

“Treasure”

First Sunday in Lent

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

“If Thou But Suffer, God to Guide Thee”

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Words

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 recovery” as we focus on Jesus, the Healer of our every ill.

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.

Call to Worship/Responsive Reading

Leader: Beach glass begins as something whole and yet discarded.

People: As it is tumbled by the sea, it is broken and polished until it becomes a treasured “mineral gem”.

Leader: When pain comes and brokenness enters our lives...

People: Jesus reaches out to touch and remind us of the Treasure that we all are.

Leader: In a year when pandemic has wreaked havoc on our world...

People: We begin by affirming our journey to physical health.

All: We commit to seeking new life in the midst of hopelessness. Amen.

Opening Hymn:

UMH 61

Come Thou Almighty King

Vs.1-2

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

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 inactivity.
Move us to move
one step at a time toward greater care.

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

Silence

Words of Assurance

I invite you to feel a warmth begin to arise within the core of your body. It may help to keep your eyes closed. Imagine a warm orb of light deep within you. This warm glow begins to emerge from the recesses of your inner being to fill and flood your whole body until your skin is glowing with it, radiating outward. You are surrounded by 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.

Chancel Small Group:

"Spirit Song"

By John Wimber

Alison Swanson, Tammy Moulds, Tara Smith, Kati Swanson,
Jim Metzger, Jeremy Swanson, Curt Johnson, Scott Johnston

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

“True wisdom is like an ocean; the deeper you go the greater the treasures you'll find.”

— **Matshona Dhliwayo**

Bad things do happen; how I respond to them defines my character and the quality of my life. I can choose to sit in perpetual sadness, immobilized by the gravity of my loss, or I can choose to rise from the pain and treasure the most precious gift I have - life itself.

— **Walter Anderson**

Some people spend so much time hunting treasure that they fail to see it all around them. It's like sifting through gold to find the silt.

— **Richard Paul Evans**

It is by going down into the abyss that we recover the treasures of life. Where you stumble, there lies your treasure.

— **Joseph Campbell**

Where there is ruin, there is hope for a treasure.

— **Rumi**

An Ancient Word

Matthew 8: 1-4; 16-17

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.” He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I do choose. Be made clean!”

Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

Hymn of Preparation

UMH 269

Lord, Who Throughout these 40 Days

VS. 1-2

Sermon

Rev. Andrea Kraushaar

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.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Healer of our every ill,
especially our malady of separation and fear,
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 from the toxicities and grief of our time.

As demolished pieces that are treasured when found,
we trust that beauty from brokenness is possible
when we seek to bind together that which is wounded.
We pray especially for those who have experienced
the physical loss of family and friends in the pandemic
and those who are still suffering the consequences of the illness.

We pray for each person who suffers in body in other ways—
weariness from inactivity or weariness from overactivity in this time.
We pray for those whose treatment of maladies have been put on hold and those who suffered
isolation in their illness, whatever the cause.
We pray grateful thanks for the medical staff everywhere around the world who have shown
unbelievable strength and stamina
and we mourn the demise of too many caregivers
who risked their lives for our sake.

We pray this day for...
*[continue in your familiar manner of praying... intercession, pastoral, etc.,
finishing with the Lord's Prayer]*

Prayer of Jesus

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

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

Leader: The words of Jesus we heard in this week's healing story were "I do choose. Be made clean!" Faced with a request, and given the choice, Jesus chooses to say "yes." And he says "yes" to each precious and treasured life. Recovered wholeness is offered to everyone and will look different for each one. I invite you to take up a piece of beach glass now and examine it closely, noticing the worn edges and the color, feeling the texture and thickness. Examine it as a treasure that is completely unique, which of course it is.

Then shift your thinking to your own rough edges. What broken edges in your own life need help? What will you do in this Lent season to focus on healing of body, mind, and spirit?

Take a moment to think on this and then when you are ready, enclose the broken piece in your hand and hold it to your heart, breathing (“*spirare*”) deeply and inviting that Spirit to live and move in you in a special way over the next six weeks. Keep your piece close at hand... perhaps on your desk, nightstand, or pocket where you can feel it regularly this 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 Song

UMH 252

When Jesus Came to Jordon

Vs. 1

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.

Closing Song

UMH 252

When Jesus Came to Jordon

Vs. 2

Postlude

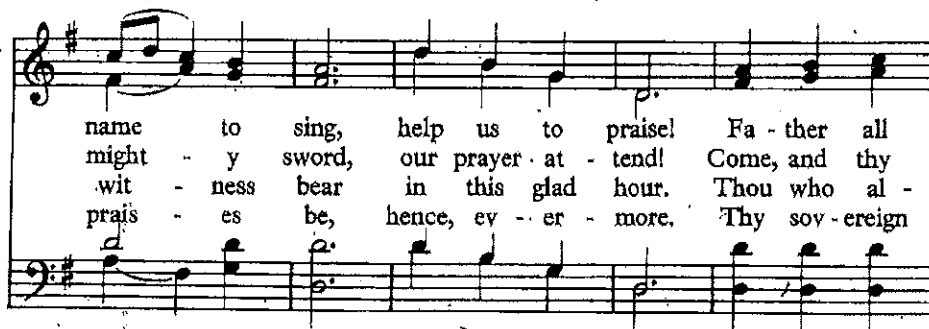
Adoramus te Christe
Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Come, Thou Almighty King

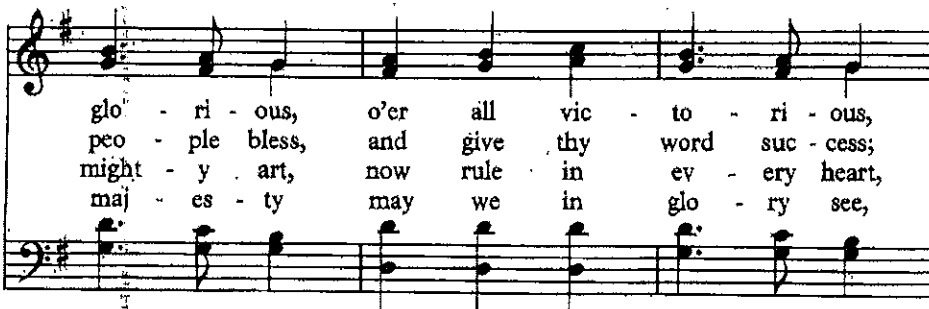
61



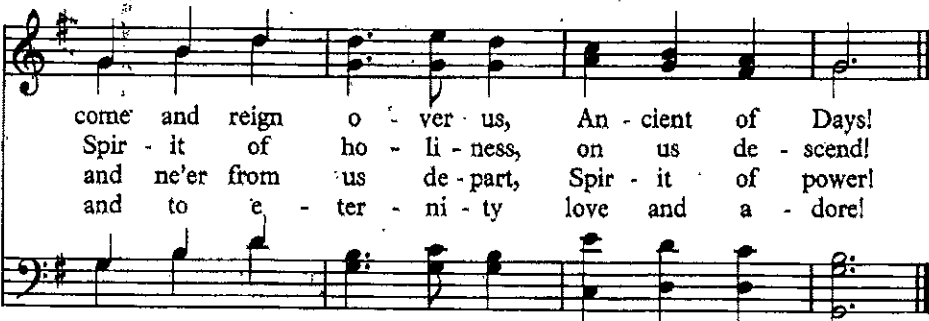
1. Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy
2. Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy
3. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
4. To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal



name to sing, help us to praise! Fa - ther all
might - y sword, our prayer at - tend! Come, and thy
wit - ness bear in this glad hour. Thou who al -
prais - es be, hence, ev - er - more. Thy sov - ereign



glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,



come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!
Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend!
and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power!
and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore!

Come, Thou Almighty King
Public Domain
CCLI #1373895

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 269

1. Lord, who through-out these for-ty days for
 2. As thou with Sa-tan didst con-tend, and
 3. As thou didst hun-ger bear, and thirst, so
 4. And through these days of pen-i-tence, and
 5. A-bide with us, that so, this life of

us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to
 didst the vic-tory win, O give us strength, in
 teach us, gra-cious Lord, to die to self, and
 through thy pas-sion-tide, yea, ev-er-more in
 suf-fering o-ver past, an Eas-ter of un-

mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
 thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
 chief-ly live by thy most ho-ly word.
 life and death, Je-sus, with us a-bide.
 end-ing joy we may at-tain at last.

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
 Public Domain
 CCLI #1373895

When Jesus Came to Jordan

252

Unison

1. When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
2. He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut-most woe and loss,
3. Come, Ho - ly Spir-it, aid us to keep the vows we make;

he did not come for par - don but as the sin-less one.
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up-on the cross.
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - ery bond-age break.

He came to share re - pent-ance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives di - rec-tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen-te - cost.

When Jesus Came to Jordan
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Please keep the following members of First UMC in your prayers: Gladys Bittner, Roxanne Morris' sister-in-law, Rhonda, who battling cancer, Kate Ray (Lorree Lee's mom), Jan Olson, those in nursing homes, those men and women in our armed forces and our country as we continue forward in this time of stress and anxiety. Please let the church office know of anyone who may need prayers.

The flower chart is posted on the kiosk in the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to do altar flowers or grains, please signup there or call the church office and Becky will get you on the calendar.

Thank you to Sue Murphy for sponsoring today's radio broadcast. If you or a family member enjoy First United Methodist Church's service being broadcast on the radio, please consider donating to the cost of these broadcasts. The cost for one Sunday's broadcast is \$100. If you would like to contribute some or all of this cost, please drop a check in the offering plate earmarked for radio broadcast. If you would like this to be in honor of memory of someone or something, please make a note of that or contact Becky at the church office.

Offering baskets can be found in the back of the sanctuary near both entrances. Please remember to drop your offering in the baskets as you leave. If you are not yet attending live church services, please remember to continue to support your church. Offering can be made by mail, dropping at church office, credit card via the church's Facebook page or by setting of automatic withdrawals with Becky at the office.

*Altar flowers are
given today
in memory of Betty & Ken Main
parents of Marcia Main*

**Opportunities for Work, Witness and Fellowship
through First United Methodist Church**

Sun, Feb 21

8:30 am Sunday School
9:45 am Worship
5:00 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm HS Youth Group

Thur, Feb 25

9:30 am Lord's Cupboard

Fri, Feb 26

1:00 pm Lord's Cupboard

Tues, Feb 23

9:30 am Lord's Cupboard
11:00 am Staff Meeting
4:30 pm Lord's Cupboard

Sat, Feb 27

5:00 pm Community Manna
Meal Served by
FUMC Youth

Wed, Feb 24

3:30 pm SALT
4:45 pm Joyful Noise
5:430 pm King's Kids

Sun, Feb 28

8:30 am Sunday School
9:45 am Worship
5:00 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm HS Youth Group

<p>Your Staff: The Congregation, The Ministers Andrea Kraushaar, Pastor Becky Ostheimer, Administrative Assist. Anne Marie Webb, Youth Coordinator Mark W. McClellan, Organist Gretchen Stanley, Chancel Choir Brian Robison, Wesley Ringers Amy Champagne, Children's Choirs Directors Gretchen Stanley and Amy Champagne, Praise Band Directors Danelle Willer, Financial Officer Anna Jones, Lyndsey Bennett, Laney Jones, Isabelle Beekman, Nursery Assistants. Tammy Porter, Housekeeping Chad Gilstrap, Bldg & grounds Supv</p>	<p>First United Methodist Church 127 North 10th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501</p> <hr/> <p>Radio Broadcast at 11:05 am each Sunday - KVFD 1400 AM Office Hours: 8-12 and 12:30-4:30 Mon - Thur, 8-12 Fri Office: 515-576-7586 Pastor Cell: 515-230-6169 Email Addresses: Office: worship@fumcfortdodge.org Pastor: revandreak@fumcfortdodge.org Program Coordinator: amwebb@fumcfortdodge.org Website: www.fumcfortdodge.org</p>
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**The mission of First United
Methodist Church is to Love,
Grow, and Serve in Jesus Christ.**

LITURGIST
Dave Beekman

Loving: Loving God and neighbors in all we say, do and live.

Growing: Growing in faith through worship, prayer, and study of God's word.

Serving: Serving others and sharing God's message.