



Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC

We share God's love, hope, and healing and serve our neighbors.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

for February 28, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent - "Safe Keeping"

Gather

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually, we too are yearning for his presence, for peace and for help

Prelude

Ji Hye Jung

Welcome

Invitation

Leader: We continue our Lenten "season of restoration" as we focus on health as essential to our spiritual lives.

Theme refrain is sung once through, freely:

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

Leader: God gathers us as a Beachcomber gathers and marvels at every precious surviving piece of beach glass she finds. We are never alone, we are never lost to the One who seeks humanity's wholeness. We affirm our commitment to be the Body of Christ that knows we cannot be personally healed until we see the interconnected community as part of the process of healing. Jesus has the power to re-vision the family of God in which false boundaries are overcome. In a year of devastating loss of livelihood, we consider the economic health that reimagines status quo.

Musical Refrain:

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

Opening Prayer of Confession

Leader: 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 complacency.
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 Refrain:

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

Assurance of God's Presence

Again this week, 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.

Peace of Christ

*I invite you to imagine the warmth that surrounds you extending to those who may be next to you in close proximity. Imagine it extending beyond your walls to the neighborhood...the wider community... the church... and seeing it spread like the rising sun, let it expand to all the world.
Let this be our peace. Amen.*

Anthem

Oh, The Winter

Chancel Choir -March 2020 recording

Believe

*People were fortified by Jesus' words and deeds that revealed care for all-especially those marginalized.
We strengthen our beliefs in the possibility for renewed health and vigor for all.*

Time for Children

Rev. Pam Cochrane

Special Music

Siciliano from Sonata II

J.S. Bach

Scripture—Matthew 8: 5-13

Message

“Called Out”

Rev. Pam Cochrane

Musical Refrain:

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

Prayers of the People

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Time of Offering and Dedication

Closing Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other

tune: AURELIA, words: Fred Kaan

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.
3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.
4. God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
Renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!

Benediction

Postlude

Ji Hye Jung

*The altar flowers this Sunday are in honor of
Robyn Morin's and Nicole Bradstreet's Birthdays
Given by Mum and Dad*

*The steeple is lit this week in loving memory of
my husband Stephen Kuzma
Given by Peggy Kuzma*

Announcements & Events

Sunday, Feb 28 at 10am: *SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT*

Tuesday, March 2 at 7pm: *Church Council Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, March 7 at 10am: *Third Sunday of Lent*

Tuesday, March 9 at 7pm: *Deacons Mtg on Zoom*

Wednesday, March 10 at 6:30pm: *CE Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, March 14 at 10am: *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Tuesday, March 16 at 7pm: *World Service Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, March 21 at 10am: *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Tuesday, March 23 at 7pm: *Trustees Mtg on Zoom*

Sunday, March 28 at 10am: *PALM SUNDAY Worship*

Email the Church Office for the Zoom meeting links: info@maplestreetchurch.org

Every Tuesday at 6pm: Prayer & Table

Every Wednesday at 12noon: Chat with the Pastors via Zoom

Every Thursday at 12noon: Virtual Bible Study

