdom, protection, energy and save them from being overwhelmed in Jesus name.
(From a Pye Hayes URC Facebook post)

A prayer for all those struggling:

Living and loving God, we pray that you will breathe new life into the lives of all those struggling just as you did into the dry bones.
O breath of life, come sweeping through us
We pray for all of those who are finding our new way of living difficult, those who feel isolated or alone, those who feel disconnected from their loved ones, those who are struggling to cope with the added strains, both practical and emotional, of having family at home.
O breath of life, come sweeping through us
We ask that you will be with those who are unwell and those who are worried about loved ones.
O breath of life, come sweeping through us

We pray knowing that you hear us as we pray as you taught us
Our Father.....

God breathe us back to life: fill and renew our souls, quench our thirst show us how to live and love and breathe, reviving bone dry lives so that we may show others how to be your people this day and always. AMEN