

**GATHER**

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town.  
As we gather virtually, we too are yearning for presence, for peace, for help.

**PRELUDE** *Lamb of God*

J.S. Bach

**THRESHOLD MOMENT** *Holy Vessels*

Music: Chuck Bell, Words: Marcia McFee

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Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One  
O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come.

**WELCOME**

Rev. Matt Weiler

**OPENING HYMN** UMH #529 *How Firm a Foundation* (vs. 1,3,5)

Bernie Foulk, Justin Hamann, Jacqueline Stilger, Avery Strand

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
5. "The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose,  
is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,  
to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

WORDS: "K" in Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787 (2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5; Is. 43:1-2)  
MUSIC: Early USA melody; harm. from *Tabor*, 1866

FOUNDATION  
11 11.11 11

## 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.*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Donna Dunyak, Co-Lay Leader

Leader: God of all, you created us for each other. You set in us a yearning for companionship and an empathy that binds us together, protecting each other and delighting in one another. Yet too often we have broken down our relationships instead of building them up. We have been set against one another with the lie of scarcity. We have built systems and economies that widen the gap of resources rather than safeguarding equitable practices. Too many, and growing numbers, are suffering hardship, food insecurity, joblessness. We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from the need in our own community.

**All: Help us, Healer. Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia.**

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

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

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

**KYRIE** (Translation: Lord, Have mercy. Christ, have mercy)

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Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
Chris - te, Chris - te, Chris - te e - le - i - son.

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

#### LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE AND PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: I invite you to imagine the warmth that surrounds you extending to those who may be next to you in close proximity. Imagine it extending beyond your walls to the neighborhood, the wider community, the church, and seeing it spread like the rising sun, let it expand to all the world. Let this be our peace.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: If you have not already, I invite you to open your eyes.

The peace of Christ is with you

**All: And also with you.**

## 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.*

### A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

Julia Librizzi

### SHARING FROM COMMUNITY LEADERS

Katie McPherson with Building Blocks

**MUSICAL PROCLAMATION** FWS #2185 *For One Great Peace*



1. This thread I weave, this step I dance, this  
 2. this pot I shape, this fire I light, this  
 3. this check I write, this march I join, this



stone I carve, this ball I bounce, this nail I drive, this  
 fence I leap, this bone I knit, this seed I nurse, this  
 faith I state, this truth I sign, this is small part, in



pearl I string, this flag I wave, this note I sing,  
 rift I mend, this child I raise, this earth I tend,  
 one small place, of one heart's beat for one great Peace.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray  
 MUSIC: Jim Strathdee

POXON  
 LM

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**SCRIPTURE** – Matthew 8:5-13 (CEB)

**SERMON** *Who Gets the Kingdom?*

Rev. Matt Weiler

**HYMN OF RESPONSE** FWS #2190 *Bring Forth the Kingdom* (vs. 1, 3)



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: Salt for the  
 3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: Bring forth the



King-dom of God! Share the fla - vor of  
 King-dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and



life, O peo - ple: Life in the King-dom of God!  
 seeds of jus - tice, grow in the King-dom of God!

*Refrain*

Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, bring forth the  
 King-dom of peace; bring forth the King-dom of jus - tice,  
 bring forth the Cit - y of God!

WORDS: Marty Haugen (Matt. 5:13-16)  
 MUSIC: Marty Haugen  
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BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM  
 Irregular with Refrain

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**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 AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Julie Kline

*During the season of Lent we will be using an alternative version of the Lord's Prayer for the words and meaning within Jesus' prayer to fall afresh upon our hearts and minds.*

**Loving Creator we honor you, and we honor all that you have made.  
 Renew the whole world in the image of your love.  
 Give us what we need for today, and a hunger to see the whole world fed.  
 Strengthen us for what lies ahead; heal us from the hurts of the past;  
 give us courage to follow your call in this moment.  
 For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need,  
 in this world and in the world to come. Amen.**

(Paraphrased by Sarah Dylan Breuer)

**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**

**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?*

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *Andante et Allegretto*  
 Trumpet: Kohler Briggs

Guillaume Balay

## COMMISSION

### BLESSING

Leader: Now we go with confidence that the Holy Beachcomber is gathering us all for “Safe Keeping,” recovering our depth of love for all and our joy of living in this world. May the words of Jesus ring in your ears: “I will come.” And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver salve to your soul and a spring in your step.

**ALL: Amen.**

### THRESHOLD INTO THE WORLD *Holy Vessels*

Music: Chuck Bell, Words: Marcia McFee

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Musical notation for the hymn "Holy Vessels" in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff in treble clef. The lyrics are: "Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come." The music features a simple, melodic line with some phrasing slurs and a final cadence.

### POSTLUDE *Kyrie*

F. Couperin

### **We are a Reconciling Congregation, welcoming all.**

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith. Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God. We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity.

We welcome all with ***open hearts, open minds, open doors.***

[www.umc-kzo.org](http://www.umc-kzo.org)



The staff is here to empower and equip the congregation for ministry and mission. Email staff by entering the first letter of their first name and the entire last name, and then: @umc-kzo.org. (i.e., [jkline@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jkline@umc-kzo.org))

Rev. Julie Kline, *Lead Pastor*  
Rev. Matt Weiler, *Pastor of Community Formation*  
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Julia Librizzi, *Director of Children & Families Ministries*  
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