

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 *Air*

J.S. Bach

THRESHOLD MOMENT *Holy Vessels*

Music: Chuck Bell, Words: Marcia McFee

©2021 Chuck Bell Music. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

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

WELCOME

Rev. Julie Kline

OPENING HYMN *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* (vs. 1, 2, and 4)

Hannah Elandt, Bernie Foulk, Justin Hamann, Jacqueline Stilger

1. God, who stretched the span-gled heav-ens, in-fi-nite in
2. Proud-ly rise our mod-ern cit-ies, state-ly build-ings,
3. We have ven-tured worlds un-dreamed of since the child-hood
4. As each far ho-ri-zon beck-ons, may it chal-lenge
time and place, flung the suns in burn-ing ra-diance
row on row; yet their win-dows, blank, un-feel-ing,
of our race; known the ec-sta-sy of wing-ing
us a-new, chil-dren of cre-a-tive pur-pose,
through the si-lent fields of space, we your chil-dren,
stare on can-yoned streets be-low, where the lone-ly
through un-trav-eled realms of space; probed the se-crets
serv-ing oth-ers, hon-oring you. May our dreams prove

in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive powers with you.
 drift un - no - ticed in the cit - y's ebb and flow,
 of the at - om, yield - ing un - i - mag - ined power,
 rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or well be - gun.

Great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
 lost to pur - pose and to mean - ing, scarce - ly car - ing where they go.
 fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
 Great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

WORDS: Catherine Cameron, 1967
 MUSIC: William Moore, 1825
 Words © 1967 Hope Publishing Co.

HOLY MANNA
 87.87 D
 Alt. tune: AUSTRIA

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

The Peavler Family

RESPONSE

**Help us, Healer. Show us our capacity for compassion. Forgive our inattention.
 Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for one another.**

SILENT PRAYER

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

Marilyn Houser Hamm © 1974
 Used with permission. OneLicense #A-717536

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.

SCRIPTURE – Matthew 8:18-27 (The Message)

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

Julia Librizzi

SHARING FROM COMMUNITY LEADERS

Rev. Paul Perez

Director of Connectional Ministry, Michigan Conference Staff

MUSICAL PROCLAMATION *Touch the Earth Lightly* (vs. 1 & 2)

Luke Cook, cello



1. Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
2. We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
3. Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
4. God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,



nour - ish the life of the world in our care:
a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
wa - ter that bless - es and air that is sweet,
God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
we who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter,
health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
teach us, de - flect us, Christ, re - con - nect us,



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
us - ing us gen - tly and mak - ing us one.

Words: S. Murray, ©1992, Music: Swee-Hong Lim, ©2005 Hope Publishing Co.

RESPONSE *Touch the Earth Lightly* (vs. 3 & 4)

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. Matt Weiler

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)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Shelter Me*

Michael Joncas. ©2020 by GIA Publications. All rights reserved.

Brianna Attard, Dewey Bolz, Hannah Elandt, Justin Hamann

Used with permission OneLicense #A-717536

O shel-ter me, O shel-ter me:
The way a - head is dark and dif - fi - cult to see.
O shel-ter me, O shel-ter me:
All will be well if on - ly you will shel-ter me.

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?*

COMMISSION

BLESSING

Leader: Now we go with confidence that we can face the storm with Jesus in the boat, recovering our depth of love for all and our joy of living in this world. May the words of Jesus ring in your ears, "Follow Me." And may the Spirit hover, and 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

©2021 Chuck Bell Music. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

Musical notation for the hymn "Holy Vessels" in G major, 8/8 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a repeat sign at the beginning. The lyrics are: "Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come."

POSTLUDE *We Christian People*

J.S. Bach

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

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)

Rev. Julie Kline, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Matt Weiler, *Pastor of Community Formation*

Bernie Foulk, *Organist*

Jacqueline Stilger, *Director of Music*

Julia Librizzi, *Director of Children & Families Ministries*

Rev. Keith Treman, *Pastor of Congregational Care*

Ruth LaMachia, *Director of Business Administration*