

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH
SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021

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

'Holy Vessels'

"Different Pictures"
Fourth 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

Like a Healing Stream MV #144

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,

Promising revival and rebirth...
Like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
Yearning for an end to want and need...
Like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
Calling for an end to hate and war...
Like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow;
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea,
Like a river strong,
Like a gentle rain,
Like a healing stream.

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

Hope is when Love hugs you so tightly that all our broken pieces in life stick together and Joy is released.

– Anonymous

To truly discover who we really are we must engage in a search:

- for the subtle presence of the divine, who, as we discover with our new awareness is already there.

- for an increased capacity to live with mystery, with not knowing and to find a resilient spirit even in broken dreams, loneliness...

James Conlon,

At the Edge of our Longing: Unspoken Hunger for Sacredness and Depth, 2004

An Ancient Word

Matthew 9: 18-26

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Musical Proclamation

Arietta Op. 12, No. 1

Edvard Grieg

Reflection

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

O Breathing Life,

your Beauty shines everywhere!

We open a space to plant your Presence here.

Imagine our possibilities with you, now.

Embody your yearning in every light and form.

Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.

Untie the knots of distress that stifle our creativity,
as we seek to help release the strands of distress for others'.

Help us not forget our Source,

Yet free us from not being in the Present.

From you arises every Hope, Comfort, and Calm
from gathering to gathering.

Amen

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

One More Step Along the World I Go vs. 1-4 VU #639

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new
Keep me traveling along with you
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
And the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me traveling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me traveling along with you.
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me traveling along with you.

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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