Westminster
Presbyterian Church

March 21, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Gathering Song *Vessels* CHUCK BELL

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

Opening Prayer of Confession **Diane and Joel Chupp**

Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels,
especially this holy container of life on which we live–this very planet.
Let us pray:

Life-giving God,
In the beginning, you created this universe with a phrase, "Let it be…"
and the waters and dry land, the sky and the creatures were formed.
You set humanity among these wonders and invited us to care and honor all things.

We have not successfully answered that call.
Seeing the abundance as a feast that would never end, we gorged ourselves,
taking more than we could replenish at a rate that is not sustainable.
We are beginning to comprehend the magnitude,
beginning to see that
things cannot just keep going "as usual"
without dire consequences.

We are frightened
as we witness to the forces of a world
more broken than what we inherited:
water, wind, and wave, fire, drought, and earthquake
signal it is time to pay attention and to make real change.

Help us, Healer.
Show us our ability to chart a different course.
Forgive our inaction.
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.

Silence

Musical Response *Vessels* CHUCK BELL

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Assurance of Forgiveness **Diane and Joel Chupp**

I invite you to imagine a warmth begin to arise within the core of your body. It may help to keep your eyes closed. This warm orb of light is deep within you, a flame always there and ready when you need it. This warm glow begins to emerge from the recesses of your inner being to ignite and spark inspiration. It floods your whole body until your skin is glowing with it, radiating outward. It floods your whole body until your skin is glowing with it, radiating outward. You feel strong.

Know this: Jesus asks us to do hard things, to make changes,
knowing we are capable.
No. Matter. What.
We *can* change in order to heal this jewel planet called home.
The calm of Christ in the storm is available.
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.
Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 664 Morning Has Broken BUNESSAN

1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Spring in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation; praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

Prayer of Illumination **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading Matthew 8:18-27 **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

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?"

Sermon Holy Vessels: Restoration **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 713 Touch the Earth Lightly TENDERNESS

Prayer of the People **Diane and Joel Chupp**

We pray in the name of the One who is to come, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 749 Come, Live in the Light WE ARE CALLED

Benediction **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Postlude *Vessels* CHUCK BELL

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*Note: The Opening Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness were adapted from the *Holy Vessels* by Marcia McFee.

The theme song *Vessels* is led by Ken Shafer, piano, and Pong Thiemmedh, tenor.