



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**LENT WORSHIP @ HOME  
HOLY VESSELS:  
A LENTEN SEASON OF RECOVERY**

[www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome](http://www.zionuccindy.net/worshipathome)

*Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery*

*Wednesday Worship*

*March 10, 2021*

**PRELUDE**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

**GATHERING PRAYER**

*Lenten Anthem: "Holy Vessels," Virtual Choir*

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

Help us, Healer. Show us our ability to grow and change. Forgive our inaction. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care. In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness. *Silence...Amen.*

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

## **CONTEMPORARY WORDS TO PONDER**

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.” — **Maya Angelou**

“Sharing our truths can provide the opportunity for great healing.” — **Kristen Noel**

“Tell the story of the mountain you climbed. Your words could become a page in someone else’s survival guide.” — **Morgan Harper Nichols**

“Part of the healing process is sharing with other people who care.” — **Jerry Cantrell**

Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process is the bravest thing that we will ever do.” — **Brené Brown**

“Sometimes the most healing thing to do is remind ourselves over and over and over, other people feel this too.” — **Andrea Gibson**

## **HYMN**

*Breathe On Me, Breath of God*

## **WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

*Matthew 9:27-33*

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.” And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, “See that no one knows of this.” But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district. After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, “Never has anything like this been seen in Israel.”

## **RITUAL ACTION FOR THE WEEK**

The words of Jesus we heard in this week’s healing story were “Do you believe I am able to do this?” Jesus’ question invites us to consider our own belief in transformation. He invites us to step into a renewed vision of our lives, to speak into

being a new story, not be bound by the stories of the past, inscribed on us by others, that may be oppressing and limiting us.

Last week we put our glass pieces in a bowl. Beach glass is usually somewhat cloudy when dry. When it comes into contact with water, it becomes clear and bright. Today, you are invited to fill your vessel containing the pieces with water and watch the transformation. As you do, let it be a prayer for clarity. Ask for a new way to see the struggles you may be experiencing. Ask for understanding and a way forward.

Take a moment to think on this and then when you are ready, pick up the container of broken pieces, now bright and clear in the water, and breathe deeply, inviting the Spirit to live and move and transform you and others who need clarity for their lives. Keep the bowl in a place you will see it regularly this week... perhaps in a bathroom near the place where you shower or bathe.



## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD WITH OUR GIVING**

**Invitation** – Tonight we bring our offerings to God, the treasures of our hearts. In bringing these gifts, may they be a sign that we believe that God is able to do great things.

You can mail your offerings to our office. We check the mail regularly.  
Zion United Church of Christ  
8916 E. Troy Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46239

Or, you can donate through our website through our secure PayPal button at [www.zionuccindy.net/donate](http://www.zionuccindy.net/donate). Please know that PayPal receives a 2.2% processing fee and a \$0.30 transaction charge. You are able to set up reoccurring, monthly payments.

**We Give Thanks** – God through Christ you showed us the amazing things you are able to do in this world. Take these gifts that they might add to the healing work to which you have called your church. In gratitude, we come before you to dedicate our lives to your work. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Song of Preparation: “Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole,” Martha & Michael Main*

*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.*

Healer of our every ill, especially our malady of stigmatized fear of mental illness, we come before you to make our petitions known. Hear our cries for healing of body, mind, and spirit. We know that already you are at work among us, showing us the way to recovery from the toxicities and grief of our time.

You have stamped each one of us as “worthy.” We give you thanks that your mercy is wide and your faithfulness to us not depend upon having our feelings sorted out or our sense of well-being secure. You are not waiting for us to “get our act together” before offering us your love and grace.

We pray especially for those who have experienced heightened and acute mental and emotional difficulties as a result of this past year of isolation and fear. We pray for those who feel far from hope and we mourn those who could not find a lifeline to survive this hardship. We pray for those who find themselves without access to adequate care, someone to talk to, or appropriate resources to steady their hearts and minds. We give thanks for those who are telling their stories, showing us how to open our hearts to help others and offering ripples of healing in the community. We pray grateful thanks for progress toward holistic healthcare and the efforts of all who are working to de-stigmatize mental illness, making it easier to ask for, and get, the help so desperately needed.

We ask for courage and encouragement to re-evaluate how we as a church can help now and into the future...*(A time for silent prayer)*

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

*Lenten Anthem: "Holy Vessels"*

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

Holy Healer, we give you thanks for our time together. Let us hold one another in love like the Holy--though sometimes broken--Vessels that we are. Let us hold all of Creation as precious works of your divine grace. Amen.

Go in peace...

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

## **POSTLUDE**

*The Longer I Serve Him*

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