

Wesley United Methodist Church

February 28, 2021

Second



SUNDAY
IN LENT

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

We continue our Lenten “season of recovery” as we focus on health as essential to our spiritual lives.

The theme refrain is sung once through, freely.

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

Leader: God gathers us as a Beachcomber gathers and marvels at every precious surviving piece of beach glass she finds. We are never alone, we are never lost to the One who seeks humanity's wholeness. We affirm our commitment to be the Body of Christ that knows we cannot be personally healed until we see the interconnected community as part of the process of healing. Jesus has the power to re-vision the family of God in which false boundaries are overcome. In a year of devastating loss of livelihood, we consider the economic health that reimagines status quo.

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: Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels, which include the communities of which we are a part.

Let us pray:

ALL: God of All, You created us for each other. You set in us a yearning for companionship and an empathy that binds us together, protecting each other and delighting in one another.

Yet too often we have broken down our relationships instead of building them up.

We have been set against one another with the lie of scarcity.

We have built systems and economies that widen the gap of resources rather than safeguarding equitable practices. Too many, and growing numbers, are suffering hardship, food insecurity, joblessness.

We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from the need in our own community.

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

Opening Hymn “We Are The Body of Christ” FWS 2227

One heart, One spirit, One voice to praise You
We are the body of Christ
One goal, One vision, To see You exalted
We are the body of Christ
And to this we give our lives to see You glorified
One heart, One spirit, One voice to praise You
We are the body of Christ
One goal, One vision, To see You exalted
We are the body of Christ

Sharing Christ's Peace

The peace of Christ is with you.
And also with you.

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

Psalter

Psalm 103

UMH 824-825

- ¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name.
- ² **Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
- ³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ **who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**
- ⁵ **who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**
- ⁶ The Lord who works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ Has made known God's ways to Moses,
God's acts to the people of Israel.
- ⁸ **The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

⁹The Lord will not always chide,
nor harbor anger for ever.

¹⁰**The Lord does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is the Lord's steadfast love toward the faithful;

¹²**as far as the east is from the west,
so far does the Lord remove our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to the faithful.

¹⁴**For he knows our frame and remembers that we are
dust.**

¹⁵As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

¹⁷**But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to
everlasting upon the faithful, and the righteousness of the
Lord to children's children,**

¹⁸**to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.**

Hymn

"The Voice of God is Calling"

UMH436

1. The voice of God is calling
its summons in our day;
Isaiah heard in Zion,
and we now hear God say:
"Whom shall I send to succor
my people in their need?
Whom shall I send to loosen
the bonds of shame and greed?"

2. "I hear my people crying
in slum and mine and mill;
no field or mart is silent,
no city street is still.
I see my people falling
in darkness and despair.
Whom shall I send to shatter
the fetters which they bear?"

3. We heed, O Lord, your
summons,
and answer: Here are we!
Send us upon your errand,
let us your servants be.
Our strength is dust and ashes,
our years a passing hour;
but you can use our weakness
to magnify your power.

4. From ease and plenty save us;
from pride of place absolve;
purge us of low desire;
lift us to high resolve;
take us, and make us holy;
teach us your will and way.
Speak, and behold! we answer;
command, and we obey!

Special Music

Ancient Word of Witness

Matthew 8:5-13

⁵ When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him ⁶ and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." ⁷ And he said to him, "I will come and cure him." ⁸ The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

Meditation Deeply Connected 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. 3 and Refrain

Trusting only in Thy merit
Would I seek Thy face
Heal my wounded, broken spirit
Save me by Thy grace

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 Action 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.

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. 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.

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

“O Christ, the Healer”

UMH 265

1. O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?

2. From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed; yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.

3. How strong, O Lord, are our desires how weak our knowledge of ourselves! Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.

4. In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease; our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

5. Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.

Commission

Leader: Jesus' healing actions often get “buzz” from onlookers. In this week's gospel we do not know how his followers reacted to his words, but we can assume that it was hard to hear for some. Jesus makes sure to point out that the belief of this “outsider” and his care for his servant was something he didn't always see from the “insiders”—from the ones who profess to be “faithful.” His words no doubt affirmed some and offended others. That's what happens when we get “called out,” as we say. Perhaps we are in need of being “called out.” Not in a way that shames but in a way that energizes. How could our faith call us out more and more until we cannot stand by as some are suffering?

We are working on healing for ourselves in this season, but we are also working toward something communal. 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 United Methodist Church to our larger community's effort to recover from this past year.

Blessing

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: Kath, 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, 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: Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Birthdays/Anniversaries: 03/06 Joshua Stamey

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

Counters:

February 28 and March 7 – Clyde Gumbert /Donna Turley

March 14 and March 21 – Pat Fitzgerald/Amy Stanley

March 28 and April 4 – Mary Saylor/Helen Cope

April 11 and April 18 – Becky Morris/Donna Turley

April 25 and May 2 – Clyde Gumbert/Stephanie Eitzen

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 March 7: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

As of 28 February 2021

Sun.	28	10:00 AM Live Stream Worship Service – Zoom or Facebook 4:00 PM Lenten Bible Study
Mon.	01	5:00 PM Prayer Time on Facebook
Tues.	02	5:00 PM Prayer Time on Facebook
Wed.	03	8:00 AM Lenten Prayer Service on Zoom and Facebook Noon Prayer Pause on Facebook 5:00 PM Prayer Time on Facebook
Thurs	04	5:00 PM Prayer Time on Facebook
Fri.	05	
Sat.	06	
Sun.	07	10:00 AM Live Stream Sunday Worship Service – Zoom or Facebook 4:00 PM Lenten Bible Study

OFFERING Received: \$1,875.00 Needed each week: \$4,878.00

CHURCH ATTENDANCE February 21: 44 on Zoom, 36 on Facebook

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

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