



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



March 6, 2022

9:55 am

“Treasure”

“GATHER”

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

PRELUDE (9:50 AM)

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME TO THE LENTEN THEME (By Pastor Jeff)

Dear friends, today we worship for our first Sunday in the Lenten journey toward Easter. For this special season our worship will be slightly different from what you might usually be used to - because our worship for this season has been planned by a group of your peers centering on a theme of *Holy Vessels*. Before saying anything else I want to take a moment to especially thank Doug Anderson, Jane MacIntyre, and Adam Mitchell for their willingness to take part in our first ever worship planning team here at Christ Congregational Church. If you like what they've done, or if you don't, keep that in mind as you stay on the lookout for the next worship planning team opportunity.

Throughout scripture there are many illustrations for human beings as vessels for God's divine image - carriers of the spark of God's divinity. This can be an incredibly empowering image for us to hold onto - but we all are also keenly aware, I think, of the ways that vessels can break. They can be fragile sometimes. But they can also, in many instances, be put back together - in a way that's incredibly similar to what they were before, but never quite the same. The past two years of pandemic life have shown us the ways that we can be broken apart and reassembled to continue carrying God's divine spark. The season of Lent is a season meant to break us apart as we walk with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem healing folks and sharing hope, as we try to stand by his side as he's betrayed and subjected to humiliation at the hands of authority and as he's crucified. We know, after generations of sharing the story, that resurrection follows - but Lent is meant to remind us that resurrection means a new thing will come forward from the death of what once was... which means that like a broken vessel that's been reassembled, resurrection means breaking apart and putting back together again... never quite the same, but beautiful all the same because carrying the divine spark of God is what matters most.

During this season our worship will follow a different order, all of you will be welcome to try one (or all) of the prayer stations we have set up in the chapel (which you can access any time before, or during, worship), and throughout the season it is our prayer that the worship we've planned will contribute to your being broken open as an act of preparation for the resurrection that comes at Easter.

THRESHOLD MOMENT - (Music - Holy Vessels - Chuck Bell/Marcia McFee)

Leader: Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since Lent of 2020, and through Lent in 2021 - and that harrowing time has shattered our sense of wholeness - body, mind, and spirit - like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. Let us enter a Lenten "season of recovery" as we focus on Jesus, the Healer of our every ill.

ALL SING: 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.

ALL SING: Vessels, holy and whole, broken, needing the One. Open, body and soul, Healer, come.

"APPROACH"

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

OPENING PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Written by Adam Mitchell)

Leader: Great and gracious Lord God unto whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secret is hid, we come to this hour of worship from many different places, many different thoughts on our minds, and our own weights on our hearts. We ask that you help us come into this Season of Lent by clearing those issues and weights that we might be a clear vessel to be filled with your love and a deeper desire to do the work of bringing your kin-dom into our world.

We confess, Almighty Parent, that though we have your words and examples we often fall short in doing the things we know we ought to do and take actions we shouldn't. We know we are made in your image in all the beautiful colors and shapes of the human body – and yet we ignore the sacred nature of our physical lives. Two years into this COVID Pandemic, we are tired and suffering. Our lives have been upended – our once comfortable routines are in many cases but a memory. Some of us – for the first time – have been forced to acknowledge our fragility, and we are frightened, but through your love we know we are assured better days. Help us see that path.

ALL: Help us, Healer. Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care. In this moment of silence - let us sense and acknowledge our yearning for your wholeness. Amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (Written by Adam Mitchell)**

Friends – we may go through places that are dark and scary, but we are never alone. God is with us as a warmth within the core of our bodies. Imagine a warm orb of light deep within you. A glow that emerges from the innermost recesses of your heart and floods your whole body. You are surrounded by this light!

Know this: God's love and grace surround you –

No. Matter. What.

You are a precious and holy vessel right now and all the days of your life.

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 that God loves you
And we are a forgiving people.

AMEN

***MOMENT OF PEACE & LIGHTING THE PEACE LAMP/CANDLE**

Leader: The peace of Christ is with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Share a socially distant sign of Christ's peace with those gathered here, and those joining us from home, by waving or some other gesture of wellbeing!

HYMN

'Healer of Our Every Ill'

No. 506

"BELIEVE"

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

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 8:1-4; 16-17

Now when Jesus had come down from the mountain, large crowds followed him. A man with a skin disease came, kneeled before him, and said, "Lord, if you want, you can make me clean."

Jesus reached out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do want to. Become clean." Instantly his skin disease was cleansed. Jesus said to him, "Don't say anything to anyone. Instead, go and show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded. This will be a testimony to them."

That evening people brought to Jesus many who were demon-possessed. He threw the spirits out with just a word. He healed everyone who was sick. This happened so that what Isaiah the prophet said would be fulfilled: *He is the one who took our illnesses and carried away our diseases.*^[a]

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

"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

'Lead Me, Guide Me'

No. 583
Doris Akers

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

'Jesus, Lover of My Soul'

Joseph Parry

"KNOW"

**The parting words Jesus gave to those he healed were often as much balm as the healing act itself. We hear words of encouragement from the One who makes beauty from brokenness.*

"BE THE CHURCH" CAMPAIGN TESTIMONIAL

Adam Mitchell

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

'The Sun is On the Sea and Shore'

No. 3

DOXOLOGY

'Now Thank We All Our God' (verse 3)

No. 715

PRAYER OF DEDICATION



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: Our God is with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to our God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God. In the beginning you breathed life into raw materials, creating and animating containers of beauty and goodness. We, your Holy Vessels, were fired in the kiln of love until we shined with your light. Susceptible to shattering, we find ourselves broken, unable at times to remember your promise of repair. You remind us time and again that, though broken, we are held in your presence and made whole by your grace. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The second system also has a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The lyrics are in Spanish and English.

System 1:

Chords: C, G7, Am, F, G, C

Spanish: San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
 English: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

System 2:

Chords: F, G7, C, Am, F, G7, C

Spanish: co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res Señ - or!
 English: heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, Holy Vessel of Divine Presence on earth. Your Spirit anointed him as a container of grace in the form of preaching good news to the poor, proclaiming release to the captives, recovering sight to the blind, setting at liberty those who are oppressed, and announcing that the time had come when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with those considered too broken for company. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to the path of healing and recovery, delivered us from our despair and isolation, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always. In the power of your Word and Holy Spirit, we are not alone.

On the night in which he gave himself out of love for the whole of creation, he took bread gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of the healing, life-transforming acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

Almighty God, as close to us as breathing and as distant as the farthest star - we thank you for your presence among us this day and at this meal. Walk with us, pull us back together, and heal all that is broken or hurting within and without. Empower us through this physical and spiritual nourishment today, so that we might carry your presence with us throughout the world. Amen.

“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?

HYMN

‘One Bread, One Body’

No. 393

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor
Murray Kidd, Music Director
Anton F, Organist
Alisa Cassola, Soloist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹McFee, Marcia. “Welcome to Worship Design Studio.” *Worship Design Studio*, 2021, <https://worship-design-studio.mn.co/posts/series-holy-vessels-week-1-script>.



TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are
in loving memory of Priscilla Bailey
on the first anniversary of her
passing. Love, Candy Savage

Christ Congregational Church, UCC
 1350 Pleasant Street
 Brockton, MA 02301
 508.586.3022
 e-mail us: LentenTakeOut@brocktonucc.org

2022 Lenten Friday Take-Out Dinners Overview

One less thing to do on Friday night. During the 6 Fridays of Lent, Christ Congregational Church (CCC) will be selling dinners for pick-up. Beginning Friday, March 4th through Friday, April 8th swing by the CCC church kitchen between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. for a fully prepared, delicious meal.

Many of the planned menu items offer recipe options for vegetarians and/or gluten-free needs. Dinners will be sold as small, 2 portion size, and large, 4 portion family size. Generally dinners will be priced small \$20.00 and large \$35.00; please refer to weekly order sheets for details beginning next week, February 24th.

Our famous and favorite Macaroni and Cheese will be available every week.

Desserts will be offered each week; no drinks are planned.

Orders and payment must be received by noon the Wednesday (payments may be made on-line and/or by credit card) prior to the Friday night dinner.

Orders from the general public are welcome for our Pick-Up Lenten Friday Dinners. During Lent plan a stop through the CCC kitchen parking area.

Here are the Lenten Friday Weekly Dinner Menus:

- ❖ Order/Pay by noon Wednesday March 2nd for Friday March 4th: Chicken Divan
- ❖ Order/Pay by noon Wednesday March 9th for Friday March 11th: Chili/ Butternut Vegetable Chili
- ❖ Order/Pay by noon Wednesday March 16th for Friday March 18th: Lasagna and Meatballs
- ❖ Order/Pay by noon Wednesday March 23rd for Friday March 25th: Corn Chowder / Soup
- ❖ Order/Pay by noon Wednesday March 30th for Friday April 1st: Chicken, Broccoli and Ziti or Rice
- ❖ Order by noon Wednesday April 6th for Friday April 8th: Shepherd's Pie

Also Available for Purchase Each Week are:

- Macaroni and Cheese
- Dessert

Questions? Please e-mail us: LentenTakeOut@brocktonucc.org

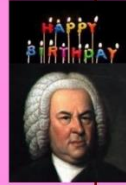
ARTS & MUSIC AT CHRIST CHURCH PRESENTS

BACH BIRTHDAY BASH
SUNDAY, MARCH 27 at 3:00 PM

Richard Spicer, Organist

Music of the Young

J.S. Bach

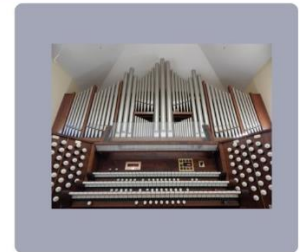


At Christ Congregational Church
 1350 Pleasant Street, Brockton
 508-586-3022
 E-mail: boardofmusic@brocktonucc.org
 •All parking in rear of building
 •Handicapped Accessible

Admission:
\$10 Adults

\$5 Seniors & Students
Children under 12 FREE

With support from
 the
**Brockton
 Cultural Council**



SECOND SATURDAY
 FELLOWSHIP

**BINGO
 NIGHT**

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
 GATHER AND DINNER AT 5PM
 BINGO AT 6PM

ALL AGES WELCOME
 NURSERY CARE PROVIDED

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 WE CAN'T WAIT TO FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU!

Christ Congregational Church, UCC

The Board of Christian Education
 is hosting

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Saturday, March 26, 2022
 5-8 PM

Let us care for your little ones while you enjoy some self-care! Kids will have an evening of fun activities, dinner, and a movie at the church. Pajamas encouraged!

Registration required
 Deadline - March 19th

Go to - tinyurl.com/PNOatCCC

Or take a photo of me



Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill

Refrain D Em7/D G/DA/DD G Bm7/A G A

Heal-er of our ev-'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,

F#m7 Bm Em7 F#7 G Em A/C# D *Fine*

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

Stanzas Bm F#m/A G

1. You who know our fears and sad-ness, grace us with your
 2. In the pain and joy be-hold-ing, how your grace is
 3. Give us strength to love each oth-er, ev-'ry sis-ter,
 4. You who know each thought and feel-ing, teach us all your

F Em D/F# G Bm A *To refrain*

peace and glad-ness, Spir-it of all com-fort: fill our hearts.
 still un-fold-ing, give us all your vi-sion: God of love.
 ev-'ry broth-er, Spir-it of all kind-ness: be our guide.
 way of heal-ing, Spir-it of com-pas-sion: fill each heart.

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1987

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HEALER
88.63 w. refrain

♩=96-104

Lead Me, Guide Me

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

for if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

WORDS: Doris Akers, 1953

MUSIC: Doris Akers, 1953; harm. Richard Smallwood

LEAD ME GUIDE ME

Irr.

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Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

The Sun Is on the Sea and Shore

3

1. The sun is on the sea and shore, a new day has be - gun;
2. Your love is ev - er in our view, like shin - ing stars by night;
3. We do not know what grief and care each com - ing day may bring;

with morn - ing hymns we will a - dore the bless - ed Three - in - One;
your gifts are ev - ery morn - ing new, O God of love and light;
the heart shall find some glad - ness there that trusts you in each thing;

and we shall praise you ev - er more un - til the day is done.
your mer - cy, like the heav - en's blue, fills all our daz - zled sight.
the life that serves you ev - ery - where will nev - er cease to sing.

WORDS: Louis F. Benson, 1897; adapt. Austin C. Lovelace, 1991, alt.
MUSIC: J. L. Macbeth Bain, 1915, alt.

BROTHER JAMES' AIR
86.86.86

Adapt. © 1991 Austin C. Lovelace

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God our Father and our Mother,

who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices,
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 to Christ and to the One who binds us to each other,

who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
 and keep us full of grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

WORDS: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.
 MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

NUN DANKET
 67.67.66.66

One Bread, One Body

Refrain (Unison)

D7 G C G C G D Em B

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all,

Em D G Em A7 D7

one cup of bless-ing which we bless. And

G C G C G D Em B

we, though man-y through-out the earth,

Em D G Em A7 D7 G C G Fine

we are one bod-y in this one Lord.

WORDS and MUSIC: John B. Foley, 1978

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY
44.6 w. refrain

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♩=104-112

Em D Em D

1. Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free,
2. Man-y the gifts, man-y the works,
3. Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

Em F Am D7

wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all. One
gath-ered to one, for all.