

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

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

'Holy Vessels'
Third Sunday in Lent

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
Lighting the Lenten Candles
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
Assurance
The Peace

Opening Hymn
Be Still My Soul VU #652
Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
with patience bear the wound of grief or pain.
Trust in your God to order and provide;
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
thru stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.

Be still, my soul, your God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: The waves and winds still know
the voice that once the waves' wild fury stayed.

Be still, my soul: when minds are churning on
there will be times of quiet, calm and peace;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
love's joy restored, our strivings all shall cease.
Be still, my soul: for change and tears will past,
all safe and blessed our hearts at peace at last.

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

Introduction to the Gospel reading

An Ancient Word

Matthew 9:32-33

After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, "Never has anything like this been seen in Israel."

A Contemporary Word

Sometimes the most healing thing to do is remind ourselves over and over and over,
other people feel this too."

— **Andrea Gibson**

Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process
is the bravest thing that we will ever do."

— **Brené Brown**

Musical Proclamation

Your Hands, O Christ

Attrib. Franz Joseph Haydn

Reflection – Mike Trew

“COVID Demons”

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

Prayer is an Act of Healing

Prayer of Jesus

Sung Prayer Reprise

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.

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

The voice of God
(Tune VU #625)

The voice of God I heard to day
speak to my searching soul;
come forth into the healing light,
reach for your sacred goal.
Be one with self and whole in mind,
seek wisdom’s truth inside;
use strength of will until you find
true courage as your guide.

When in the realms of mental strain,
our heart beats constant dread;
for want of peace and quiet days,
how will we move ahead?
But thirst we do for healing light,
and calm to mark our day;
We’ll journey with a caring might,
God’s love will show the way.

Commission & Benediction

Threshold into the World

Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, Come. X2

Postlude

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