



“Different Pictures”

March 17, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: We continue our Lenten “season of recovery” as we focus on health as essential to our spiritual lives.

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

We emerge ready to re-engage with the world, seeking and seeing solutions, creating different pictures of life renewed just as a mosaic artist creates beauty from broken pieces of glass.

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Opening Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels so that we might be able to create and imagine new possibilities, new solutions.

Let us pray:

God of All Possibilities ...
It all feels overwhelming and so we look away,
sometimes even from the need in our own community.

**Help us, Healer.
Show us our energy reserves.
Forgive our cynicism.
Move us to move
one step at a time toward greater care for one another.**

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

Silence

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Assurance

Know this: We are gifted with agency gifts to affect healing in the world.
No. Matter. What.
We are not alone and we can join with others to magnify hope.
Christ will answer when we call, when we reach out for what we know can help.
For you, for me, for all.

Peace

I invite you to imagine the warmth that surrounds you extending to those to you. 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. **Amen.**

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

A Contemporary Word

“Curiosity is the first step down the path of awakening.”
— **Anonymous**

“The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are.
Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not.”
— **Albert Schweitzer**

An Ancient Word

Matthew 9: 18-26

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, “Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

**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.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: Healer of our every ill,

We pray especially for all who feel opportunity and possibility is cut off to them.
Whose spirit is continually dampened and damaged by those who fail to see value in their contributions, who steal away rights to the fullness of expression. Lord, In Your Mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

We give thanks for communities, churches, non-profits, and businesses that are supporting the flourishing of all voices, especially voices that have been silenced. Lord, In Your Mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
We give thanks for the courage of innovators who use their resources and creativity to make more good in the world, making this a priority over profit. Lord, In Your Mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**
We ask for courage and encouragement to re-evaluate how we as a church can join this effort now and into the future. Lord, In Your Mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray this day for...

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Ritual Action for the Week

Commission

I invite us to explore the possibilities for a new or renewed commitment to a contribution we can make at St Barnabas and in Cary to our larger community's effort to recover from this past year.

Blessing

Now go with confidence
that we will awaken, we will seek out and reach for
the healing solutions that our neighbors, our communities, our world needs,
recovering our depth of love for all
and our joy of living in this world.

May the words of Jesus ring in your ears:
"You are not dead, you are sleeping."

And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver
salve to your soul
and a spring in your step.
Amen.

Threshold Into the World

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Healer, come.**