



Holy Vessels

A Lenten Season of Recovery

First Sunday in Lent

“Treasure”



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 21, 2021, 9:30 am

In-Person & Live Streamed on YouTube and Facebook

www.facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks

GATHER

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Joe Payne

LENTEN WORSHIP THEME

Chris Beiser

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

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Linda Payne

APPROACH

*People opened their lives to Jesus. We are drawn to the Healer
-opening our hearts with honesty about our lives
and finding assurance that offers peace.*

Opening Hymn "Healer of Our Every Ill"

**Healer of our every ill,
Light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness.
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts
*Refrain***

**In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love
*Refrain***

**Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother.
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide
*Refrain***

**You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing.
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.
*Refrain***

OPENING PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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. Forgive our inertia.
Show us our strength.
Move us to move, one step at a time,
toward greater care.**

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

Silence

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

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

The Peace of Christ is with you.

And also with you.

BELIEVE

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

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Peggy Smith

MUSICAL PROCLAMATION "The Potter"

Chris Beiser

AN ANCIENT WORD Matthew 8: 1-4; 16-17

SERMON

"Treasure"

Pastor Joe

ASK

People who were healed by Jesus were not afraid to ask. And so we come before the Holy One, making our petitions and desires known, trusting the work of the Spirit.

SONG OF PREPARATION

**In your love, make us whole.
May we rest in your compassion.
Calm the lost, weary soul
in the warmth of your love.
May your peace fill our hearts.
May we know the love of Jesus.
By your grace, you console.
Make us holy, make us whole.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPOND

Scriptural accounts of healing often end with responses from the "crowd" of witnesses. How will we proceed into the brokenness of this world and respond as the Body of Christ?

CLOSING HYMN

"Be Still My Soul" vv. 1&2

UMH 528

BLESSING

Now go with confidence as "Treasures of God,"
recovering your depth of love for all
and our joy of living in this world.

May the words of Jesus ring in your ears: "I do choose you."
And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver
salve to your soul and a spring in your step.

Amen.

singing

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

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITHFUL and INCLUSIVE

New Class begins - March 10 to April 7 Wednesdays 10:30 - Noon

The aim of this class:

- To understand better what the Bible says regarding non-heterosexual practices, and why it says it, and
- To consider how Christians committed to upholding biblical authority can take a non-literal approach to these passages.

We will meet via Zoom. You will receive a Zoom invite after you sign up and closer to the meeting date. There is no cost. Call 844-1818 to reserve your place, or sign up on St. Mark's Facebook Page Events.

UPPER ROOMS: The March/April Upper Rooms are now available. They are in a box by the kitchen door and also on the Narthex Welcome center.

PASTOR JOE'S UPWORDS: Pastor Joe is now doing his words of inspiration and just being in touch with everyone on a weekly basis, **every Wednesday around 1:30 to 2 pm on Facebook.** If you can't watch at that time, you can always watch any other time afterwards on St. Mark's Facebook page.

BLOOD DRIVE:

Wednesday, March 17th from 3:30 to 7:30 pm.

You may now sign up on St. Mark's Facebook page. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Theodor at 748-1085.

BROKEN BUS MINISTRY: St. Mark's has reserved **April 10th** to serve on the bus. Those that volunteer must be from the same household and masks and other safety procedures will be in place. If you are interested in either riding or providing the meal, or if you have questions, please contact Julie at 505-4061.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers may be in memory, honor of someone or just because. Price is \$14.50 for each bouquet.

Please call the church office for your request by Wednesday. You may take your flowers home after the service, or let the office know if you need to come another time.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES - Available in Fellowship Hall. You may get them on Sunday morning or any morning Monday—Thursday from 9 to Noon. If these times do not work out for you, please call the church office to arrange a time for you to get your envelopes.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sunday Requests and Updates:

Debbie Flannery's Sister-in-law, Karen, who fell this morning and is being admitted into the hospital for a broken shoulder.

Prayers for a dear friend diagnosed with Lymphoma. Sue Rumley asks prayers for Kristy as she is having surgery tomorrow.

Marty's sister, Danielle, is in Jewish hospital after having two strokes.

Prayers for the Bob Grammel family as they mourn the loss of Bob.

Praises for a successful Kidney transplant for Diane Noonan. Both patients are home and doing well.

New and update from Sunday

Danielle, Marty's sister passed away.

Diana Griffith stage 4 Liver cancer.

Don Jackson passed away February 14th.

Continuing Prayers

*(Help us keep this list current. Email or call the church office .)
(b.smoot@fairfieldstmarks.com / 844-1818) with any updates.)*

All service Men & Women	Prayer & Bible Study Groups	Byron Jones Merianne Cardas
Our Country	Jean Stivers	Dick Brewer
First Responders	Mitch Thomas	All shut-ins and
United Methodist Church	Lori Palmieri (Pat Coyle's daughter)	Homebound

St. Mark's Homebound / Shut-ins

Phyllis Tunning - Triplecreek	Sandy Ronningen -Chesterwood
Virginia Shaw	Eleanor McCollum
Bob Miracle	Paul Schutte —Jamestown
Dale Shreve - Birchwood, 201	Greg Pullem
Bob Netherland in Hospice Care	Sue Webster

Joys / Concerns *(listed in the order received, and kept for four weeks unless requested to remain on our "Continuing Prayers" list.)*

Neil Hume family 1/24	Dewilda and family 1/31
Hartsman family 1/24	Young family struggling 1/31
Carson family 1/24	Tomie O'Sullivan 1/31
Jim & Martin Ruhl 1/24	Family of Mary Ann Dove 1/31
Jenni's daughter, Morgan 1/24	Jim Hughes 1/31
Unspoken request 1/24	Diana Nooman 2/7
Family of Miranda Perry 1/24	Donor, Jill 2/7
Charlotte's Mom 1/24	Family of Paul Stanberry 2/7
Donna's brother, Ray Rettinger 1/24	Miracle Family 2/7
Joe Goebel 1/31	Friend's nephew 2/7
Unspoken requests 1/31	Sister-in-law, Kelly 2/7
	Family of Bev Chaffin 2/7
	Mary Ann Dove's family 2/7

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Our Mission is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.

STAFF

Pastor	Joe Payne
Administrative Assistant	Brenda Smoot
Director of Music	Chris Beiser
Organist	Sue Combs
Director of Children & Family Ministries	Peggy Smith
Director of Youth Ministries	Julie Mislansky
Pastor Emeritus	Bob Klingel

OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Sound	Rick Kiefer
Camera	Mark Hensler
Screen	Jennie Marshall

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

4601 Fairfield Ave.
Fairfield, OH 45014
513.844.1818
Fairfieldstmarks.com