



ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**LENT WORSHIP @ HOME**  
**HOLY VESSELS:**  
**A LENTEN SEASON OF RECOVERY**

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*Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Recovery*  
*Wednesday Worship*  
*March 24, 2021*

**PRELUDE**

*Wondrous Grace*

**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**

“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**

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.”—**John Muir**

“We don’t inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”—**David Brower**

## **HYMN**

*Be Still for the Spirit of the Lord*

## **WE HEAR GOD’S 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?”

## **RITUAL ACTION FOR THE WEEK**

The words of Jesus we highlight this week from the healing story are “follow me and let the dead bury their own dead.” These may seem like harsh words. And yet we hear Jesus’ urgency. *Now* is the time to move, no matter how difficult, we cannot wait. What is past is past. There is brokenness and there are casualties in its wake. But we can move forward. We can make changes. We can face storms because we are a people led by the Healer, the Calm-in-the-Storm who can offer us faith in the midst of fear.



And so this week for our symbolic ritual action, we are going to restore some beauty by adding to the beauty of our glass pieces. You received thin craft wire in your Lent @ Home Kits, and you are invited to wrap some of that wire around one of your pieces of beach glass, 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.



Take some time now to do this simple wrapping and crafting with the wire and glass. Remember that even from these pieces of glass, shattered in the past, right now, in these moments, they can be restored to beauty.

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

**Invitation** – Let us bring our gifts to God, our Creator and Sustainer. May these gifts be a sign of our gratitude for what God has done for us, blessing us with the beauty of this world and the beauty of the life sustained by God’s creation. Whatever gift you bring tonight, know that with it God can do amazing 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** – Creator and Sustainer of life, may these gifts be used to bring healing and wholeness to the world. May the ministries that these gifts support share far and wide your restoring and renewing love. 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 fractured creation, 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 remind us that that you are in the boat with us in the midst of difficult times. We give you thanks for this path of following you, even when you call us to crossover from one way of life to another. We pray especially for all who are impacted most by dwindling resources. We pray that we will continue to learn and see and know how our actions affect others, not just ourselves. We ask for courage and encouragement to re-evaluate how we as a church can join the effort to bring healing to your creation 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**

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.

## **POSTLUDE**

*I Hear Thy Welcome Voice*

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