



“Holy, Wholly”
March 28, 2021
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday

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.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Prelude

“Prepare the Way”

Piano Suite by Chuck Bell

Threshold

Mark 11:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them. And he will send them immediately.'" This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

Repeat after me and start waving those branches!

Leader: "Hosanna!"

People: "Hosanna!"

Leader: "Blessed is the one who comes"

People: "Blessed is the one who comes"

Leader: "in the name of the Lord!"

People: "in the name of the Lord!"

Leader: "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

People: "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem. Then he entered the Temple. He looked around, taking it all in. It was late. He went to Bethany with the twelve disciples.

The Parade

"Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest"

Threshold Moment

We have seen that the stories of Jesus' healing ministry are filled words *and* deeds. When he rides into Jerusalem, the people believed Jesus came in the name of the Lord and would usher in the kingdom of David. The people believed Jesus would be their King, their Messiah. They had hopes he would dismantle the oppressive system under which they were living. Jesus did come in the name of the Lord and did offer healing but not the kind the people wanted. Jesus' healing was not confined to that moment in history. Jesus' healing offered a new way of life. Jesus had compassion for all, especially "the least".

As we move toward the events of Holy Week, our ability to forgive ourselves and others is foundational to our transformation. Our transformation re-orient's our beliefs and actions for the health of the whole. The Palm Sunday parade of compassionate power is underscored by a healing story of transformation in the gospel of Matthew, Chapter 9.

We glorify God for beautiful words *and* works of wholeness and share this treasured beauty with others. We know transformation and wholeness doesn't eliminate all pain and suffering, but with confidence we know love will win in the end.

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

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 Prayer of Confession

Charlotte Frary, Liturgist

We have approached confession each week in Lent in such a way that we lay bare brokenness in order to begin the process of healing. We have acknowledged our need to restore our own Holy Vessels while attending to our role in the healing of our community and the world. The work of healing will continue as we integrate all we have learned with all we will do.

In this moment, we remember how hard it is to move from thinking to doing.

Let us pray:

Forgiving God,

We have opened ourselves to healing and sometimes it is easier to pray nice prayers than to do the hard work of putting into action what needs to happen.

We are holy vessels...our lives are sacred yet fragile.

We are susceptible to shattering and yet capable of transformation.

Help us to see ourselves as you see us.

Help us to believe in our ability to change and heal

Help us to believe in ourselves as you believe in us.

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

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Assurance

Charlotte Frary, Liturgist

You are invited to return again to the warm orb of light that lives deep within you. Is this light aglow with the excitement of the compassionate parade—the presence of Jesus leading us on? Or are struggling, or have you struggled in this season of recovery? Is the warmth of assurance within you? If not, do not despair. The holy pilot light in you never goes out.

At some point this light will return to your awareness.

Know this: You are never alone.

No. Matter. What.

Jesus is on the journey with us.

Life's parade is not passing you by.

You are part of the Body of Christ.

You are part of a community seeking healing—

Healing for you, for me, for all.

Take in a deep breath and let this truth fill you...

Now breathe out with the relief of assurance.

Peace

Charlotte Frary, Liturgist

Imagine the warmth that surrounds you
extending to those who may be next to you.

Imagine it extending to

the neighborhood...

the wider community...

the church...

See it spread like the rising sun, expanding, and spreading to all the world.

Let this be our peace. **Amen.**

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 for Children

Mark Burrows

A Contemporary Word

“We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something.”

— **Mother Teresa**

“What we do comes out of who we believe we are.”

— **Rob Bell**

Musical Proclamation

“Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole”

An Ancient Word

Matthew 9: 1-8

And after getting into a boat, he crossed the sea and came to his own town. And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” Then some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven’, or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Stand up, take your bed and go to your home.” And he stood up and went to his home. When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

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

“Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole” (refrain only)

**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

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Healer of our every ill,
we come before you to make our petitions known.
Hear our cries for healing of body, mind, and spirit.
We know that already you are at work among us,
showing us the way to recovery and transformation.

Even when it is difficult to believe, help our unbelief
See beauty in our broken places.

We pray for those who believe there is no end to sorrow, no matter what we do
or

how hard we work to bring peace and justice to our world.

We give thanks that when we are short on hope,
others words and actions, bring us hope once again.

In this parade of compassion, called life, may we be your agents of hope and healing.

We pray this day for...

The Lord's Prayer

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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.**

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.

Ritual Action for the Week

Charlotte Frary, Liturgist

Jesus says, "Take heart." The French word for "heart" is "couer."
Besides its reference to the physical organ, the heart, "couer" also means "courage."
Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was a sign to people.
A sign that they were worthy to be "saved."---Hosanna!
Courage in the face of difficulty, and care in the face of being disheartened, go hand-in-hand.

Healing is not always an absence of illness, but rather a trust that God is holding our brokenness.
Trust that we can embrace life with assurance and find beauty in the midst of hard times.
Last week it was suggested that you wrap the pieces of beach glass in wire---
reminding us God, the Holy Beach Comber restores beauty to brokenness.
You are invited to give away what you have created
to someone who needs to be reminded of God's transforming love.

Take a moment to think on this and then when you are ready, place the piece of beach glass in
your hand, wrap your fingers around the glass and hold it to your heart.
Breathe ("*spirare*") deeply and invite Spirit to show you next steps
in furthering the healing of your corner of the world, your household, or neighborhood.
Keep your eyes open this week for the right moment...the right person...
to receive your gift of beauty from brokenness.
When you give it to them, you might say, "Take heart. You are not alone."

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 Song

“I Will Trust in the Lord”

Charge

In this series, we have seen Jesus’ healing actions often get “buzz” from onlookers. Today we have seen two different reactions: shouts of adoration from the crowd and scoffs of judgment from religious officials.

Jesus’ words and actions evoked—praise or accusations of heresy.

Yet he continued his work anyway. He loved those deemed unlovable.

He proclaimed healing in the midst of despair.

He urged people to give their best in the midst of the worst circumstances.

Following Jesus is not an easy task.

Yet it is the way we become whole again...

the way we participate
in the holy endeavor
of God’s kin-dom on earth
as it is in heaven.

Holy Week, brings these themes into sharp focus.

Blessing

Now go with confidence
that God is making us whole and holy,
recovering our depth of love for all
and our joy of living in this world.

May the words of Jesus ring in your ears:
“Take heart.”

And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver
salve to your soul
and a spring in your step.

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God’s goodness.

May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace—
And may this be your holy rhythm—
The rhythm of Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself.
You are God's treasure... a broken vessel... a holy vessel.
So, go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. **Amen.**

Threshold into the World

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

Postlude

"Holy, Wholly", Holy Vessels: A Lenten Journey of Recovery" Series. www.worshipdesignstudio.com/vessels.
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