



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 17, 2021*

## **PRELUDE**

### **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

“When one realizes one is asleep, at that moment one is already half-awake.”

— **P.D. Ouspensky**

“The authentic self is the soul made visible.” – **Anonymous**

“Get out of your comfort zone. Wake up the sleeping giant in you.” – **Dr T.P.Chia**

“Curiosity is the first step down the path of awakening.” – **Anonymous**

“The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not.” — **Albert Schweitzer**

## HYMN

*How Can I Keep from Singing?*

## WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

*Matthew 9:18-26*

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, “Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

## RITUAL ACTION FOR THE WEEK

The words of Jesus we highlight this week from the healing story are “the girl is not dead, but sleeping.”



We have touched today on our need to be rejuvenated in spirit, to awaken with new vigor for creativity and curiosity. This is the intellectual healing that is a spiritual healing. We may feel like we have been slowly dying away these last few months, but Jesus affirms that we are not dying... we perhaps are sleeping. It is the healing we yearn for... to be awakened, brought back to life with vitality and vigor for the days ahead.



And so this week, I invite you being to play with creating a “different picture” from the brokenness. I invite you to take your broken pieces and move them around on a flat surface as a mosaic artist would try various configurations when making a work of art. Even when the raw materials of our lives that we have to work with feel broken, we can get a new perspective that can awaken a new vision for life within us.



When you are ready and have found placement of your pieces that bring a spark of delight, you are invited to take a photo of it. If you use a “wallpaper” on your phone, consider using your photo this week in this way, a reminder that we are capable of reworking, remaking, the pictures of what “life” can be. If this technology is not part of your world, keep your mosaic creation on the table where you can see it frequently, using it as a focal point for prayer.

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

**Invitation** – From God’s immeasurable grace, we have been saved by faith. In thankfulness for this mighty gift, let us give thanks to the Lord and offer God homage, as we offer back our tithes and our offerings.~

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 of light and love, as Jesus shined your light into our troubled world, may our offering bring rays of your holy light into the dark corners of our world. May these gifts reach the places where the fear of death holds sway, that others may find Christ’s life in the midst of their pain. 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 exhausted spirits, 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 we do not have to shoulder everything alone. We give you thanks that all we must do is orient ourselves toward your divine spirit to accompany us, touch us, inspire us, heal us.

We pray especially for all who feel opportunity and possibility is cut off to them. Whose spirit is continually dampened and damaged by those who fail to see value in their contributions, who steal away rights to the fullness of expression. We give thanks for communities, churches, non-profits, and businesses that are supporting the flourishing of all voices, especially voices that have been silenced. We give thanks for the courage of innovators who use their resources and creativity to make

more good in the world, making this a priority over profit. We ask for courage and encouragement to re-evaluate how we as a church can join this effort 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**

~ Scifres, Mary; Beu, B. J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021 (p. 71). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.  
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