



United Methodist Church
of Westport and Weston

February 21, 2021
1st Sunday in Lent

*Our Vision is to Know, to Live
and to Share the Love of Jesus Christ.*

Holy Vessels: A Season of Lenten Healing
Livestream Worship – 10:00am

THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION

Joseph Campbell

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

My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing)
Ahyoung Son, organ

R. Lowry

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Heather

MISSION MOMENT

The Undies Project

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 25

The Dize Family

We trust in you, O God, for you are faithful.

Show us your ways and teach us your paths.

We wait for you.

Lead us in your paths of truth.

Do not remember our failures.

Out of your merciful grace, forgive us.

You are faithful, O God. Your love is steadfast.

**We lift up our souls to you,
and praise you always.**

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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God,

**We are bodies fashioned by your hand in your own image,
shapes and colors of diverse and immense beauty.**

And yet too often we have ignored the sacred nature of our physical lives.

**The Holy Vessels you have fashioned are tired and suffering,
ravaged by months of disrupted rhythms and ailment.**

Our fragility has come into full view and we are frightened.

**We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away,
sometimes even from our own needs.**

Help us, Healer.

**Show us our strength.
Forgive our hasty rush to put things back together by our own will.
Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care,
greater connection with you, our neighbors and ourselves.
In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved in Christ, know this: God's love and grace surround you...
No. Matter. What.
You are a precious and holy vessel right now.
Christ's light is a treasure given freely.
For you, for me, for all.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OPENING HYMN

Healer of Our Every Ill

TFWS 2213

Refrain

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

Verse 1

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

Verse 2

In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. ***(Refrain)***

Verse 3

Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. ***(Refrain)***

Verse 4

You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. ***(Refrain)***

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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.*

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Pastor Heather

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 8: 1-4; 16-17

George Hanze

8 When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; ² and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." ³ He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴ Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

¹⁶ That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Treasure”

Rev. Heather A. M. Sinclair

ASK

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

GIVING THANKS FOR OUR GIFTS

The ministry of the church is ongoing during these days. Your gifts, tithes and offerings continue to allow us to “be the church.” Checks may be sent to the church office or given online through our website. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hymn Medley

Chris Hisey and Lauren Hisey

*Surely the Presence of the Lord Is In This Place, There Is A Place of Quiet Rest,
Near to the Heart of God, Lead Me Lord*

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER *You are invited to pray in the version and language of your heart.*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RESPOND

*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.
How will we proceed into the brokenness of this world and respond as the Body of Christ?*

CLOSING HYMN

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

UMH 351

Verse 1

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;
while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.

Refrain

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;
while on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.

(continues on next page)

Verse 2

Let me at thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief,
kneeling there in deep contrition; help my unbelief. **(Refrain)**

Verse 3

Trusting only in thy merit, would I seek thy face;
heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by thy grace. **(Refrain)**

Verse 4

Thou the spring of all my comfort, more than life to me,
Whom have I on earth beside thee? Whom in heaven but thee? **(Refrain)**

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION

Shalom to You

UMH 666

*Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends, May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.*

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POSTLUDE

When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise
Ahyoung Son, organ

arr. R. V. Williams

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Our Mission is:
To Know the love of Jesus in personal ways through worship, prayer and study
To Live the love of Jesus through acts of compassion, gentleness and justice
To Share the love of Jesus in our homes, our community and the world
To Welcome all of God's children regardless of age, race, ability,
sexual or gender orientation, and economic circumstance.

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