

EZEKIEL STATIONS

STATION #1 – HEAR THE CALL

Ezekiel 2:1-7

Data projector, video camera, speakers, baptismal bowl, cloth, water, blue food colouring

STATION #2 – SWEET AND SOUR

Ezekiel 3:1-11

Rice paper, plate, paintbrushes, , bowl, honey, Bibles

STATION #3 – SPEECHLESS

News clippings, blue tack, cloths, candles, paper, pens, vellum images, matches

STATION #4 – DRY BONES

Skeleton, dry bones

Hear the Call

He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them. And you, O mortal, do not be afraid of them, and do not be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns surround you and you live among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words, and do not be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. You shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear; for they are a rebellious house.

Ezekiel 2: 1-7

More than once, you have felt the touch of the holy in your life.
A call to follow, to risk, to change, to lead...

... a call that is not diminished by the actions of others
... a call that gives courage in the face of ignorance and resistance
... a call that engages your deepest self, your whole self
... a call from the One who created you and claims you.

time can still the stirrings of this call
 busy-ness can cover its clangor
 change can question its clarity

Perhaps you need to remember that call.
To hear again. To know again the touch of the holy.
For what has God called you?
To whom would God send you?
Stop and listen. Really listen. Hear your name being called.

*If you wish to remember your call, write your name in the water with your finger.
Make the sign of the cross of your forehead.*

*And as you go, carry the drops of water left on your hand with you
– a reminder of God's grace, forgiveness and promise*

Sweet and Sour

He said to me, O mortal, eat what is offered to you; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. He said to me, Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it. Then I ate it; and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey.

He said to me: Mortal, go to the house of Israel and speak my very words to them. For you are not sent to a people of obscure speech and difficult language, but to the house of Israel— not to many peoples of obscure speech and difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to them, they would listen to you. But the house of Israel will not listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me; because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. See, I have made your face hard against their faces, and your forehead hard against their foreheads. Like the hardest stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not fear them or be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. He said to me: Mortal, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart and hear with your ears; then go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them. Say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD”; whether they hear or refuse to hear.

Ezekiel 3:1-11

A revelation comes to you
a moment of clarity, a deep conviction
heaven's heartburst

Yet when voiced,
it falls on deaf ears, hearts of stone
and we feel not only disheartened
but betrayed by God - left out on a limb,
cut off from the source itself

We doubt the word given to us
we silently rage against stony faces
we question our own call
fearing that in the face of such indifference,
we too might turn to stone

*Open the Scriptures. Find and read some familiar words of life that sustain you.
Take a piece of rice paper. Dip a brush into the honey. Write a word of Life on the paper.
Eat the rice paper, and as you do so, feed again on the sweet word of life.
Let God fill you again with words of life that can melt even the hardest stone.*

Speechless

Then the hand of the LORD was upon me there; and he said to me, Rise up, go out into the valley, and there I will speak with you. So I rose up and went out into the valley; and the glory of the LORD stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face. The spirit entered into me, and set me on my feet; and he spoke with me and said to me: Go, shut yourself inside your house. As for you, mortal, cords shall be placed on you, and you shall be bound with them, so that you cannot go out among the people; and I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be speechless and unable to reprove them; for they are a rebellious house. But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD"; let those who will hear, hear; and let those who refuse to hear, refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

Ezekiel 3: 22-27

Place your fingers over your lips as you read and reflect.

There is a time to be silent and a time to speak.

At times we feel constrained
from speaking against injustice
we want to cry out
but for some reason we cannot
we do not.
so evil seems to go unchecked
leaders live by deceit and greed
we silently we despair that good will ever triumph.
we long for someone, somewhere to speak or act decisively
but even God seem silent

then God gives us voice
it is time!
to denounce the powers that act against life itself
to name those who hide behind the pretence of doing good,
to rally those who would respond to the call
to free the captives and let the oppressed go free.

*What situations in the world leave you speechless?
Is this a time to be silent or a time to speak?
Does your silence come from God or from within yourself?*

Choose a news clipping representing a situation that makes you want to speak out.

On a piece of paper, write down a sentence or two expressing what you would say or do if you had the ear of people of influence.

Is this a time to be silent or a time to speak?

If this is a time for speaking, take the news clippings and your notes, and commit yourself to making your voice heard – in a letter, a phone call, a conversation, a sermon, a prayer.

If it is a time for being silent, leave the news clipping. Offer a prayer that God will open your mouth to speak when it is time.

Light a candle as an act of prayer for this situation. Choose one of the glass covers and place it over the candle. Pray that the light of Christ will burn in the lives of people in this situation.

Dry Bones

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

Ezekiel 37:1-6

How we have longed at times
for a new spirit in the church!
we have looked out across the valley
and seen, not one instance of decay
but a sea of skeletons

We too have felt the seeping away
of life in all its fullness
in solitude, we have acknowledged
that our preaching, our teaching
our prayers, our shepherding
even our compassion
– have failed to bring life
a message falling on deaf eyes
blind eyes, dry hearts

Is this how Jesus felt?

How often have we blamed others
for their failure to hear or learn
knowing deep within
that the problem was not theirs alone?

if we are honest
we may find this dryness within ourselves
faith stretched thin
hope in slow decay
limited patience
less generosity of spirit
energy lagging

Can these bones yet live?
... the bones of a brittle church
... the bones of a crusty congregation?
... the bones of a decaying disciple?

*Take a bone and sit with it.
What might it represent for you this day?*

*Bones take time to dry and decay.
How has this lifelessness come about?*

*Would you seek a quick dressing-up,
a respectable skin?
Or the breath of Yahweh?
Restored sinews and muscle.
Hands that grasp and legs that leap.
A pumping heart and eyes that truly see.*

*Take the bone with you to the labyrinth, to the fire.
As you carry it, know that you carry a part of yourself.
A part that seeks the breath and fire of God.*