



"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

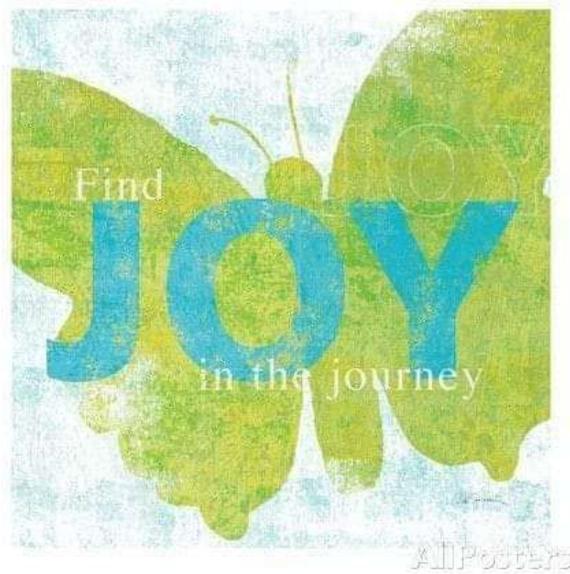
Welcome To Worship

May 2, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Eastertide:

"Finding Joy in the Journey...Now!"



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Preparing To Worship...



Finding Joy in the Journey...Now!

~ ~ ~

✧ Welcome and Community News

✧ Readyng Ourselves for Worship

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

✧ Becoming Present to God and Each Other...Our Check-in:

How Are You As You Arrive...how is it with your spirit?

✧ Gathering as God's People: *(Based upon John 15:1-8)*

One: We are "people of the vine" grafted into one community. God tends our needs, growing us in unimaginable ways.

All: Each of us finds here refreshment for our body and soul, and a space to rest our weary bones.

One: Holiness nourishes us with compassion and prunes us with truth.

All: We need each other to make sense of our lives and be renewed.

One: Accepting uncertainty in this world, certain of God's presence with us...

All: Christ's continuous encouragement to each of us: Love God. Love People. The core of our humanity is: LOVE.

✧ Gathering Special Music Video – "Love God Love People" Danny Gokey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-29WLQ3trA>

✧ Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

✧ Sharing Our Inner Most Lives with God

God, I know something about being pruned. I know what it feels like to be cut off or kept away from the people and things I love and are important to me. I "bear" no fruit when this happens...not for me, or You, or anybody!

(Let there be some quiet. Go deeper...)

Lord, in such times, I don't feel "I abide in You and You in me." In such times, I often can't feel anything at all, let alone Your presence. When life is cutting, here's the thing: How am I to live joyfully? ...*bear fruit*? How do I know where to turn? ...*in whom to abide*? How do I know what to choose? ...*recognize the true vine*?

(Let there be some quiet. Go deeper...)

You say, "Come to me." Lord, I long to come. When life is cutting and there are many false branches blocking my way, please make a Way...please, come to me. Help me distinguish between the pruning the world does which diminishes my life and the pruning You do which takes me beyond the mind I have so I can think differently and accept uncertainty. I come...

(Let there be some quiet. Go deeper...)

Lord, I ask it.



✧ You may wish to name with God a way in which life cuts you off from the love you desire; or you may share how it feels *not to be able* to feel God abiding with you in the tough times while feeling God with you in the easier times; or you may simply invite Jesus to come sit beside you this morning shining His healing light all around and through you.

✧Bible Wisdom Teachings

The Gospel of Thomas Saying #25

Jesus said: “Love your brother or sister like your soul.
Guard each of them like the pupil of your eye.”

John 15:1-11

1 John 4:7-8, 16b-21

Acts 8:26-31, 34-38

One: This is the way our story is told.
God speaks to us anew through ancient stories.

All: Thanks be to our God.

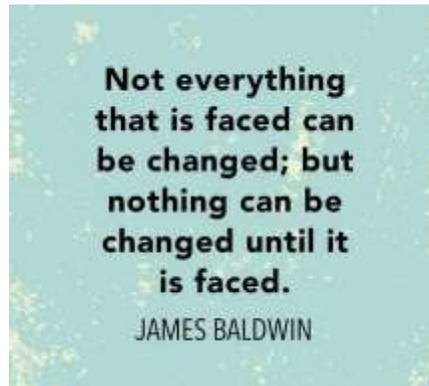
~Slideshow~

✧Prompting

“Joy In The Journey...Now!”

“Show Up Fearlessly Abiding In Holy Love”

Rev. Karen S. Hagen



✧Special Music Video: “Return to Love” Bocelli and Goulding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gB-Yxy5BTGQ>

✧Sharing Our Wisdom



✧ **Presentation and Ordination of New Spiritual Leaders:**

Ruling Elder: Sarah Fortier

Deacon: Janet Scheffel

✧ **Community Prayers: Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

✧ **Giving Thanks For Our Community...Our Sustaining Gifts!**

✧ **Preparation of the Table**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

Pastor: To be thankful and give praise for the God given power we have to accept uncertainty and think differently! ...to LOVE!

All: We can change our mind! Diverse *and* together...we are one Spirit! Together, we are the kingdom come...we embody the New Realm!

Pastor: God, Your kingdom is not like worldly kingdoms. Not a hierarchy but a shared accountability, including and honoring and needing everyone! To this end, a Table is provided. One at which *all* are fed...not merely with words but with life and love and hope made real...once in Jesus...and now in us. **Renew us, O God, with the Spirit of that very Jesus who brings us to You, who prays in us and with us!** Friends, God is calling us to share in the feast of new life!

✧ **Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread**

Communion of the People



✧ **Benediction...*Becoming a Living Blessing***

What of this shared wisdom goes with you as helpful and life-giving?

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

Hear this service presented on Tippe Talk podcast, link on our website & Facebook.