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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude
There is a Balm in Gilead
Piano, Kathy Herman

Threshold
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.

Centering and Calming Divine Breath of God,
You gifted us with amazing minds, capable of so many things.
You gave us the ability to think and feel,
imbuing us with discernment of thought and emotion.
Like our physical bodies, sometimes this aspect of our selves is beleaguered.
We struggle under the strain of disappointment, despair, and delusion.
Too often we hide this, afraid of what others might think of our difficulties in managing or moving forward, even in the face of devastating circumstances.
Too often we perpetuate the stigma of a less-than-perfect state of mind by shaming ourselves and others.
Millennia of misunderstanding compounds our fear.
We label and belittle, all the while turning the hatred upon ourselves, for no one is immune from troubles of the mind at some point.
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.
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.
In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

Assurance

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

Opening Hymn  Be Still My Soul
Chancel Choir

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 Contemporary Word
“Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process is the bravest thing that we will ever do.” – Brené Brown

Musical Proclamation  There is a Wideness in God’s Mercy  Miller, Mafias, Faber
Solo-Nancy Wilcox

An Ancient Word  Matthew 9: 27-33

Sermon  “Telling our Stories”  Pastor Dawn

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.

Song of Preparation  Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole

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.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

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 for the Week

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?

Closing Hymn
There is a Balm in Gilead
Chancel Choir

Commission

Benediction

Threshold Into the World

Postlude
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