

Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church
Outdoor Worship Celebration: Our Worship-full Work!
September 2, 2018

*Quiet...let the birds and the trees, the wind, the dance of sunlight, the pattern of the raindrops
or flickering of the day's shadows...sound and sing and shine our hearts' songs this day.*



~Opening to Holiness: A Labyrinth Orientation and Silent Walk!

~Song: Surely God Is In This Place

~Affirming Our Faith: The Interconnectedness and Dignity of Our Life Together

**We are called into a radical sense of our interconnectedness
as creatures and children of the same and one God of the Universe.
To perceive this deep level of interdependence,
seems a nearly impossible task. *YET THE GOPSELS PROD US ON.*
We affirm our faith in a good and righteous future for all!**

~We gather in the spirit of Labor Day!

**The Dignity of Work...Guidance from Presbyterian Labor Day Resource
.....And Our Reflection**

~Scripture: Life...A Labor Of Love

Colossians 3:23

“Whatever your tasks, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your earthly masters.”

Ecclesiastes 3:9a, 12-13

“What gain have the workers from their toil? I know that there is nothing better for them than
to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live, moreover, it is God’s gift
that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.”

~Kid's Time~

God invites us to see all we do as sacred
as it helps us and others. How we do what we do matters.
Simply be your deepest, holy self in all you do! "Tis A Gift To Be Simple"

**~Fruits of Our Labor....Gleaning and Going Out into the Community!
...Every Act Has Sacred Possibilities**

~Holy Communion....an offering of self and our gifts!

~Singing: "We are holy, holy, holy. x3 We are one."

~Our Prayers

Adapted from "One World, One Heart" by Susan Polis Schutz.

(Please read the first 2 stanzas silently to yourself.
Pastor Karen will prompt us to read the last stanza out loud together.)

Lord God, as I enjoy the extra rest of a holiday weekend! As I am cared for,
help me celebrate the real holy-day of your care for all people.
Give me the insight and then the courage to....

Speak until there are no more words.
Share insights until everything is understood.
Be honest until nothing is hidden.
Listen until everything has been said.
Question so that we know why.
Be fair so that everyone's basic needs are met.

(Take a breath to hear these words deeply within yourself.)

Because I know....

If there is no communication there will be no bond.
If there is no bond there will be no friendship.
If there is no friendship, then I have failed to live faith as Jesus teaches me to live it...
loving God with all my heart, mind, and soul; loving my neighbor as myself.

**Help me, O Holy One, as I strive to be faithful with Your help and within Your mercy.
This is my intention. This is my faith alive!**

~Sending: Namaste! Namaste! I leave you with my heart wide open!

And now everybody: Let's picnic!

“The Dignity of Work”

Words from the Presbyterian Resource for the Celebration of Labor in the Pulpits, 2008

“Work is a godly endeavor and as such, that our own work is to have integrity and contribute to the transformation of society. Too often we treat work as an imposition or a burden, a necessary evil: what has to be done in order to put food on the table, a roof over our head, and clothes on our body; something we don’t want to do but must, accompanied by complaints and resentment. Sometimes there are good reasons for this attitude. Work can be difficult, maybe even dangerous and bad for our health. Authoritarian bosses. Low pay. Unpleasant and dirty work sites. No one listens to our suggestions. Too many rules and short breaks. We start seeing “the good life” in terms of leisure time, vacation time—in fact, any time that takes us away from work.

Reflection Time...Name the challenges in your life that push you to view your “work” as “other than” being part of the “good life”. In other words, what pressures do you feel that impact “negatively” on your experience of working? And if you have no job, what is the good life? What would your dream work environment look like? Share.

But there was a time when work of every kind was seen both as a call from God and divine activity where God’s presence was palpable. Thus, the quality of work done was important, because it was God’s work, after all. John Calvin introduced this idea five centuries ago. He proclaimed that all people, no matter what their status in life, had what he called an office, a calling from God. We are made in God’s image. It only follows then that the work of our hands and the ideas of our minds should also reflect that image and, in turn, be respected as such. In this understanding of work there is no ranking of types of work and its value is not based on pay scale. A child care worker and a CEO make equally valid contributions and are equally worthy of respectful treatment. A person picking tomatoes in Immokalee, Florida, has as much right to safe work and fair pay as a computer programmer or a high school teacher.

Reflection Time...Name how you are valued and how you find personal value in your “work” – whether paid or unpaid. How do you fall victim to an unjust kind of thinking about the value of work as you compare workers or those unemployed at this time? Share.

Not only should work be vocational, utilizing the unique talents and interests that God has given us; our work should somehow enrich the broader community as well. One of life’s most elusive yet profound lessons is the direct connection between meaning and service: we find our deepest meaning in service to others. To understand work as an essential part of service excludes the possibility of making extreme profits at the expense of others, the payment of inadequate wages, allowing inhumane and unsafe working conditions, or any other mistreatment of employees.”

Reflection Time...Can you see a benefit/link in your work (paid or unpaid) to the service of the common good? How does your faith help you when on the job? What support do you need from Tippe to make this link and/or use your faith in every day work and play?

For Our Kids' Reflection:

How many everyday phrases use the word labor or work?

What is work?

When you're growing the garden, is that work or play?

Cleaning your room, work or play?

Helping cook dinner?

Helping a friend?

Doing your homework?

Is work good or bad or neither?

When doing work, how do you feel about your task?

How do you feel about yourself?

Does all work have to be paid? What is fair?

Ways which we use/everyday phrases using the word "labor"?

Hard labor

Labor of love

Labor intensive

Child labor

Labor laws, labor movement

Birth labor

In-labor

Premature labor

Belaboring a point

The word "work"?

Good Work

Work at it

No work at all

Go to work

Home from work

Work in progress