



"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

Living Waters Contemplative Life Center Divine Intervention Ministry to the Homeless
Tippecanoe just.good.food Garden Food Justice Site PCUSA
Arts and Science Literacy Camps for Children

Welcome To Worship

March 25, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday's Passion as we...

"Welcome What's Next"



Sixth Week of Lent 2018

Welcome to this time of being with God and each other.



*On a spiritual quest? Reached a tipping point? Reach out to Tippe! You are important to us.
 In Christ, there are no strangers, only new and wonderful people to meet each day!
 If you are visiting today, please be sure to sign our Guest Book at the back of the sanctuary
 or fill out a pew card and drop it in the offering plate.
 Our pastor would be glad to call you or pay you a personal visit.
 Just let us know as you sign in...and take a Welcome Packet, too!
 Come back often. We care! We are open for faith! Affirming and open to all!*

Helpful Worship Information



We're Glad You've Come.

*This is a safe place, a sanctuary of worship and prayer,
 comfort and justice-seeking for all God's people and all
 are welcome here
 ...just as you are.*

Our church is a safe sanctuary for children..

We are proactive to protect our children with trained staff, enlightened volunteers, and aware congregants.

No concealed weapons of any type are allowed on Tippecanoe Church premises.

Our children are invited to remain in worship with us. The exception is first and third Sundays of the months during the program year when our families host

"Children's Church" right after Kids' Time.

We ask children be accompanied by an adult at all times throughout our morning together!

During worship, children are welcome to use a book, stuffed animal, or crayons and papers from the bottom shelf of the cart at the back of the sanctuary. We want the sanctuary to be home to them.

When your child (1st grade and under) is restless, when you are, when those around you are...

you're/we're probably asking too much of everyone. Please let your child be in the nursery at times like this. Please return borrowed "goodies" to the cart after worship.

Infant through 1st Grade Care

is available all during worship down the stairs to the right to the "nursery."

In the order of worship, please note... the * indicates times to stand as you are able.

Today in Worship



*We open our hearts and minds to the texts,
 confronting the radical nature of God's wisdom.*



"Palm Sunday's Passion"

Palm Sunday marks Christ's entrance into Jerusalem...triumphant but hardly the king they thought they were getting! As we move ever closer to the cross and the mystery of Easter Life, today's Bible Wisdom Teachings focus us on the events of Holy Week - The Passion of Christ: Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. They mark the lengths to which God calls the faithful, but also the constant presence of God with us and the enduring nature of God's purposes unfolding amongst us. We are made able...to welcome ...what comes next!

We will share in Holy Communion together. All God's adults and children are welcome at Table no matter where you are on your own faith journey!



Thanks for being here today!

*In deepest gratitude, we give God thanks
 for your presence with us in worship!*



WARNING....

If you take the Bible literally you may be disappointed here. We hope not, but we think you should know that we don't take *all* of scripture literally....
 any more than Jesus did,
 but we **DO** take it all seriously.

As you enter, please use this time to greet friends, welcome newcomers, and join in the spirit of community.

As the music begins, gift yourself a few moments of quiet perhaps becoming present to your own life -- your desires and needs and joys. Perhaps using this photo and reflective question to center yourself.

God rejoices in your coming and meets you this morning in special ways that are meant just for you.

Guided by the wisdom of Isaiah 43: 18-19

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Sixth Week of Lent

Why do we worship? Think on this...

Worship is a human activity, celebrated in the presentness of God...the Sacred, rather than praise required of us by God. And so the "goal" is to help us know (head in our heart) how we relate as individuals to ourselves, others, world, universe.

To celebrate that relationship! To touch sources of creative transformation! To reinterpret our experiences! To reaffirm living in this world which is indeed our sacred and worshipful work to do!



Palm Sunday's Passion As We "Welcome What's Next"

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### **WELCOME TO THIS CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY**

~ ~ ~

- ◆ **Welcome and Community News**
- ◆ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

**Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!  
Surely God is in this place,  
Holy Ground!**

#### ◆ **Prelude**

- ◆ *Lighting the Christ Candle*
- ◆ *Ringling the Bell...an ancient tradition to clarify the air enabling our prayers to rise more easily to our God.*

### **Gathering As God's People**

#### ◆ **Becoming Present To God And Each Other**

**A Lenten Ritual Of Candle Unlighting:  
*"Welcoming What's Next"***

*Please be in quiet as one of our children extinguishes the light from our Lenten Candles. In your Holy Imagination:*

*See the light of these candles as the light of our Advent Candles  
now grown up with Christ power - the Cosmic Christ.  
As they are extinguished, go with this power  
into the darkness of our unknown future  
....moving ever toward the imminent light  
of a new and future life.*

Child of God:

We go out into the darkness...going into what will come next.  
We put our lives into God's life, our hand into the "hand" of God.  
This shall be to us better than a light...and safer than a known way.

One: Holy One....

**All: As we move toward Jerusalem, give us courage to  
reflect on our *truest* nature....and on Yours!**

*Pastor: For we long to embrace a new, yet ancient reality:*

We are made resilient in God's love and able to...

*"Welcome What's Next"*

knowing God works through all things for good  
for those who believe."

**All: We enter Passion Week...Christ's passion becomes  
palpable! Holy One, open our every heart...and wake us  
to wonder as we reflect on the power of incarnate love...in  
us!**

*Please remain seated.*

✧Gathering Hymn #197 Hymnal

**"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"**

**Held WithIn the Word**

✧**And the Children Will Lead The Way: Kids' Time**

✧**Affirming Our Faith...**

**Preparing To Hear The Word....*Our Prayer***

**As I move into the scripture stories,  
The wisdom teachings of this week, God,  
Lift me up....**

**Above the burden of expectations,  
Above the poison of impatience,  
Above the danger of fear.**

**God, even this week, You lift me up  
Into the joy of possibility,  
Into the grace of curiosity,  
Into the risk of love.**

*Continued on next page...*

*First and Third Sundays  
children are invited  
downstairs to Children's  
Church after Kids' Time!*

**May I be in hope this day.  
May I be in miracle this day.  
May I be in peace this day.  
May it be so!**

*Please remain seated.  
Listen once through, then  
let's sing twice.*

*Feel free to use the space  
offered for your personal  
reflections!*

✧ **Prayerful Hymn of Preparation #67 *Worship & Praise***

**“I Love You, Lord”**

✧ **The Passion Of Our Lord**

*“Scriptures’ Insight Told...Inspiration Shared...  
‘Our’ Passion’s Prompting”*

Pastor Karen Hagen

✧ **Based Upon Bible’s Wisdom Teachings**

**Mark 14:1 – Mark 15: 47**



✧ **A Moment Of Personal Reflection...**

*Please use space on for your personal reflections!*

**Opening to God’s Grace**

✧ **Opening Ourselves To God’s Grace**

*Deeply hear this invitation.*

*As a response to this day's worship and this week's passion, honoring the whole of your Lenten experience, please affirm your Resiliency Repertoire and how you are getting yourself ready for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Vigil...and Easter!*

*Alternative Language:  
I am able to*

*-do postmortem on my past*

*-evaluate my expectations*

*-reinforce new roads*

*-fail forward*

*-eliminate extremes*

*-create and not compare*

*-transcend the moment or situation*

## ✧ Sharing Our Inner Most Lives With God

**We listen to the crowds, at first cheering and enthusiastically shouting, “Hosanna”, then crying, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”**

**We recognize our own changing loyalties, the ease with which we can be swayed.**

**We listen to the few words of Jesus before the “ones in power”; we feel his awesome presence.**

**We recognize how you, O God, can keep us courageous in times when we are tempted to give in to the powers that be, instead of stand up in integrity with You.**

**We listen to the compassionate response of Jesus on the cross, to the thief beside him.**

**We recognize how difficult it is for us to respond sensitively and appropriately to need....our own and the needs of others.**

**We stay the course, we *pre-occupy* ourselves with things most important....incarnate love and grace....a deep soul trust in the Kingdom of God here and now!**



Please check the Resiliency Responses that you now know to be in your Resiliency Repertoire!

- Relationships — Sociability/ability to be a friend/ability to form positive relationships
- Humor — Has a good sense of humor
- Inner Direction — Bases choices/decisions on internal evaluation (internal locus of control)
- Perceptiveness — Insightful understanding of people and situations
- Independence — “Adaptive” distancing from unhealthy people and situations/autonomy
- Positive View of Personal Future — Optimism; expects a positive

future

Flexibility — Can adjust to change; can bend as necessary to positively cope with situations

Love of Learning — Capacity for and connection to learning

Self-motivation — Internal initiative and positive motivation from within

Competence — Is “good at something”/personal competence

Self-Worth — Feelings of self-worth and self-confidence

Spirituality — Personal faith in something greater

Perseverance — Keeps on despite difficulty; doesn’t give up

Creativity — Expresses self through artistic endeavor

*Say to yourself: I am resilient. I am \_\_\_\_\_.*

### ✧ A Moment With God For Each Of Us...

Let there be some quiet. We will be “stilled” together for 5 minutes or so! You have time....go deeper....

*Please listen once and then sing.*

### ✧ Kyrie

**You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy.  
You are the Christ, Giver of Mercy.  
You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy**

### ✧ Receiving God’s Grace....*God With Us Always*

Pastor: Divine Presence...Holy One...Giver of Life, we are overwhelmed and humbled by the gift of Your presence with us through Jesus the Christ...especially as we move into *this* week.

**All: We will respond to your supreme gift with honest reflection and renewed commitment.**

Pastor: Pardon and Peace be ours!

**All: Thanks be to our God! Amen!**

*A Sung Response*

### ✧ Rejoicing In God’s Divine Care

**Glory be to the Father, & the Son, & the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,**

Please call Patti at 630-674-1272 if you would like the Tippe Prayer Chain to lift a special prayer for you this week.

All prayers are confidential and shared with Pastor Karen.

*Members & Friends*

*Tippe Ministry*

*Spiritual Leaders:*

*Elder*

*Deacon*

*Staff*

*Community*

*Outreach Partners*

*Divine Intervention  
& Arts and Science*

*Literacy Camps*

*Faith Communities*

*Partnering in Ministry*

*Current Issues Calling Us  
To Prayer*

*As you gather around the Table for prayer and communion, please listen once and then sing twice.*

*A "plate" is provided for your holy offering. With deep gratitude, we give you our thanks and praise for your sustaining support!*

**world without end. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. A-men. Amen. A-men. Amen. A-men. A-men!**

**✧ Naming Our Gratitudes, Joys, and Concerns**

**Throughout This Week Let Us Pray For...**

...continued abundance and celebration of possibility as God grows Tippe's ministry.

...the continuing flow of guests who grace us with their presence.

... these members, spiritual leaders, staff and communities:

♦

♦

♦

♦

♦

♦Common Ground and MICAH

♦Holding Guests, Hosts, Staff into the light of our prayer!

♦Holding Teachers, Artists, Children and their Families in the light of our prayer!

♦

♦Employment

♦Immigration Reform

♦Torture Awareness ♦God's Creation: Environmental Concerns

**✧ Quieting Ourselves For Prayer**

**✧ Sung Call To Prayer**

**In this moment, in this place,  
all is mercy, all is grace.**

**In this moment, in this place,  
We Are One....**

**✧ Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

**✧ Holy Communion...Our Sacred Blessing!**

**✧ Offering Ourselves**

**Sending Forth With Blessing**

**✧\*Departing Hymn**

**#154**

***Worship and Praise***

As you leave, you are invited to linger longer enjoying sanctuary time. The kneeler is also available for a time of quiet prayer. Please take a copy of a previous prompting from the Cart in the back for your own or another's enrichment!

*Richard Bruxvoort Colligan,  
adapted, with permission*

## **“We Will Glorify”**

### **✧\*Benediction**

*...Our Affirmation and Invitation  
to Become a Living Blessing*

### **✧\*Our Response**

**Holy One, now we your servants go in peace.  
Your word lives on in us.**

### **✧\*Postlude**

*Please join us for Tippe Café right here in the sanctuary.*

# Tippeca-News March 25, 2018

*So glad you have come.*

*Join us for Tippe Café right after  
Worship here in the Sanctuary!*

*All Are Welcome!*

*TODAY and THIS WEEK at Tippe*

## Today's Parlor Class:

Conversation with Pastor Karen exploring the wisdom of the book: "Christianity Without God".

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** first and third Sundays of each month after Kid's Time in worship! Our families will teach us!

## Monday Nights 6:30pm:

**Sanctuary Time of Belonging meets tomorrow night!**

Come for this worshipful time of self-reflection and theological thinking as we informally gather around table in the sanctuary, closing each gathering in prayer and communion. No meeting March 26<sup>th</sup> or April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Circle of Faith** meets Wednesdays 10:30am in the parlor as we reflect on our individual and corporate lives through the lens of the wisdom teachings...*lectio style!* No meeting March 28<sup>th</sup> or April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**AA Meeting** Wednesday 7pm in Study Lounge.

**Bay View Children's Choir** on winter break.

*TODAY and THIS WEEK at Living Waters*

**Center yourself...Sunday Centering meets 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 6pm.** Join us for a time of quieting, opening us to the Holy within. No meeting Christmas or New Year's Eve.

**One Blessing** meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Tuesday** evenings in the sanctuary at 6:30pm.

**Thursday Centering** meets 2:30pm in the parlor. No meeting Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>.

## UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS!

Our next ASLC Science Saturday is in March 24<sup>th</sup>. To know more, email [aslcforkids@gmail.com](mailto:aslcforkids@gmail.com)!

**Lunch Bunch** will meet noon first Tuesdays of each month 11:45am at Applebee's on Holt Avenue.

**Zensational Yoga** for children meets next on April 22 at 1pm in Sanctuary.

## Brave Places Letter Writing/Calling Meet-up

**Where: McDonald's at 6<sup>th</sup> and Oklahoma**

**When: 1-2 pm on First Sundays!**

Sung Mediation - Threshold Singing:

First Friday Nights monthly, 6:30-8pm.

## Lent 2018

Our Theme: Welcome What's Next!

**Maundy Thursday Simple Meal & Worship March 29<sup>th</sup> 6pm in sanctuary**

-  
Recapture the movement of Holy Week and make your way to your cross! Please bring finger food to share as dinner together.

**Good/God Friday Ecumenical Worship March 30<sup>th</sup>- Ecumenical Service of Worship 1pm at Sacred Heart parish with all our brothers & sisters in the faith!**

**Easter Morning Celebrations April 1...**

***No Fooling!***

**8:30am: Special Tippe Café**

**Please bring a dish to share!**

**9:30: Easter Egg Hunt with our Kids**

**10am: Holy Worship in Sanctuary**

## Opening Ourselves To God's Grace

In Lent we turn toward what has meaning in our lives and notice what drops away as we do. We turn toward God. Then we are more freely able to focus. We become more self-aware...more able to access our core resiliencies...and grow competence in some new ways of being!

Even today, maybe especially today, we seek to be renewed!

Each with our own beloved story, shaped anew by our Holy Story,  
**SILENTLY** lift our prayers to our God  
As we use the reflection on Page 7 to guide us.



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### Tippe-Ministers

*All are ministers every day in every way in the world.*

#### Today in Leadership

Pastor..... Karen Hagen  
Director of Music Ministry ..... MaryBeth Garrett  
Ministry Support Associate..... Crystal Stinemates  
Facility Host..... Margaret Majewski & Jay Paske  
Worship Leader..... Brandon  
Worship Hosts..... ?  
Nursery Care ..... Natalia and Community  
Director of *Living Waters* ..... Pastor Karen  
*Living Waters* Staff  
Pastor Karen, Diane, Jane, Tami & Donna

#### Next Week in Leadership

Pastor..... Karen Hagen  
Director of Music Ministry. .... MaryBeth Garrett  
Ministry Support Associate..... Crystal Stinemates  
Facility Host ..... Margaret Majewski & Jay Paske  
Worship Leader ..... Maddie  
Worship Hosts ..... ?  
Nursery Care..... Natalia and Community  
Director of *Living Waters*..... Pastor Karen  
*Living Waters* Staff  
Pastor Karen, Diane, Jane, Tami & Donna

**Email Pastor Karen directly at [pastor.tippechurch@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.tippechurch@gmail.com)**

If you have questions regarding our missions and how you can help, please email: [sustainingtippe@gmail.com](mailto:sustainingtippe@gmail.com).

To assist with sharing our supper (SOS meals), please contact email: [sosmealsdi@gmail.com](mailto:sosmealsdi@gmail.com).

To assist with Larry Under The Bridge, please contact email: [lutbtippedi@gmail.com](mailto:lutbtippedi@gmail.com)

If you have donations for Project Home, please contact email: [projecthomedl@gmail.com](mailto:projecthomedl@gmail.com).

For more information about Arts and Science Literacy Camps, please contact email: [aslcforkids@gmail.com](mailto:aslcforkids@gmail.com).

Find us at [www.tippechurch.org](http://www.tippechurch.org) or on Facebook at Tippecanoe Church!

**Tippe Strives to be GREEN!** So, we limit the number of hard copy bulletins we run each week while offering them online. Download at home, run your own copy, or go online at [tippechurch.org](http://tippechurch.org).

**Wi-Fi Info: Living Waters 1tippehugs**

**And please be sure to like [Tippecanoe Church](#) on Facebook, like and share!**

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*Welcome What's Next...*

*"The Heart Of Our Relationships!"*

Psalms 51: 1-2, 6, 10-12; Jeremiah 31: 31-34; John 12: 20-32 Psalm 25: 1, 4-5, 9-10

March 18, 2018 Fifth Sunday of Lent

We have no fatal flaws. You can't blame what's going on in your life on some fatal flaw that keeps you from being other than you! You can't blame anyone else either.

It is time to put our focus on our strengths...our resiliencies which are more than coping mechanisms.

Time to dig deep into the insights of our past and lean deeply into trust of self and trust in Divine Energy's life giving plan for us....and so be able to welcome what's next.

That's the heart of the matter!

To welcome what's next with a heart that has space...for more...relationship!

With a spirit that is willing...because you realize...it's not all about you!

God has a dynamic relationship with us!

God is resilient like a good master teacher always willing to try out new teaching methods so you can truly learn

even if it means doing a new thing with you time and time again until you experience that teachable moment and get it!

Jesus is a master teacher...rabboni means teacher!

The entire Jesus story is about taking responsibility to look deeply within, into our hearts, our minds and our motivations.

The stories challenge us to ask: ***How resilient am I?***

Which begs the question...am I really willing to go out into the unknown, the darkness?

Is this really to me better than a light and safer than a known way?

Do I live my life in the light of wisdom, put my hand into the hand of God and trust I will make it through and then some?

***And as we hear today's wisdom teachings...***

*(Self-reflective to God...)*

~God, you desire truth in my inward being....teach me your wisdom in my secret heart.

*You know*....teach that part of my heart where I burrow things away...very important things so they, *and I*, can stay secret...even though I know keeping secrets.... can be life stopping!

~Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. A heart with room in it for a few new things. And, I really do *know* when my spirit is right on!

~Sustain me in a willing spirit.

Maybe this is the hardest part!

Am I willing to let what is now wisdom held in secret come out into the light and form me anew....sustaining me!

Am I willing to go toward what is difficult and confront the situation...and there....find...my resilient self?

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What is *your* spirit willing to sustain?

What might your spirit be *enabled* to sustain,
if you explored your secret heart....
your deepest worries and desires....with God?

What might your spirit be enabled to sustain
if you let God meet you in your secret heart
with truth and wisdom...
about your real inner and outer life?

Jesus revealed his secret heart to God.

He did not hide his trouble from God,
but went right to God with it...revealing His secret heart so
His spirit would be sustained. And others knew!

He believed/loved and so he could hear God's response to him.

What *might you* hear God say
to you....if you reveal what's troubling your heart?

It is hardest to hear God...to keep faithing....when our souls are troubled and our lives are in crisis.

We avert, divert, shut down, avoid. Ourselves. Others.

Hard to hear the voice of God even if God is speaking clearly and longs to sustain our spirit giving us a *new* truth.

Often, it's *easier* “to keep faith” when things are going well...*much harder* when they are not.

When things are blooming vs. when they're looming.....
When we feel rooted and the voices quieting...

What is the heart of the matter here?

What matters to your heart?

How resilient are you?

Actually, quantum physics and science are leading a discussion that at the center of all matter....

is heart....a presence...something not random...

Listen to this:

“Enmeshed in the brain”...*this* is how Dr. Newberg describes God in his book “How God Changes Your Brain”.

Having done all types of brain scans and studies, he asserts that when people engage in prayer,

that would be reveal their hearts to God and let God into their secret heart.....

that activity centers in the frontal lobes of the brain which govern focus and concentration.

During very deep prayer, the frontal lobes power down...as he says....and a particular affect is achieved.

Pray and meditate enough... and some physical changes in the brain become permanent....the frontal lobes actually become thicker which boosts memory.

Faith and health do overlap.

Cleansing fasts also affect the brain and produce responses. The ancient notion of Lenten fast is modern science for opening us up to be able to change!

Realizing Ancient Hebrews believed the heart was the center of it all...where thought and feeling merged or emanated...

your prayer...what's in your heart matters and shapes who you are and how you respond to your world differently....

What you hold in your heart matters and affects your health, your healing, your well-being.

What's in your....heart?

Not what's in your wallet...that comes and goes anyways, right?

What's in your heart...that's what matters!

It is the heart of what matters!

It affects you in very real ways...how you think, feel, act!

It is key to relationship...integrity and relationship!

Where your treasure is, there will be your heart!

Importantly, how you assess and hold the choices of others is affected by what's in your heart.

Your heart affects how you see others...

distorts them or brings clarity about them.

We all know our perceptions are often more about us than the other.

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Let's unpack today's psalm written by King David who lost his head as he lost his heart (over Bathsheba) and so he starts off confessing to God...

he was really confessing to himself because, at first...first comes self-awareness...right? The first step in resiliency.

His self-talk is really on the verge of a pity party.

When things go wrong or we make a mistake in our judgment, don't we also do a whoa-is-me and make our wrong doing bigger than life...

oh...I was born this way, or I'm fatally flawed...  
there's no hope for me! It's all beyond me!

At times most of us get stuck right there.

It gets us off the hook for having to do something about the life!

But David goes on...he not only confesses to himself but to God.

He turns toward God and gets a holy consciousness about his own actions and their consequence.

He wants more for his life and is willing to turn his life around...turning toward what matters most....  
a right spirit and right relationships....

**And in Jeremiah God claims a new covenant.**

God's new covenant now internal to all of us...

God doing a new thing...

**Wisdom is now in our hearts...**

**an inward movement of awareness that moves us out into the world differently.**

**And this new heart of wisdom...this new, clean, spacious heart...can only benefit us if our spirit willing to try a new thing...a new strategy?**

So...given our wisdom teachings...are you aware? Willing?  
Is there something going on in your life that gives you pause?  
Do you have regret?

Are you stuck in whoa-is-me self-talk...or  
are you willing to turn toward God and begin again to live?

What really matters to you?  
Are you in pain because of denying it?  
**How resilient are you?**

Hear this again more deeply:

David begins his new life not with some big grand gesture or stroke of insight as to how to right his wrong.

He simply says to God,  
I know you desire truth in my inward being...  
God, You want me to be honest with myself.

This is where David begins and this is the only place  
any of us can ever begin.

And it is enough and we can trust it will bring us forward.

David starts small and quietly.

He asks to be made clean...I would say to be reenergized, for a do-over.

This seems a pretty reasonable way to start over...  
small and wise.

...just for himself, not so much for others at first.

And to help him live from this new heart,  
he then asks that in the living of his day he may be where he  
can hear joy and gladness.

Imagine how your mood would change...  
your energy be renewed...  
and how you might feel differently about your life

**if you** were living your day within earshot  
of joy and gladness?

Imagine what wisdom you might find in your secret heart  
if your frame of mind was formed in the presence of  
gladness and joy instead of negativity?

David asks God stay close in spirit, put a right spirit within  
him because his is broken.

He asks God to help him find a willing spirit.

What are you willing to do differently in order to have  
your right spirit and find new life?

Aahh...here's where Jeremiah comes in.

You see, initially you just may not be able to even see  
yourself clearly,

let alone want a right spirit, be willing to do anything  
differently to mend your heart  
or create a new, clean one!

**But the heart of the matter is this....  
it's not all about you or up to you!**

God is able and willing and God does it for you until you are  
ready to do it for yourself.

God's "I am" holds your "I am".

God has extended to us a new covenant.

It is no longer a two way set-up marked by rainbows or stars or generations...not even about laws on tablets.

God now decrees God is willing to hold up both ends of the agreement until we can hold up our end. Jesus proves it so!

How does God do this?

**...by placing within our hearts the wisdom to know and the ability to see clearly and the courage to act...when we are ready.**

God will hold up God's end of the bargain forgiving everything and holding our new life for us

as we find the courage to turn our lives toward what matters most...no matter what!

Jesus says...just do it!

The heart of the matter is this: **God loves you.**  
**Love is who you are!**

Whatever has happened to you,  
whatever you have done with your life thus far,

God is holding on to a new life for you...your new heart...

No deals or exceptions...everyone gets a new heart!

Get over it...everyone gets a new heart

as God sees clearly everyone's  
authentic self which is good!

God is out there in our darkness, ahead of us,  
holding out God's hand that we might put ours in God's  
and walk in light, go for the new life we say we long to live.

**No matter how long it takes us to reach out to God,  
God is already reaching in to us.**

We don't have to start out with some big grand rearranging  
of the furniture of our lives in order to begin our new life!

You get to start small....quietly....inwardly changing...  
until you feel safe enough in this new self...new spirit...  
to let your light shine on a new life.

It's easy. It's hard.  
It's safe. It's scary.

But the heart of the relationship is that you matter!  
You are important to God!

And you are not alone!  
God is with you and if you can't feel God with you...  
you can see us with you!

Our three readings ask us to reflect, offer us wisdom, and  
invite us to....just do it!

We are not alone!

This shall be better than a light and safer than a known way!

We are resilient!

I like Lent. It reminds me...

I am capable....

I can welcome what's next.

The good and bad, beautiful and ugly...yes, I can.

~Just like Jesus, I am made able to stand up against what is not right/not just in life.

~And just like Jesus, I can choose an alternative way to think and feel and act....not alone but in relationship with God and other disciples....

This is the part where I find out who I am!

How resilient I am!

And, I affirm: I can welcome what's next!