
A song of lament and hope in the valley of dry bones

Reader 1: **God, our God,
we cry to you.
We lift our voices on the dry desert wind
in the blistering heat that scorches.
As the sand whips across our faces
we cry to you.
Come and save us, O God.**

Reader 2: This is a desolate land, O God.
It is a land of broken dreams;
a wasteland of false pride;
a place where there is no hope
and the old certainties are destroyed.

Reader 3: Can what is broken be restored?
O Lord, only you know,
Only you can mend and restore.

Reader 2: These bones are lost;
they cannot live again.
Species extinct;
soil irretrievably damaged;
this land is dead.
Water courses are stopped;
nothing grows or moves;
the ground is parched and thirsty;
human and animal bodies lie bereft of all life.

- Reader 3: Can what is dead live again?
O Lord, only you know.
Only you can refresh and renew
bringing water out of the rock and dust;
life out of death.
- Reader 2: The city is a ruin
the people have fled.
Soaring structures have crumbled into dust;
the mighty metropolis is silent;
the plough is still and the ground is sterile.
- Reader 3: Can your people flourish again
in the land where each person lives
in harmony with the earth?
O Lord, only you know.
Can we plant and grow
and share and cherish all life on Earth?
O Lord, only you know
only you can bring us back to our senses
back to our home,
back to you.
- Reader 1: God, our God,
we cry to you.
We lift our voices on the dry desert wind
in the blistering heat that scorches.
As the sand whips across our faces
we cry to you.
Come and save us, O God.**
- Reader 4: Come, Spirit of God
mighty and tender;
breathe on us on your power;
breathe on us in your love;
breathe on us in our emptiness.
For only you can bring life out of death;

raise blossoming plants in the desert waste
and awaken hope where there is despair.
You set our feet in the valley of bones
You ask us to look and see what you will bring about.

Reader 1: **God, our God,
we cry to you.
We lift our voices in hope
in the midst of places of emptiness
where all seems lost
We cry to you
Come and save us, O God**

Reader 3: Breathe on us in your tenderness;
breathe on us in our longing;
breathe on us in your power.
Breathe on the wasted opportunities and
 the lost causes in our lives;
breathe on our hopelessness;
breathe on our broken dreams.
Speak to us of life renewed;
speak to us of a world made whole;
speak to us of possibility and the winds of change.

Reader 4: Our planet cries out for healing.

In the valley of bones:
Restore what has been lost;
renew the fabric of creation;
repair the damage we have done.

Lift us up again from the dust of the earth
and teach us to live once more by your Spirit's grace
that we may choose what leads to life.
Tend the wounds that we have caused
and teach us to walk in peace on the Earth.

Reader 1: **God, our God,
we cry to you.
We lift our voices in hope
in the midst of empty and desolate places
where all seems lost.
We cry to you
Come and save us, O God**

Amen