

# WOUNDED HEALERS

## AWAKE

We invite you to watch Nancy Simpson's TED Talk, [Secrets of a Wounded Healer](#), as preparation for our Wounded Healers devotion.

Christ's power to heal is said to be rooted in "vicarious suffering," or the ability to make us whole by being broken.

The prophet Isaiah spoke of the messiah as a wounded healer in this way:

***Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.*** (Isaiah 53: 4-5, NRSV)

As you awake to this new day, imagine how you can help our broken world be transformed.

## AWARE

Theologian Walter Wink claims that the alternative religion of the modern world is grounded in the "myth of redemptive violence," a false myth that equates power with dominance. We must first be aware of the "might makes right" reasoning that misguides our world before we can appreciate the importance of redemptive suffering that is taught in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and many more religions.

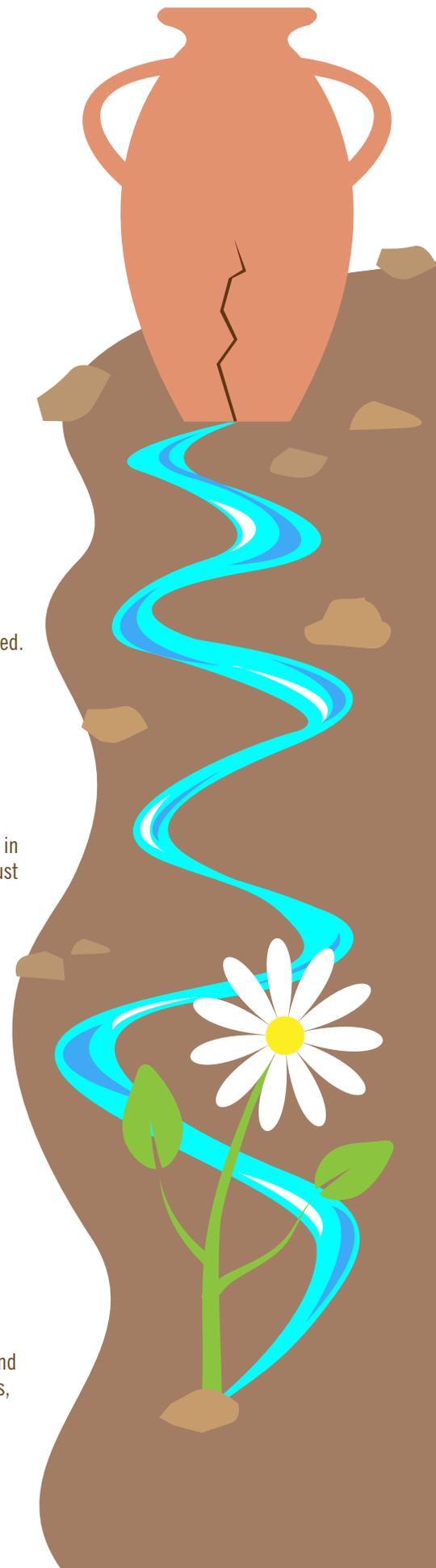
We become aware of the power of a savior's example—a messiah wounded by an unjust punishment for a crime he didn't commit—who now asks people of faith to see and not look away, to bind up the wounds of the voiceless who don't deserve to die either. How can you increase your awareness and take the first step toward wounded healing?

## ALIVE

In Genesis we are told that on the first day of creation, God spoke, and light overcame the darkness, separating night from day (1:1-4). We are also told in the Gospel of Matthew that, when Jesus began to die on the cross at noon, the sun refused to shine (27: 45-46).

Often we think that light is the life force and darkness the death force, but to be fully alive and aware of our calling we need to embrace light and darkness at the same time—the darkness, suffering and wounds of the world allow the Spirit to work wonders in and through us. The songwriter Leonard Cohen said it beautifully:

***"There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in."***



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## ABIDE

To abide in this world as a wounded healer, consider the words of “A Non-Traditional Blessing” by Sister Ruth Fox, OSB. Abide with this blessing:

“May God bless you with **discontent** with easy answers, half-truths, superficial relationships, so that you will live from deep within your heart.

May God bless you with **anger** at injustice, oppression, abuse, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equality, and peace.

May God bless you with **tears** to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and to change their pain to joy.

May God bless you with the **foolishness** to think you can make a difference in this world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

If you have the **courage** to accept these blessings, then God will also bless you with:

**happiness**—because you will know that you have made life better for others

**inner peace**—because you will have worked to secure an outer peace for others

**laughter**—because your heart will be light

**faithful friends**—because they will recognize your worth as a person.

These blessings are yours—not for the asking, but for the giving—from One who wants to be your companion, our God, who lives and reigns, forever and ever. Amen.”

## ARISE

Arise, and go in peace.

- Listen again to Secrets of a Wounded Healer.
- Check in with your partner or virtual group.
- Continue to make contributions to your journal.

What can you do to help our broken world?

