

Column (2026)

“Can these bones live?” God asks Ezekiel as the Old Testament prophet looks out on a field of sun-bleached bones. “Bones”, as it turns out, refer to God’s covenant people who have been carried away captive. Humanly speaking their future is bleak, to say the least.

In response to God’s question, the prophet can only answer: “O Lord God, thou knowest” (37:3).

I found myself saying something similar when a woman asked me if I thought a spiritual awakening would happen in this country. Her question is certainly a timely one. After all, there are plenty of signs that a spiritual awakening is needed. Incidences of violence occur so frequently that we are no longer shocked by them. Entertainment, glitz and hedonism have become the face of America, even as God, the church and decency have receded further and further into the shadow of public life. Cynicism and distrust in the political process seem to be on the rise. “Hate is strong and mocks the song

of peace on earth, good will to men,” to quote Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Will a spiritual awakening happen? Again, only God’s knows. A better question to ask might be: *Could* such a revival take place? The answer is a resounding, yes!

As the years have passed, the power of God has not diminished. Unlike our own, His strength does not wane as the years go past. Just as He was able to cause a remnant of His ancient people to return from captivity and eventually to bring out of this people a Saviour, so He is able to give this country a new birth. Just as the same God, was able raise a corpse on Easter morning, so He can do things which exceed our imagination.

Speaking of His power, the Apostle Paul calls Him the God who “quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were” (Romans 4:17). In other words, He is able to bring life out of death as in the two examples I have just cited.

America needs rescue from the yoke of the enemy – not primarily an enemy without, but one within. Christian teaching and practices need to be brought back into family life; faith and loyalty into married life; integrity, honesty and craftsmanship to industrial and commercial life; decency and trustfulness into public life, Christian faith and Christian values into national life.

But, how can such a revival come about? First, it will take a sovereign act of God's grace, but secondly it will only come with a revived church . . . a people resolved to turn from their waywardness and to pray and seek His face. The task is great, but the God who raised Jesus is greater. Take courage and go forward.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ

our Lord. Amen. (Collect for Sunday next before
Easter – Palm Sunday)

*The Rev. Victor H. Morgan is rector of St.
Luke's Church, Blue Ridge.*