



# Strathmore United Church

**March 7, 2021**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**Communion**

**"Stories"**

## **Welcome and announcements:**

**Centering Song: Vessels, holy and whole  
Broken, needing the One  
Open, body and soul  
Healer, come.**

Centering and Calming Divine Breath of God, You gifted us with amazing minds, capable of so many things.....

So many are suffering now, God, weary and distraught, grieving and at the end of their rope. We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from the need in our own community.

**P: 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.**

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

*Silence*

**Vessels, holy and whole  
Broken, needing the One  
Open, body and soul  
Healer, come.**

## **Assurance:**

Know this: You are accepted.


No. Matter. What.

Accepting the truth of our difficulties is part of the journey of recovery.

Sharing our stories of difficulty can open the way for healing.


For you, for me, for all.

Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you...  
and breathe out with the relief of assurance. Amen.

 **Hymn:** "Be Still My Soul" \*VU #652

- 1 **Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;  
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,  
who through all changes faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend  
through stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.**
  
- 2 **Be still, my soul, your God will undertake  
to guide the future surely as the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul, life's tempests still obey  
the voice that once the waves' wild fury stayed.**

**Reading the Scripture and Message:** Matthew 9: 27-33

 **Hymn:** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy \*VU #271

- 1 **There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.**
  
- 2 **There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such gracious judgement given.**

**Communion:**

**The Offering:**

 **Sung Dedication:** Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands \*VU#537

- 1 Your work, O God, needs many hands  
to help you everywhere,  
and some there are who cannot serve  
unless our gifts we share.
- 2 Because we love you and your work,  
our offering now we make:  
be pleased to use it as your own,  
we ask for Jesus' sake.

**Prayer of Dedication:**

 **Hymn** Prayer Responses \*VU#948

O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer:  
When I call answer me.  
O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer:  
Come and listen to me.

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:**

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

 **Hymn:** There is a Balm in Gilead \*VU #612

- There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.
- 1 Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit  
revives my soul again. R

2 If you cannot preach like Peter,  
if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus  
and say, 'He died for all.' R

**Commissioning and Blessing:**

**Musical Response:**

Vessels, holy and whole  
Broken, needing the One  
Open, body and soul  
Healer, come.

**Giving and Receiving the 'Peace of Christ':**

Phone, email –connect with someone today and share the  
Peace of Christ.

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