



## **Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC**

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

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

for February 21, 2021

*First Sunday in Lent “Treasure”*

## 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

### Welcome

Rev. Pam Cochrane

### Invitation

Leader: Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness-body, mind, and spirit-like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. Let us enter a Lenten “season of restoration” as we focus on Jesus, the Healer of our every ill.

*Theme refrain is sung once through, freely:*

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

Leader: Beach glass begins as something whole and yet discarded. As it is tumbled by the sea, it is broken and polished until it becomes a treasured “mineral gem.” We do not embrace that suffering is necessary or God given, but that suffering is a part of life. When pain comes and brokenness enters our lives, Jesus reaches out to touch and remind us of the Treasure that we all are-worthy of new life in the midst of hopelessness. In a year when pandemic has wreaked havoc on our world, we begin by affirming our journey to physical health.

*(Musical Refrain)*

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

### Opening Prayer of Confession

Leader: Lent developed into a season of intense inward reflection and confession centuries after the life of Jesus. Yet, as we will see, Jesus encouraged people to open up about their lives-to speak truth-no matter how broken. This is the beginning of compassion for ourselves and others. It is the beginning of healing. The Latin origins of the word “confess” is to “study and acknowledge.” This will be a season of studying how we can be a healing presence in our community. To do this, we acknowledge our need to restore our own Holy Vessels.

### *Let us pray...*

Creator God,  
We are bodies fashioned by your hand in your own image,  
Shapes and colors of diverse and immense beauty.  
And yet too often we have ignored the sacred nature of our physical lives.  
The Holy Vessels you have fashioned are tired and suffering,

Ravaged by months of disrupted rhythms and ailment.  
Our fragility has come into full view and we are frightened.  
We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away,  
Sometimes even from our own needs.  
Help us, Healer  
Show us our strength.  
Forgive our inertia.  
Move us to move  
One step at a time toward greater care.  
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**

*I invite you to feel the warmth of the Holy Spirit arise within the center of your body. Imagine the warmth of the spirits light deep within you. This warm glow begins to move from the recesses of your inner being, beginning to fill and flood your whole body with healing, imagine it radiating outward. You are surrounded by the Spirits light. Feel this warmth wrap you as a blanket of assurance.*

Know this: God's love and grace surround you... No. Matter. What.  
You are a precious and holy vessel right now. Christ's light is a treasure given freely.  
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**

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

### **Opening Hymn**

*Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

Tune: MERCY,  
words: Samuel Longfellow

1. Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine.  
Voice of God and inward light, wake my spirit from its night.
2. Holy Spirit, love divine, glow within this heart of mine.  
Kindle every high desire, purify me with your fire.
3. Holy Spirit, power divine, fill and nerve this will of mine.  
Boldly may I always live, bravely serve, and gladly give.
4. Holy Spirit, law divine, reign within this soul of mine.  
Be my law, and I shall be firmly bound, forever free.

### **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**

*Deep River*  
Kathy Gross, flute  
Ji Hye Jung, piano

Traditional Spiritual

**Scripture**—Matthew 8: 1-4; 16-17

**Message**

“Audacious Healing”

Rev. Douglas Vooyo

**Prayers of the People**

Rev. Pam Cochrane

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Time of Offering and Dedication**

*(Musical Refrain)*

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

**Closing Hymn**

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Tune: TRENTHAM,  
words: Edwin Hatch

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew  
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire:  
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*The altar flowers this Sunday are in loving memory of  
Edward O. Foerster, Violet Foerster, C.A. Leone, Salvatore Leon, Elaine Leon,  
& Mr. & Mrs. Raymond A. Duffill, Sr.  
Given by the Duffill Family*



# Announcements & Events

Sunday, Feb 21 at 10am: *FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT*  
*\*with a Congregational Meeting on Zoom following the service\**

Tuesday, Feb 23 at 7pm: *Trustees Meeting on Zoom*

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](mailto: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**

## WARRANT FOR A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

To the legal voters of Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC:

You are hereby notified that a Congregational Meeting of Maple Street Congregational Church, UCC, Danvers, Massachusetts, will be held on Sunday, February 21, 2021 via Zoom: Video Conference at the close of the Worship Service.

### Agenda:

1. Affirm the actions taken at the September 27, 2020 Congregational Meeting and approve the minutes from the September 27, 2020 Congregational Meeting
2. Receive an update on MSC's activities, operations and missions and the continued impact of the Pandemic caused by COVID-19.
3. Vote on revisions to the MSC Bylaws.
4. Receive an update from the Task Force on the Designated Term Pastors ("DTP Task Force") on its findings and activities associated with MSC's period of discernment which began in January 2019 with the goal of developing a faithful and effective pastoral leadership structure for MSC's ministries.
5. Vote on the Church Council's recommendations based upon the DTP Task Force's findings and conclusions with respect to:
  - a. MSC pastoral leadership structure, and
  - b. filling MSC's pastoral leadership positions.
6. Transact any other business that may legally come before it.
7. Adjourn.

Documents to support warrant:

Draft Meeting Minutes from the September 27, 2020 Congregational Meeting