

# Covenant United Methodist Church

[www.covenant-umc.org](http://www.covenant-umc.org)

20301 Pleasant Ridge Drive  
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February 21, 2021  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent  
Virtual and Indoor Worship Bulletin

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## 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 & Announcements

Prelude

Threshold

## 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

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 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.

Assurance

Peace  
The peace of Christ is with you.  
**And also with you.**

Opening Hymn

Healer of our Every Ill  
Solo: Ron Davison

## 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

A Contemporary Word

Where there is ruin, there is hope for a treasure—Rumi

Musical Proclamation

Sacred the Body  
Chancel Choir

An Ancient Word

Matthew 8:1-4; 16-17

Sermon

“I do choose”

Pastor Dawn

### 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  
Solo: Paul Rabenhorst

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

### 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

### 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

Jesus, Savior, Lord, Now to You I Come  
(Saranam, Saranam\*)  
Chancel Choir  
\*Saranam means “I take refuge”

Commission

Benediction

Threshold Into the World

# Postlude

## CHURCH STAFF

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