



Valley United Methodist Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, February 21, 2021—9:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Gathering Music

*Adagio*

*Morning Interlude*

*Prelude on "Dulce Carmen"*

Albinoni

Paxton

Mead

Welcome

Threshold

*Holy Vessels*

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

Prayer of Confession

...Creator God,

We are bodies fashioned by your hand in your own image,  
shapes and colors of diverse and immense beauty.

**Yet too often we have ignored the sacred nature of our physical lives.**

The Holy Vessels you have fashioned are tired and suffering,  
ravaged by months of disrupted rhythms and ailment.

**Our fragility has come into full view and we are frightened.**

We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away,

sometimes even from our own needs.  
**Help us, Healer.**  
**Show us our strength.**  
**Forgive our inertia.**  
**Move us to move**  
**one step at a time toward greater care.**

*after a silence, we'll repeat our refrain: "Holy Vessels"*

Assurance

Peace ...The peace of Christ is with you.  
**And also with you.**

Opening Hymn *Spirit Song* (UMH 347)

1-O let the Son of God enfold you  
with his Spirit and his love.  
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.  
O let him have the things that hold you,  
and his Spirit like a dove  
will descend upon your life  
and make you whole.

*Refrain*

Jesus, O Jesus,  
come and fill your lambs.  
Jesus, O Jesus,  
come and fill your lambs.

2-O come and sing this song with gladness  
as your hearts are filled with joy.  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.  
O give him all your tears and sadness;  
give him all your years of pain,  
and you'll enter into life  
in Jesus' name. *Refrain*

Time with Children

Contemporary Words

Ancient Words          Matthew 8.1-4

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message                  Holy Vessels: Treasure

Call to Prayer          *It's Me, It's Me, O Lord* (UMH 352), stanza 1

*Refrain*

It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer.

It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer.

Not my brother, not my sister,  
but it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer.

Not my brother, not my sister,  
but it's me, O Lord,  
standing in the need of prayer.

Time of Prayer

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

Response                *It's Me, It's Me, O Lord*, refrain

A Lenten Ritual

Closing Song

*Beautiful Things*

1-All this pain  
I wonder if I'll ever find my way  
I wonder if my life could really change  
At all

2-All this earth  
Could all that is lost ever be found  
Could a garden come up from this ground  
At all

*Chorus*

You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us

3-All around  
Hope is springing up from this old ground  
Out of chaos life is being found  
In You

*Chorus 2X*

*Bridge*

You make me new You are making me new  
You make me new You are making me new  
(REPEAT)

*Chorus 2X*

Benediction

Threshold

*Holy Vessels*

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

Postlude

*Marche Solennelle*

Koury

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **\*\*An Important Update on Reopening for In-Person Worship\*\***

We could be worshipping in person ***as early as Sunday, February 28!*** Our Administrative Leadership Team met on Tuesday and approved our Building Reopening Team’s recommendation that we would reopen when Polk County has been out of the “Red Zone” in CDC weekly guidance for at least two weeks. Those updates come out weekly and, finally, this week we are out of the Red Zone for the first time in months. Assuming we remain there in next week’s report (expected on Tuesday or Wednesday), we will let you know that you can come into the building for worship the following Sunday. How exciting is that?!

We have previously communicated a number of precautions that we will be following, including requiring masks, distancing, no singing, hugs, fellowship and the like. But we’ll be in the same room, which feels like an incredible gift after nearly a year of worshipping only virtually. Our livestream will continue on YouTube for those who choose not to join in, or who join from a distance (we love you!). Watch for a special announcement next week with details once we are sure about the weeks’ pandemic numbers. If you have questions or want to review the CDC info yourself, please reach out to Pastor Lee or the church office and we’ll share more details.

One more detail: Depending on COVID numbers, “in-person” could be an on-again, off-again thing for awhile. We could meet on February 28 but, depending on reports in the weeks that follow, we could go back to livestream only for awhile. We simply cannot know whether the current trends will hold, or whether we’ll have another surge. But we’d rather move forward to be together sooner, rather than wait for certainty that could be months off. This means, however, that we’ll need to stay in touch with each other and watch numbers and guidance as this pandemic continues to unfold. (And pray for vaccines, masks, and all the other protective behaviors!)

**Weekly Lenten Study**, on **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**, from February 24 through March 31. Our time each week will be based on Scripture and other readings, and will connect to our worship theme for the prior Sunday and our overall theme of recovery. Please contact the church office ([office@valleyumc.org](mailto:office@valleyumc.org) or 225-8128) if you plan to participate-you may choose between **in person** (masked and distanced) or **via Zoom**. There is no book for this study, Pastor Lee will provide the resources that will be used for discussion.

**Prayer Shawl Project**: The prayer shawl project has gotten off to a great start, thanks to your support and enthusiasm! We are still working to provide more shawls and would invite you to support this project financially if you are able. You can send a check to the church office marked “Prayer Shawls” or find Prayer Shawl Project as an option for on-line giving.

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**Calendar: Week of January February 21 – February 28**

Please contact the church office for Zoom links for events happening online.

<b>TODAY, Sunday, Feb. 21</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship-First Sunday in Lent Fellowship Time-Zoom Adult and Youth Sunday School-Zoom</b>
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 24</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Prayer Group-Zoom</b>
	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lenten Study</b>
<b>Thursday, Feb. 25</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Anti-racism Group-Zoom</b>
<b>Sunday, Feb. 28</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship-Second Sunday in Lent</b>

**2021 Lenten Missions: UMCOR US Disaster Response, UMCOR SUNDAY, March 14,  
Jane Kies-Africa University English Teacher**