



**Hillcrest Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Pleasant Hill CA
Order of Worship**

**February 21, 2021
1st Sunday in Lent**

Treasure

GATHER

**Prelude: “*Sacred the Body*” Musical Variations
Rachel Winer, Flute and Joshua Feltman, Keyboards**

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

APPROACH

Opening Prayer of Confession

Assurance and Peace

**Sing-Along: “*Healer of Our Every Ill*”
Led by Blake Levinson and Mira Kren**

BELIEVE

Contemporary Wisdom

**Special Music: “*Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole*”
Sung by Robynn Tarvins**

Ancient Wisdom: Matthew 8: 1-4; 16-17

A Time for Children, Allison Kuechle Silva

Reflection: “*Going Down*”?! Rev. Fred Weidmann

**Choral Response: “Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole”
Led by Robynn Tarvins**

ASK

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

**Prayer Response: “Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole”
Led by Robynn Tarvins**

RESPOND

Call to Offering

**Prayer of Dedication
Doxology, Led by Blake Levinson**

**Sing-Along: Sing-Along: “O Christ, the Healer, We have Come” NCH 175
Led by Mira Kren**

Commission

Blessing

Invitation to Pass the Peace

**Postlude: “Simple Gifts—A Flute Trio”
Rachel Winer, Flute**

For Reflection and Action During the Week

Contemporary Wisdom

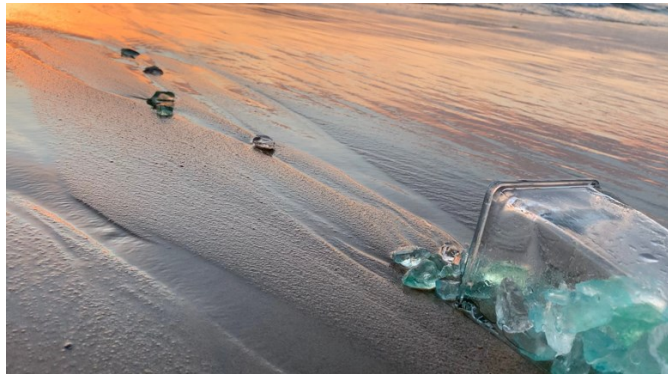
“True wisdom is like an ocean; the deeper you go the greater the treasures you'll find.”
— Matshona Dhliwayo

“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

Ritual Action for the Week

Ordinary pieces of tableware or beer or soda bottles are flung into the ocean. Years pass, or decades, and then one day, there it is upon the shore: a small shard from one of those long-ago discarded objects. Shifting currents have rounded its edges; abrasion has polished its surface; exposure to the sun has altered its hue. And so, when we happen upon it, here amidst the shells and seaweed, we can't help but laugh with joy at what seems a miracle: this ordinary fragment of silica that time and adversity have transformed into something beautiful.”



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 or a small rock 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?

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