



March 7, 2021

**HOLY VESSELS: A Season of Recovery  
“Stories”**

Matthew 9:27-33

**THORNDALE  
United Methodist Church**

3503 Lincoln Highway, Thorndale, PA 19372

**610-384-2433**

[www.thorndaleumc.org](http://www.thorndaleumc.org)

*All Are Welcome!*

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*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, and for healing.*

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+ Stand as you are able.

## WELCOME/INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

### THRESHOLD

#### +PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: 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.

**People: 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.**

Leader: Millennia of misunderstanding compounds our fear.

**People: 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.**

Leader: So many are suffering now, God, weary and distraught,  
grieving and at the end of their rope.

**People: We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away.**

Leader: Sometimes even from the needs in our own community.

**People: 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.**

Leader: In this moment of silence,  
we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

#### +MOMENT OF SILENCE

#### +WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor Shauna

Leader: The peace of Christ is with you.

**People: And also with you.**

PRAISE *Made to Worship* Tim Eaton  
*Raise a Hallelujah*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pat Moore

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Lost and Found* Tim Eaton

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We give you thanks, O Lord, with all our heart. You have provided everything we need in your steadfast love. Receive these offerings as our response to your great faithfulness, may they bring healing to this hurting world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE—Matthew 9:27-33

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"<sup>28</sup> When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."<sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you."<sup>30</sup> And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, "See that no one knows of this."<sup>31</sup> But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.<sup>32</sup> After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him.<sup>33</sup> And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, "Never has anything like this been seen in Israel."<sup>34</sup> But the Pharisees said, "By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons."

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SHARING Alan and Renay Oberholtzer

MESSAGE *"Stories"* Pastor Shauna

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAISE *Who You Say I Am* Tim Eaton

+BENEDICTION Pastor Shauna

POSTLUDE Tim Eaton

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### **SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP**

PASTOR	Rev. Shauna K. Ridge	WORSHIP TEAM SHEPHERDS:	
MUSIC	Tim Easton	DOOR GREETER	Hannah Smith
LITURGIST	Jim & Laura Arndt	USHER 1	Wayne Barrows
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	Renay Oberholtzer	USHER 2	Cyndy Weiner
TECH TEAM	Pat Moore	TEMP TAKER	Rosemary Moore
	Josh Dwyer	ATTENDANCE	Kris Wade
	Terry Moore	FLOATER	Hannah Smith
	Jamie Ridge		

*Flowers are given to the glory of God by David and Sally Dwyer in honor of Nancy Bell's birthday.*