

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

*Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and
Inclusive Community*

'Holy Vessels'

First Sunday in Lent
"Treasure"

GATHER

*People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from
town to town. As we gather virtually or physically, we too are
yearning for presence, for peace, for help.*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Threshold Video

APPROACH

*People opened their lives to Jesus. We are drawn to the Healer—
opening our hearts with honesty about our lives and finding assurance
that offers peace.*

Opening Prayer of Confession

Breathing is an Act of Healing & Assurance

Peace

Opening Hymn

“Healer of Our Every Ill” VU #619

Chorus

Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness.
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

In the pain and joy beholding,
how your grace is still unfolding.
Give us all your vision, God of love.

Give us strength to love each other,
every sibling, sister, brother.
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.

You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing.
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.
Chorus

BELIEVE

People were fortified by Jesus’ words and deeds that revealed care for all—especially those marginalized. We strengthen our belief in the possibility for renewed health and vigor for all.

Experiencing God’s Love is an Act of Healing

A Contemporary Word

Bad things do happen; how I respond to them defines my character and the quality of my life. I can choose to sit in perpetual sadness,

immobilized by the gravity of my loss, or I can choose to rise from the pain and treasure the most precious gift I have – life itself.

Walter Anderson

It is by going into the abyss that we recover the treasures of life.
Where you stumble, there lies your treasure.

Joseph Campbell

An Ancient Word

Matthew 8:1-4; 16-17

Musical Proclamation

Make us Holy, Make us Whole *Mark Friedman*

Reflection

Vessels, Holy and Whole

ASK

People who were healed by Jesus were not afraid to ask. And so, we come before the Holy One, making our petitions and desires known, trusting the work of the Spirit.

Song of Preparation

Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole

In your love, make us whole.

May we rest in your compassion.

Calm the lost, weary soul

in the warmth of your love.

May your peace fill our hearts.

May we know the love of Jesus.

By your grace, you console.

Make us holy, make us whole.

Prayer is an Act of Healing

Prayer of Jesus

Sung Prayer Reprise

Make us Holy, Make Us Whole

KNOW

The parting words Jesus' gave to those he healed were often as much balm as the healing act itself. We hear words of encouragement from the One who makes beauty from brokenness.

Ritual Action for the Week

RESPOND

Scriptural accounts of healing often end with responses from the "crowd" of witnesses. How will we proceed into the brokenness of this world and respond as the Body of Christ?

Closing Song

Bathe Me in Your Light vs. 1 & 3 MV #82

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,
Fill me with your promise of a love that know no length.

Commission

Benediction

Threshold into the World

Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One

Open, body and soul
Healer, Come.

Postlude

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