Westminster
Presbyterian Church

March 14, 2021
FOURTH 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 **Sherry and Eric Miller**

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 bestowed imagination and the ability to learn and progress.

But we are tired.
Our energy wanes and enthusiasm wanes.
The call for ideas, solutions,
workarounds and adaptations have been non-stop for us all,
whether we need to find ways to keep children engaged and well,
or figure out how to maintain a passion for our work in the midst of trying times,
or desperate to undo systems of oppression
that have affected
our lives and the lives of our neighbors for too long.

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.

Silence

Musical Response *Vessels* CHUCK BELL

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Assurance of Forgiveness **Sherry and Eric Miller**

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. This light from you offers a beacon for those around you, whose own light reflects and multiplies your own. There is now exponentially more radiance.

Know this: We are gifted with agency to affect healing in 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.
Amen.

Opening Hymn All Things Bright and Beautiful arr. JOHN RUTTER

Prayer of Illumination **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading Matthew 9:18-26 **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

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.

Reflection Different Pictures **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 771 What is the World Like NEW WORLD

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
Roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
Watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
Peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
Tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

5 These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
Filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
This is a new world where God's will is done.

Prayer of the People **Sherry and Eric Miller**

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. 450 Be Thou My Vision SLANE

Benediction **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Postlude *Vessels* CHUCK BELL

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Healer, come.

*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.