

"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 16, 2021 9:30 a.m.

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



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Seventh Sunday of Easter ~ Ascension Sunday

Preparing To Worship...



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

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♦Warm Welcome and Community News

♦Readying 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?

~The Joy of Passing of the Peace~

♦Gathering as God's People

One: We are Easter people of possibility!

All: I am Easter possibility...personified!

One: We gather in a holy place, a divine space...

All: Where peace is spoken, loving kindness expected!

One: Where grace is freely shown. All: Each is specially known!

One: On this Ascension Sunday, accepting uncertainty and certain of God's presence with us, we hear...

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

O Holy One, we come to this time each year...when You trust me enough to leave me on my own to authentically live the Ways of Jesus. Jesus ascends and somewhere over the rainbow is...right here and now! Give me the courage and wisdom to trust...myself. I don't want to disappoint...me or You! Please, help me to...

Remember from where and how far I have come.

Honor my new found wisdom about what I truly want to be my new normal.

Turn my talk into a new worshipful walk!

I so long to follow in the Ways of the Spirit of Truth!

So...

When my use of language oppresses & stories are not told...
Where authority binds rather than liberates...
When I discern God's voice but then go home another way...
Where new choices and directions are not even considered...
Where children are seldom seen and the chronologically gifted never heard...

Give me the courage to resist and start again. Give me the wisdom to surround myself with others who also set sail toward a new horizon with every choice they make.

Support me to pursue the promptings of my soul, recognize today's miracles, and be the church!

Lord, this I cannot do on my own! Energize me to be a part of Your blessed new humanity. Lord, You hear my prayer.



♦ You may wish to name with God how uneasy it is for you to know God trusts you...perhaps even more than you trust yourself; or you may share how you found your courage and wisdom engaging the world this week; or you may simply invite Jesus to come beside you 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."

> 1Peter 4:12-14, 5: 6-11 Acts 1:6-14

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

All: Thanks be to our God.

♦Prompting

"Joy In The Journey...Now!"

"Show Up: Somewhere Over The Rainbow Is Right Here!"

Rev. Karen S. Hagen



♦Special Music Video: "Where the Heart Is" HAEVN https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvIqrVofq9U

♦Sharing Our Wisdom

Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.

JAMES BALDWIN



♦Affirming Our Faith with Intention...Our Prayer

Prayer of Apostle Paul

Beginning of the Letter to Romans in the New, New Testament, selected verses.

"Redeem me for I am yours.
You are my treasure--open for me.
You are my fullness--receive me.
You are my rest--give me unrestrained maturity.
Give healing to my body and my spirit, and open my mind.
I have trust and hope.
Place upon me Your beloved, chosen, and blessed greatness, the amazing mystery of Your house.
For Yours is the power and the glory and the praise and the greatness forever and ever.

Amen."

♦ Community Prayers, Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer♦ Quieting Ourselves for Prayer

♦Giving Thanks For Our Community...Our Sustaining Gifts!



♦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.