

Sermon Notes for 5/17:

The Prophetic Imagination by Walter Brueggemann

“The imagination is also a bridge into the future, forever opening us to ways of seeing and living that we have not yet experienced. To be made of God is to be made of sacred imagination. It is to have the capacity to dream our way into new beginnings, in our lives and in our world.” (John Philip Newell, *Sacred Earth Sacred Soul*)

I Corinthians 14:1-6—Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts and especially that you may prophesy. For those who speak in a tongue do not speak to other people but to God, for no one understands them, since they are speaking mysteries in the Spirit. But those who prophesy speak to other people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. Those who speak in a tongue build up themselves, but those who prophesy build up the church. Now I would like all of you to speak in tongues but even more to prophesy. One who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

“To walk in the light while darkness invades, envelops, and surrounds is to wait on the Lord. This is to know the renewal of strength. This is to walk and not faint.” (Howard Thurman, *The Inward Journey*)

Ezekiel 37:1-2—The hand of the Lord came upon me [Ezekiel], and God brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. God led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

Ezekiel 37:4-6—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 37:7-10—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. 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. Then God said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, 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.” I prophesied as God commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.