

WELCOME TO Lombard Mennonite Church

December 7, 2025

BE AMAZED: PEACE IN THE VALLEY OF BONES

Advent 2; Ezekiel 37: 1-14

A worshipping community rooted in God's love: Following Jesus • Seeking peace and justice • Serving others

PRELUDE

PRELUDE Jack and Joe Hayward
O Come O Come, Immanuel; Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus; He Came Down

GATHERING

SONG OF PRAISE Hilary Rhodes, Song Leader
**Holy Spirit, Come with Power* *Voices Together 57*

WELCOME Keith Eiten

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God in our desert, you are our peace in all places.

People: Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.

Leader: Thus says the Lord God: "Come from the four winds, O breath,
and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

People: Can these dry bones live?

Leader: The wind of God moves among these dry bones. Stand and live!

(Everyone stand)

People: We are the people of God, a vast multitude, filled with God's Spirit.

Leader: "I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live.

I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord,
have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

All: You are the only source of true life, O God.

You breathe new life into our dry bones and fill us with your peace.

We stand before you, ready to enter your story and be amazed.

OPENING PRAYER

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

Hearing assistive devices and a larger print hymnal and Bible are available outside the doors to the sanctuary.
Childcare (birth-age 2) is provided in the nursery at the back of the hall on this level.

PRAISING

*Now the Heavens Start to Whisper	Voices Together 237
*Rain Down.....	Voices Together 703

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION	Jack and Joe Hayward
<i>Dem Bones</i> (James Weldon Johnson, arr. Hayward)	
Image: <i>Can These Bones Live?</i> By Josh Tiessen, used with the artist's permission.	

OFFERING PRAYER

CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us confess our sins to our God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.

**People: We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love
but also our refusal to forgive.**

Leader: We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow you without question.

People: In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should.

Leader: Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you—

**All: with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon;
with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us.
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HEARING GOD’S WORD

CHILDREN'S STORY	Hasun Lee, Marty Lewandowski
------------------------	------------------------------

CANDLE LIGHTING	Eben and Emil Ariyaprakai-Liu, Vina Ariyaprakai, Chuck Liu
Leaders: We have been wandering in the dark, our spirits dry and cracked from conflict, aching for peace to pour into the crevices to revive us.	
People: Come, Peace of the world. Come amaze us.	
All: May your peace fill the cracks in our dry, brittle bones. Bind us together, strengthen and unite us, that we might dance!	

SCRIPTURE READING	Deborah Wetherill
Leader: Hear the word of God.	
People: Our ears and hearts are open.	

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 (p. 1034)

Leader: Give thanks to the One whose word is life.

People: **Blessed be God forever!**

SERMON Richard Gehring
"Can These Bones Live?"

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT *(silent time of reflection)*

SONG OF RESPONSE
Put Peace into Each Other's Hands *Voices Together* 485

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION..... Joe Hayward
Of The Father's Love Begotten (traditional)

SHARING IN COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS & CONGREGATIONAL SHARING AND PRAYER

Leader: Lord, in your mercy/goodness,

People: **hear our prayer.**

We mute the livestream during this sharing time; prayers are written for distribution for the congregation.

WORK OF THE CHURCH

Please come to the front row and use the microphone to make your announcement.

SENDING

SENDING SONG

**The Lord Lift You Up* *Voices Together* 832

*SENDING BLESSING

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

Directly after the service, join us for coffee, tea, and conversation down in the Fellowship Hall.

Children ages 3 – 5th grade go directly to Gathering Time before Sunday school (located downstairs in the back library).

Sunday school classes/congregational meeting from 11:30–12:15 (or 15 minutes after service ends)

1 BELL: 5 min before Sunday school/mtg starts

2 BELLS: Start of Sunday school/meeting

1 BELL: 5 min before Sunday school ends

2 BELLS: End of Sunday school

ADULT CLASSES (DEC)

Congregational Meeting: Sanctuary

POTLUCK, 12:15 PM

CHILDREN + YOUTH CLASSES

Ages 3-5 years: Room 301, upstairs

Grades K-2: Room 102, downstairs

Grades 3-5: Room 103, downstairs

Grades 6-8: Room 101, downstairs

Grades 9-12: Fireplace room, downstairs