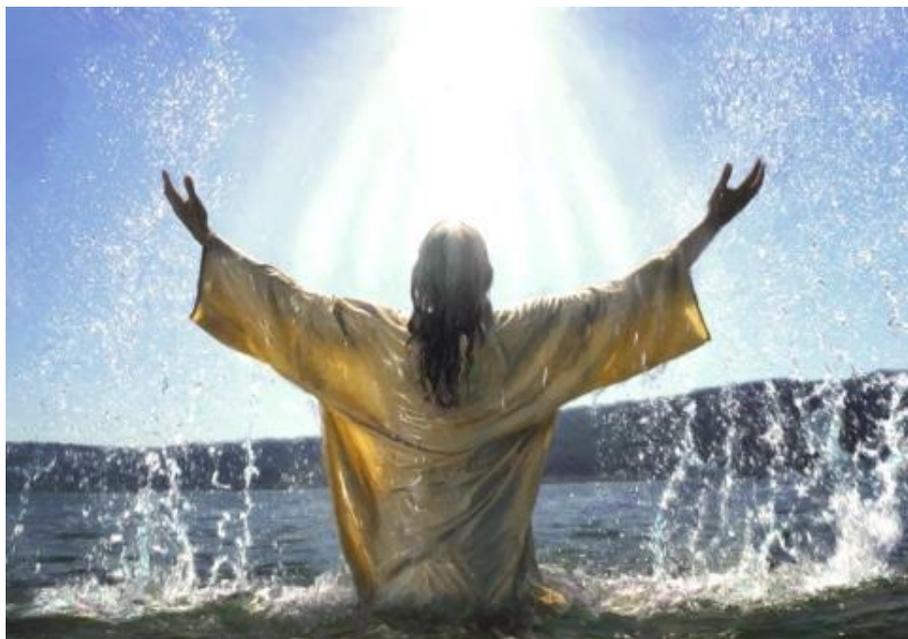


Wesley United Methodist Church

February 21, 2021



Gretchen Nelson, Pastor

Sylvia Krisnow, Secretary

Jerry Sowers, Minister of Music

Cynthia Campbell, Accompanist

Members of Wesley, Ministers

**The Vision of Wesley United Methodist Church is to serve
all people with the love of Jesus Christ.**

Order of Worship – 10:00 A.M. Service

Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery

Preparing your home for Worship

Create a space that brings reminders of God's presence and love. Sea Glass or similar colored broken glass pieces. Candle. Pictures. Bible. Cross. Make it a prayerful place. Ask everyone in your home for suggestions. Before the gathering time: play music, turn off devices not used for worship, start to pay attention to your breath as a gift from God. Pray.

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.

Welcome and Orientation

Centering our attention on God's Holy Presence with our breath and senses.

Gathering Centering Music

Let the music fill your hearts and spirits becoming aware of God welcoming you in love.

Crossing Into Worship

Leader: Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. Let us enter a Lenten “season of recovery” as we focus on Jesus, the Healer of our every ill.

The theme refrain is sung once through, freely.

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

Leader: Beach glass begins as something whole and yet discarded. As it is tumbled by the sea, it is broken and polished until it becomes a treasured “mineral gem.” We do not embrace that suffering is necessary or God-given, but that suffering is a part of life. When pain comes and brokenness enters our lives, Jesus reaches out to touch and remind us of the Treasure that we all are—worthy of new life in the midst of hopelessness. In a year when pandemic has wreaked havoc on our world, we begin by affirming our journey to physical health.

The theme refrain repeats

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

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

Leader: Lent developed into a season of intense inward reflection and confession centuries after the life of Jesus. Yet, as we will see, Jesus encouraged people to open up about their lives—to speak truth—no matter how broken. This is the beginning of compassion for ourselves and others. It is the beginning of healing. The Latin origins of the word “confess” is to “study and acknowledge.” This will be a season of studying how we can be a healing presence in our community. To do this, we acknowledge our need to restore our own Holy Vessels.

Let us pray:

ALL: 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 inertia.

Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care.

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

Holy Silence

Assurance

Sharing Christ’s Peace

The peace of Christ is with you.

And also with you.

Opening Hymn **“Healer of our Every Ill”** **FWS 2213**

Refrain:

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

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

[Refrain]

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

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

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

Refrain:

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

Glory Sightings

Witness to God’s faithfulness and love in the world. You are invited to share where have you witnessed good news. Raise a hand, write in the Facebook Comments, add into Zoom Chat.

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.

Contemporary Words of Witness

Hymn

“Sacred the Body”

FWS 2228

1. Sacred the body God has created, temple of Spirit that dwells deep inside. Cherish each person; nurture creation. Treat flesh as holy, that love may abide.

2. Bodies are varied, made in all sizes, pale, full of color, both fragile and strong. Holy the difference, gift of the maker, so let us honor each story and song.

3. Love respects persons, bodies and boundaries. Love does not batter, neglect, or abuse. Love touches gently, never coercing. Love leaves the other with power to choose.

4. Holy of holies, God ever loving, make us your temples; indwell all we do. May we be careful, tender and caring, so may our bodies give honor to you.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.
According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ **For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me.**
- ⁴ Against you, you only have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight. So that you are justified in your sentence, and blameless in your judgement.
- ⁵ **Behold, I was born into iniquity, and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me.**
- ⁶ Behold, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow;**
- ⁸ Make me hear with joy and gladness; Let the bones which you have broken rejoice.
- ⁹ **Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**
- ¹⁰ create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ **Cast me not away from your presense. and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- ¹³ **Then I will teach transgressors your ways, And sinners will return to you.**
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from death, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- ¹⁵ **O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall show forth your praise.**
- ¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- ¹⁷ **The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Special Music

Ancient Word of Witness

Matthew 8:1-4, 16-17

8 Jesus came down from the mountainside. Large crowds followed him. ² A man who had a skin disease came and got down on his knees in front of Jesus. He said, "Lord, if you are willing to make me 'clean,' you can do it."

³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing to do it," he said. "Be 'clean'!" Right away the man was healed of his skin disease. ⁴ Then Jesus said to him, "Don't tell anyone. Go and

show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift Moses commanded. It will be a witness to everyone.”

¹⁶When evening came, many people controlled by demons were brought to Jesus. He drove out the spirits with a word. He healed all who were sick. ¹⁷This happened so that what Isaiah the prophet had said would come true. He had said, “He suffered the things we should have suffered.

He took on himself the sicknesses that should have been ours.” (Isaiah 53:4)

Meditation **Broken Open** **Pastor Gretchen Nelson**

Ask

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

Hymn of Preparation

“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior” UMH 351 St. 1 and Refrain

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.

Prayers of the People

As we share in prayer today you are encouraged to pray aloud your joys and concerns. Complete your prayer with "Lord, in your mercy" and all the people respond "Hear our prayer". (You are invited to write your prayers in the Chat or Comment feed. Also please email them to the church office so the Prayer Team may continue to pray with you during the week).

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering

Giving is a spiritual practice of our faith. Sharing God's Good News through mission and ministry continue even as we are physically separate. Keep your covenant tithe, pledge, and offering with God. Consider healthy ways to be in service with your gifts and skills.

Musical Offering

During this musical act of praise, you are encouraged to praise God with your gifts. Wherever you are – lift up your hands, sway, dance, let the spirit of God move you (on screen or off).

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 of Grace

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.

When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God now and for ever.

ALL: Amen.

Sharing and Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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?

Hymn

**“Jesus, Savior, Lord, Now to You I Come
(Saranam, Saranam)”**

UMH 523

**Refrain: Jesus, Savior, Lord,
lo, to thee I fly;
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;
thou the Rock, my refuge
that’s higher than I:
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.**

1. In the midst of foes I cry to thee,
from the ends of earth wherever I
may be; my strength in
helplessness, O answer me:
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.

Refrain

2. In thy tent give me a dwelling
place, and beneath thy wings may I
find sheltering grace; O lift on me
the sunshine of thy face:
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.

Refrain

3. O that I my vows to thee may
pay, and that by thy faithfulness to
me each day may live, and on thy
love my burdens lay:
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.

Refrain

4. Yesterday, today, fore’er the
same, lo, the heritage of all who
bear thy name; to ransom them
from sin the Savior came:
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.

**Refrain: Jesus, Savior, Lord,
lo, to thee I fly;
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam;
thou the Rock, my refuge
that’s higher than I:
Saranam, Saranam, Saranam.**

Commission

Leader: Jesus’ healing actions often get “buzz” from onlookers. Some are amazed and in awe and sing praises. Some are bewildered and wonder at this teacher. Some are disgruntled and feel threatened by the boundaries he breaks and the change he invites. We are perhaps prone to all of these at one time or another. Our own work of recovery will sometimes feel immediately refreshing and sometimes it will demand uncomfortable effort. But the rewards are great.

We are also working toward something communal in this season. How can we as a church community become a “health hub” through our ministry and mission? The needs are so great, especially now. Throughout this time, I invite you to explore the possibilities for a new or renewed commitment to a contribution we can make through Wesley UMC to our larger community’s effort to recover from this past year.

Blessing

Now go with confidence as “Treasures of God,” recovering your depth of love for all and our joy of living in this world. May the words of Jesus ring in your ears: “I do choose you.”

And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver salve to your soul and a spring in your step. Amen.

Crossing Into the World

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

Announcements and Fellowship

Prayers and liturgies today can be found: UMC Book of Worship; UMC Discipleship Ministries; Worship and Design Studio for worship arts. All music used within CCLI#752546

Remember in our Prayers

Concerns: Kenny Crocker, Ashley Stanley, Rosemary Parks, Eli Sweeney, Don and Pat Brookman, Ann Wilson, Billie Jean, Vicky Morgan, Marge Edwards, Ariel Arus, Jim McKirdy, Ed Boyd, Mike Mee, Patty Bumgarner, Sheree, Crystal Radford, Tommy, Ron, Carol Beard, Joann Walsh, Grace Burnell, Freta Lamb, Joella, Joseph Gilday, Abby, Amber Stinson, Bill Mee, Zach Perkins, Caleb Coates, Ernie and Carolyn Taylor, Zeb Cope, Nancy Bellan, Ramona Gemeinhart, Pete Stone, Karen Bowers, Janice Crumpton, Jeff Birdsall, Kevin Lykins, Joe Ames, Nina Winfree, Barbara Greene, Ben Stanley, Susan Nichols, Jo and Buddy Carlisle.

Other Concerns: All teachers and students returning to the classroom, the Coronavirus, the tragedies occurring in our country and around the world; police officers and first responders; all who are grieving; our seniors; our church and the entire United Methodist Church; recovery from addiction; young adults needing a closer walk with Christ; those awaiting test results; healing for those in pain.

Nation and World: Our nation, leaders, military, deployed troops and their families.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: France, Germany, Monaco

Birthdays/Anniversaries: 02/26 Carolyn Ellington, Jacob Levy

We at Wesley are glad you are here and invite you to worship with us often. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider Wesley. Pastor Gretchen would be happy to talk with you about it.

Announcements

United Methodist Women (UMW) Meeting:

Monday, February 22, 7:00 PM, on Zoom. Contact person: Nancy Gumbert

Counters for February/March

February 14 and 21 – Becky Morris/Stephanie Eitzen

February 28 and March 7 – Clyde Gumbert /Donna Turley

HELP Food Pantry Update: The Food Pantry is well stocked, but there is still a need for **powdered milk and fruit juices (individual packs or regular plastic containers)**. The donations are delivered monthly. Contact person: Sherry Moore

Scriptures for February 28: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

As of 21 February 2022

Sun.	21	10:00 AM Live Stream Worship Service – Zoom or Facebook 4:00 PM Lenten Bible Study
Mon.	22	5:00 PM Prayer Time on Facebook 7:00 PM UMW Meeting on Zoom
Tues.	23	5:00 PM Prayer Time on Facebook 6:00 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on Zoom
Wed.	24	8:00 AM Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom and Facebook Noon Prayer Pause on Facebook 5:00 PM Prayer Time on Facebook
Thurs.	25	5:00 PM Prayer Time on Facebook
Fri.	26	
Sat.	27	
Sun.	28	10:00 AM Live Stream Sunday Worship Service – Zoom or Facebook 4:00 PM Lenten Bible Study

CHURCH ATTENDANCE	<u>February 14:</u> 44 on Zoom, 36 on Facebook
OFFERING	General Fund: Received: \$3,191.00 Needed each week: \$4,878.00

Secretary Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

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