



First Church in Windsor, UCC: *Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope*

February 26, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Holy Vessels: Seeking Wholeness During the Season of Lent

Lent Week One: The Human Body is a Holy Vessel

Prelude

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Song

10,000 Reasons

By Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman

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**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,
worship your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship your holy name,
worship your holy name,
worship your holy name.**

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 often tired and suffering,

We feel fragile and afraid at times.

**Help us, O God to reclaim our holy vessels,
starting with our own human bodies.**

Show us our strength.

**Move us to move
one step at a time.**

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

Please keep silence for a time.

Assurance

Passing of the Peace

Response: **And also with you.**

Please make sure to wave to our online community, send a text message of peace to someone, or pass the peace in the chat on Facebook.

Hymn

Precious Lord

Words and music by Thomas A. Dorsey
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**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone.
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the shadows appear and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

Children's Moment

Bell Choir

In Christ There Is No East or West

Scriptures

Matthew 4: 1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

I Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Prayer of our Savior

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Sermon

Pastor Nicole and Antoinette Brim-Bell, Poet Laureate for Connecticut
“Sacred Conversation on the Body as a Holy Vessel

Anthem

Hold Us Jesus

By Chris de Silva

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Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

*Please write down on the ‘Holy Vessel Paper’ or in Facebook Messenger the answer to this question:
“In the brokenness, what makes you whole?” If worshiping in person, please bring your paper
forward after the prayer.*

Prayer Response

Make Us Holy

Words and music by Mark Friedman

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**In your love, make us whole, may we rest in your compassion.
Calm the lost weary soul in the warmth of your love.
May your peace fill our hearts. May we know the love of Jesus.
By your grace, you console. Make us holy, make us whole.**

Announcements

Online Giving

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

Hymn

Glory, Glory Hallelujah

African American spiritual

Public domain

**Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.
Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.**

**I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.
Feel like shouting "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burdens down.
Feel like shouting "Hallelujah!" since I laid my burdens down.**

**I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down.
I am dancing Miriam's dance now, since I laid my burdens down.**

**Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burden down.
Every round goes higher and higher, since I laid my burden down.**

Benediction

Bell Choir

Deep River

Postlude

Wade in the Water
African American spiritual
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