Westminster
Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 28, 2021
SECOND 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 **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels,
which include the communities of which we are a part.

Let us pray:

God of All,
You created us for each other. You set in us a yearning for companionship and an empathy that binds us together, protecting each other and delighting in one another.
Yet too often we have broken down our relationships instead of building them up.
We have been set against one another with the lie of scarcity.
We have built systems and economies that widen the gap of resources
rather than safeguarding equitable practices.
Too many, and growing numbers, are suffering hardship, food insecurity, joblessness.
We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away,
sometimes even from the need in our own community.

Help us, Healer.
Show us our empathy.
Forgive our complacence.
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 **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

Again this week, 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 fill and flood your whole body until your skin is glowing with it, radiating outward. This warmth that wraps you as a blanket of assurance is one you want to share. You want all to feel this presence, to kindle this hope.

Know this: This love and security is meant for all people.
No. Matter. What.
We are capable of sharing our light and not running out of "enough."
Christ's hospitality that broke through false boundaries points the way.
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. 796 We Come to You for Healing, Lord LAND OF REST

Prayer of Illumination **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading Matthew 8:5-13 **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go, 'and he goes, and to another, 'Come, 'and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this, 'and the slave does it."

When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

Sermon **Safe Keeping** **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Musical Response Vessels CHUCK BELL

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Ordination and installation of Candy Relle
and the installation of Sue-Min Lee and Bill Weiss
to active service as Ruling Elders Class 2023 of Westminster Presbyterian Church

Affirmation of Faith **Josie Drushal, Clerk of Session**

There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.
There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.
God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.
Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination **Josie Drushal, Clerk of Session**

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord. Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as deacons, as ruling elders, and as teaching elders.

Ordination is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us, providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the world, ordering the governance of the church, and preaching the Word and administering the sacraments.

The Clerk of Session continues:
Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church, the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church now ordains Candy Relle to ministry as ruling elder and installs her to active service in this congregation.

The session also installs to active service Sue-Min Lee and Bill Weiss,
who have been previously ordained as ruling elders of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Constitutional Questions **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy, Moderator of Session**

Do you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? And fulfilling the office of deacon, will you teach charity, urge concern, and direct the people's help to the friendless and those in need? **I will.**

The Clerk of Session *addresses the members of the congregation:*
Do we, the members of the church, accept Candy, Sue-Min and Bill as ruling elders chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

The people respond:
We do.

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer of Ordination and Installation **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy, Moderator of Session**

Faithful God,
in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are
working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling.
We thank you for Candy, Sue-Min and Bill, and for the many gifts with which you have blessed this congregation through each of them. Thank you for calling them to this time and place.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them as they serve as ruling elders in your church. Give them the joy of those who know that they walk in your ways and that you walk beside them. Strengthen them and give them wisdom, patience, and hope. Uphold all those who have committed themselves to serve as officers of the church. Help us to encourage and support one another and keep us in your love.

Be with this congregation. Open our eyes and our hearts to new and deeper opportunities to serve you. Let your Spirit rule your church. Bind us together in love and service with Jesus Christ, and with all who work for your coming Kin-dom. Amen.

Statement of Installation and Charge **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy, Moderator of Session**

Candy, you are now ordained and installed, and Sue-min and Bill, you are now installed to service as ruling elders in the Class of 2023, for Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. Amen.

Hymn No. 767 Together We Serve SAN ANSELMO

Prayer of the People **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

…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 The Voice of God is Calling WILLIAM LLOYD

Benediction **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Postlude Vessels CHUCK BELL

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

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

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