



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

**March 7, 2021  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

***Sharing our Stories***

**GATHER**

**Prelude: “Amazing Grace” (Newton)  
David Kohls, Guitar and Joshua Feltman, Keyboards**

**Words of Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

**APPROACH**

**Opening Prayer of Confession**

**Assurance and Peace**

**Sing-Along: “Be Still My Soul” NCH 488**

**Led by Mira Kren**

**BELIEVE**

**Contemporary Wisdom**

**Special Music: “From the Crush of Wealth and Power” NCH 552  
Sung by Blake Levinson**

**Ancient Wisdom: Matthew 9:27-33**

**A Time for Children, Allison Kuechle Silva**

**Reflection: “Be Still, My Soul”? 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: “*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*” NCH 547  
Led by Robynn Tarvins**

**Commission**

**Blessing**

**Invitation to Pass the Peace**

**Postlude: “*Sicilienne*” (Faure)  
Rachel Winer, Flute & Joshua Feltman, Keyboard**

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**For Reflection and Action During the Week**

**Contemporary Wisdom**

“Sharing our truths can provide the opportunity for great healing.”

— Kristen Noel

“Tell the story of the mountain you climbed. Your words could become a page in someone else’s survival guide.”

— Morgan Harper Nichols

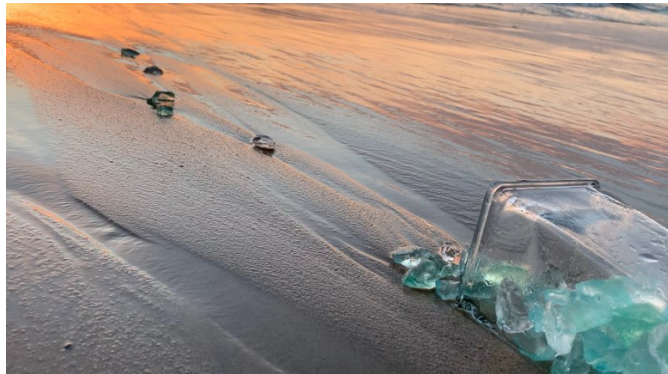
“Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process is the bravest thing that we will ever do.”

— Brené Brown

“The courage it takes to share your story might be the very thing someone else needs to open their heart to hope.”

— Unknown

**Ritual Action for the Week**



The words of Jesus we heard in this week's healing story were "Do you believe I am able to do this?" Jesus' question invites us to consider our own belief in transformation. He invites us to step into a renewed vision of our lives, to speak into being a new story, not be bound by the stories of the past, inscribed on us by others, that may be oppressing and limiting us.

Last week we put our glass pieces or rocks in a bowl. Beach glass is usually somewhat cloudy when dry. When it comes into contact with water, it becomes clear and bright. Today, you are invited to fill your vessel containing the pieces with water and watch the transformation. As you do, let it be a prayer for clarity. Ask for a new way to see the struggles you may be experiencing. Ask for understanding and a way forward.

Take a moment to think on this and then when you are ready, pick up the container of broken pieces or rocks, now bright and clear in the water, and breathe deeply, inviting the Spirit to live and move and transform you and others who need clarity for their lives. Keep the bowl in a place you will see it regularly this week... perhaps in a bathroom near the place where you shower or bathe.

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