

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

**February 28, 2021
2nd Sunday in Lent**

Safe Keeping

GATHER

**Prelude: Musical Variations on “*Community of Christ*”
David Kohls, Guitar and Joshua Feltman, Keyboards**

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

APPROACH

Opening Prayer of Confession

Assurance and Peace

**Sing-Along: “*Community of Christ*” NCH 314
Led by Mira Kren**

BELIEVE

Contemporary Wisdom

**Special Music: “*Heal Me Hands of Jesus*” (Perry, Warren)
Sung by Choral Scholars
Robynn Tarvins, Mira Kren and Blake Levinson**

**Ancient Wisdom: Matthew 8: 5-13
Read by Niels Teunis**

A Time for Children, Allison Kuechle Silva

Reflection: “Where Do We Put Our Faith?” Niels Teunis

**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: “*When We are Tested*” (Ruth Duck)
Led by Robynn Tarvins**

Commission

Blessing

Invitation to Pass the Peace

**Postlude: “*Yuba*” (Mary Youngblood)
Bruce Smiley, Native American Flute**

For Reflection and Action During the Week

Contemporary Wisdom

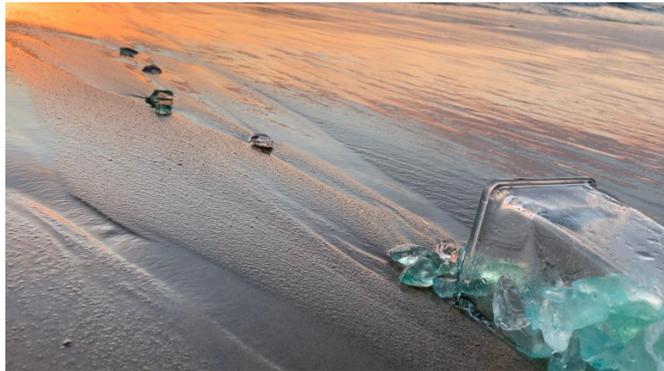
"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."
—Margaret J. Wheatley

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."
—Coretta Scott King

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”
—Helen Keller

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”
—Mother Teresa

Ritual Action for the Week



The words of Jesus we heard in this week's healing story were "I will come..." When faced with a request, Jesus makes a move to seek out, to come to help one who was previously seen to be outside of help's embrace. He moves outward to gather in and heal someone unlikely to have crossed his path otherwise. All are within God's circle of Safe Keeping.

I invite you to take some rocks or pieces of broken glass and put them in a bowl. As you do so, think about the people you have encountered or heard about in the last few months who are suffering lack of support. What could we do to reach out and to focus on healing of the parts of the human community we don't spend time thinking about enough? To what part of our community shall we say "I will come..." ?

Then shift your thinking to your need to be cared for. What do you need to feel safe? What connections do you need to strengthen to heal any isolation you may feel? If you are in need of something, consider this an invitation to let someone know what *you* need without feeling embarrassment or shame about it. Jesus invites us, always, to ask.

Take a moment to think on this and then when you are ready, pick up the container of broken pieces and breathe ("*spirare*") deeply, inviting that Spirit to live and move in you in a special way to strengthen your connection to others and your role in making someone's life more safe. Keep the bowl in a place you can see regularly this week... perhaps on your dining table.

Hillcrest: Phone: 925-689-8260, Extension 1002 (Church Office), Extension 1003 (Rev. Fred)
Emails: hillcrestucc@att.net , revfred.hillcrest@att.net Website: <https://www.hillcrestucc.org/>