



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 Season of Recovery*  
*The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – Different Pictures*  
March 14, 2021

**PRELUDE**

*Let's Just Praise the Lord, Martha Main*

**GATHERING**

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

*Lenten Anthem: “Holy Vessels”*

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

Prolonged times of difficulty can impede our ability to stay creative. The picture of our lives is dulled and hope for a brighter future can fade. We need a touch of inspiration to awaken us from our sleep, as we hear in one of this week’s healing stories. We also awaken to our agency to seek out the Divine Healer, reaching out to touch the power we know can restore our intellect and imagination. We emerge ready to re-engage with the world, seeking and seeing solutions, creating different pictures of life renewed just as a mosaic artist creates beauty from broken pieces of glass.

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

## **CENTERING HYMN**

*Be Thou My Vision, Zion Virtual Choir*

## **WE CONFESS OUR SINS TO GOD**

Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels so that we might be able to create and imagine new possibilities, new solutions.

Let us pray:

God of All Possibilities, made in your image, you have tasked us as co-creators of a better world. You give imagination and the ability to learn and progress. But we are tired. Our energy wanes and enthusiasm wanes. The call for ideas, solutions, work-arounds and adaptations has been non-stop for us all. Not only our livelihoods, but our liveliness is at stake. Too often we want to give up, declare it all too hard and simply isolate, waiting out the time for better days. It all feels overwhelming and so we look away, sometimes even from the need in our own community.

Help us, Healer. Show us our energy reserves. Forgive our cynicism. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for one another. In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness. *Time for silent confession...Amen.*

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Know this: We are gifted with the ability to add to the healing of the world. No. Matter. What. We are not alone and we can join with others to magnify hope. Christ will answer when we call, when we reach out for what we know can help. For you, for me, for all. Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you...and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

## **HYMN**

*O Love that Will Not Let Me Go, Martha Main*

## **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.

## MEDITATION

*Reaching for Hope*

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

**Invitation** – Consider the steadfast love of God in every breath you breathe. May that steadfast love inspire you to give generously so that we may live into God’s Reign of peace and compassion through the offerings of our own church.+

**March Benevolence** – Our March Benevolence Offering will go to support One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). OGHS, part of Our Church’s Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. If you’d like to support OGHS, please, clearly indicated on your envelope, check, or PayPal note what portion of your donation you’d like to go to support this ministry.

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** – O Generous One, we give thanks to you for your steadfast love endures forever. May these gifts be used to feed the hunger and satisfy the thirst of all those you love throughout your creation. Amen.+

## COMMISSION

### **We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing**

Each week we look at the reaction of the crowd in the healing story. This week there is an interesting reaction at Jesus' notion that the girl was not dead. They laughed. Full-blown funeral rites had begun, flutes and all. And yet Jesus said, this is not the end of this story. The idea that we could come back to life better than before, that we could find some way to bring life back to what feels dead, may seem preposterous to some at this point. Laughable. But, like Jesus, we need not be deterred. Can we forge ahead, enter the "house" of sorrow and dare to proclaim that hope can still exist? This week consider the ways you might use your creativity and imagination to share a bit of hope with our weary world.

Now go with confidence that we will awaken, we will seek out and reach for the healing solutions that our neighbors, our communities, our world needs, recovering our depth of love for all and our joy of living in this world. May the words of Jesus ring in your ears: "You are not dead, you are sleeping." And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver salve to your soul and a spring in your step. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

*There's a Quiet Understanding*, Martha Main

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