

At home in our bodies

Eastertide 2021

Living during a pandemic has given us a unique perspective as our bodies and our breath have become a danger to each other. We know that the loss of in-person gatherings has come at a high cost. We need each other's bodies, for singing together, for hugs, for embodied worship, and to be the body of Christ together. So after a full year of worshipping at home and gathering as "disembodied" faces on screens, the worship committee decided it was time to talk about how we experience life and faith through our visceral selves.



We carry the experiences of this past year in our bodies, the grief and loneliness, the fear and weariness. We have been literally "at home" in our bodies for a year now, distanced physically and socially from other bodies. As we begin to see each other again, in public and in person, how will our bodies feel? Do we remember how to be with other bodies?

This series gives us the opportunity to look at some of our bodied experiences, asking the questions: *How does God speak to us through our bodies? How can our bodies, which experience pain and trauma and brokenness also help us find a way toward healing and experiencing life fully? How do we live into our call to be the body of Christ, in our broken and blessed bodies? What does it mean to truly feel at home in our bodies?*

We begin with the assumption that our bodies are good. We all bear God's holy image, and we have all been lovingly knit together in our mother's wombs. God affirms the goodness of bodies by taking on flesh and dwelling among us. But just because our bodies are created good doesn't mean we don't experience brokenness and pain. Roxanne Gay writes, "Our bodies move us through our lives. They bring us pleasure and pain. Sometimes our bodies serve us well and other times our bodies become terribly inconvenient."

Christ's victory over the powers of death affirms that even when bodies are demeaned, humiliated, or terribly inconvenient, the power of love and the image of God within us cannot be destroyed. May we continue to do the work of honoring and appreciating all bodies, not demanding that they change or hide, but allowing our full selves to show up- messy parts and all, without fear or shame. May our bodies be a home for the risen Christ, and may our church be a place where every body is welcomed into the messy, reconciling, resurrected body of Christ.

Date	Text	Theme	Location/Specials	Preacher
4/11	John 20:19-31	Having a body, Trusting our bodies	Zoom	Sara Klassen
4/18	1 Corinthians 6:12-15, 19-20	Modesty and Purity	Zoom	Becky Snider and Lydia Miller
4/25	Isaiah 42:14	Birth and Babies	Zoom / Baby dedications	Jamie Lake
5/2	Galatians 3:28	Gender Identities	Zoom / Becky Snider Covenanting	TBD
5/9	Isaiah 53:1-5	Mental Illness and Mental Wellness	Zoom/ Wendel Landis and Cheryl Shreiner Covenanting	Erich Miller
5/16	Matthew 11: 25-30	Addiction, Carrying Burdens	Parking Lot or TBD/ Kristen Swartley Covenanting	TBD
5/23	Acts 2:1-21	Pentecost	Parking Lot/ Philip Gollner Covenanting, Recovenanting	Karl Shelly

Electives: There will be three electives offered during this season: **Some Assembly Required:** a background and history of Assembly for newish folks, **Body Talk:** an opportunity for stories and responses to the morning's theme, and **After the storm: CoVid Wisdom:** an intergenerational elective in which we will experience art, music, books, and poetry then create something together. What have we learned during the pandemic? How will we rebuild and reconnect?