

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

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

'Holy Vessels'

"Restoration"
Fifth 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

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

Assurance
The Peace

Opening Hymn

The Earth and All Who Breathe VU #295 (Tune VU #321)

The earth and all who breathe
exist through love divine,
who formed the sea, the flowering tree,
the wren, the fragrant pine.
Each woman, man, and child
created from the dust
is called to share creation's care,
a sacred, living trust.

The good, abundant earth
is ours to tend and keep,
yet land lies waste, consumed in haste,
and hungry children weep.
The nations proudly build
new Babels to the sky.
Their bombs destroy creation's joy,
their missiles terrify!

Creation now awaits
humanity's rebirth
at last to claim one common aim?
to nurture life on earth.
Awake, all humankind,
the challenge now embrace,
apply your strength, your voice,
your means, as stewards of God's grace.

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 for the environment is not only warranted but essential to addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and the full suite of environmental crises we face.

Elin Kelsey

“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe,
the less taste we shall have for destruction.”

— **Rachel Carson**

An Amazing Day

I thank You God for most this amazing
day: for leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes.

- **E.E. Cummings**

An Ancient Word

Matthew 8: 18-27

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. A scribe then approached and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” Another of his disciples said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?”

Musical Proclamation

For the Beauty of the Earth

Reflection

Hope, Earth’s Saving Grace

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 (Earth Dance – Minnesota Women's Press, 1999)

Our mother, which art the earth, Nurturing are thy ways. Thy web of life be woven Thy way be found within, as it is all around. Thank you, this day, for our daily bread and sweat and forgive us our misuse of you, as we forgive others their misuse of us. And lead us not into exploitation, But deliver us From lording it over you, And over each other, And over all our other fellows The breeding, seeding, feeding ground, For now, and for as close to forever As we will ever come. Our Father, Mother, who are in the world and surpass the world, blessed be your presence, in us, in animals and flowers, in still air and wind. May justice and peace dwell among us, as you come to us. Your will be our will; You will that we be sisters and brothers, as bread is bread, water is itself, For our hunger, for quenching of thirst. Forgive us. We walk crookedly in the world, are perverse, and fail of our promise. But we would be human, if only you consent to stir up our hearts. 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

This week for our symbolic ritual action, we are going to restore some beauty by adding to the beauty of our glass pieces. If you have beach glass, wrap some thin wire around one of your pieces creating a pendant that can be hung in a window or as a necklace, a constant reminder of our role as those who must "take care," must care for and contribute to, rather than diminish, the beauty of this earth.

Perhaps this week if you have beach glass and wire you can make a few beach glass necklaces and give them to others and an invitation for them to care for the beauty of the earth.

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

Touch the Earth Lightly VU #307

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

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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