



"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

January 23, 2021

9:30 a.m.

The Good News



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Preparing to Worship...



“The Good News”

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✧ **Welcome and community news**

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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

**“The Good News”**

They don't publish  
the good news.

The good news is published  
by us.

We have a special edition every moment,  
and we need you to read it.

The good news is that you are alive,  
and the linden tree is still there,  
standing firm in the harsh Winter.

The good news is that you have wonderful eyes  
to touch the blue sky.

The good news is that your child is there before you,  
and your arms are available:

hugging is possible.  
They only print what is wrong.  
Look at each of our special editions.  
We always offer the things that are not wrong.  
We want you to benefit from them  
and help protect them.  
The dandelion is there by the sidewalk,  
smiling its wondrous smile,  
singing the song of eternity.  
Listen! You have ears that can hear it.  
Bow your head.  
Listen to it.  
Leave behind the world of sorrow  
and preoccupation  
and get free.  
The latest good news  
is that you can do it.  
~Thich Nhat Hanh

✧ **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 the Peace~



✧ **Opening Special Music Video**

[Light of A Clear Blue Morning - The Wailin' Jennys](#)

✧ **Gathering as God's People: Our Theme**

Our theme is "The Good News!" Over the next six weeks leading up to Lent, we will be exploring the Gospel of Luke. We will also delve into the Old Testament (or First Testament readings) which support the Gospel readings and help us more fully understand the wisdom teachings as we notice the connections between the two

readings - how they might be related and how they reveal and inform each other. For much of the time, the Gospel will be in conversation with words from the Prophets, Jeremiah and Isaiah.

The word, “gospel” comes from the Anglo-Saxon term, *god-spell*, meaning “good story,” which in both Greek and Latin are often translated as “good telling” or “good news.” There are many ways for us to think about good news - I think most of us would agree that we don’t get enough of it! The headlines, our Twitter feeds and social media accounts are often filled with bad news. In this case, New Testament authors use the term, “good news” to mean the news of salvation, or liberation from sin/brokenness, and separation from God. We are reminded throughout the wisdom teachings that God is not distant - even if we feel far away or removed, God is with us every step of the way. We only need to stay awake to God’s presence on our journey.

In this “Ordinary Time” leading up to the Lenten Season, let us worship in the spirit of Epiphany - attentive to how the Divine is manifesting in our lives and recognizing that we work hand in hand with the Holy One to live the Good News.

What might the Good News look like in your life? How might you recognize it beyond your own experience? In such challenging times, how do we honor the range of emotions and realities we are living and witnessing while preparing our hearts for liberation from such brokenness?



#### ✧Gathering Special Music Video

[How Can I Keep From Singing - Audrey Assad](#)

## ✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

A Blessing by Jan Richardson:

### “Sun Blessing”

That what it reveals  
we will have no cause  
to fear.

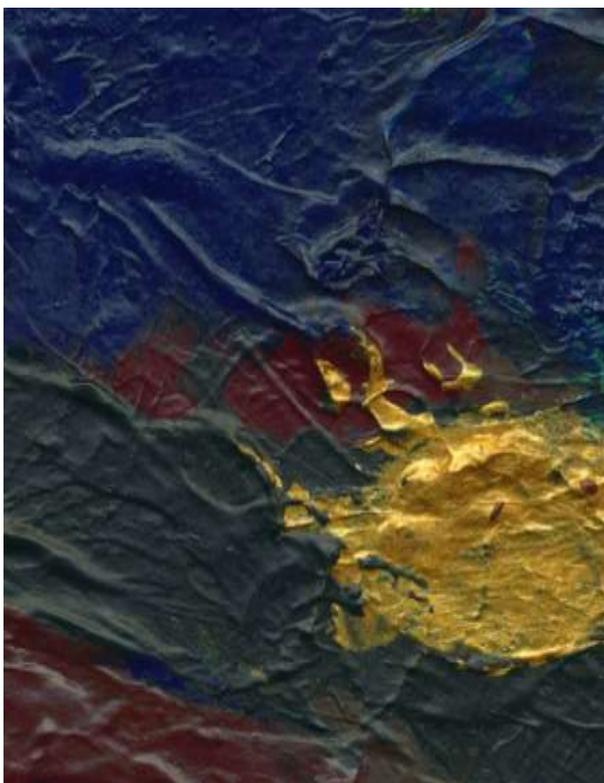
That what it illumines  
we will greet  
with joy.

That each place  
where it rises

will be at peace  
and every place  
where it sets  
will be at rest.

That we will bless  
what lives in its path.

That we will blaze  
with its gracious light.



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## ✧Sharing our Innermost Lives with God

(Based upon today's wisdom teaching Psalm 19)

Holy One, reveal to me your Good News. Bring your healing to all of the broken places within me and beyond me. Help me surrender to your rhythms and recognize the beauty of your way and of your creation. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.



As you tune into God within and surrounding you, lay down what you have been carrying. Ask for what you need. Focus your sacred attention on the moments of grace you have experienced or witnessed. Center down into the inmost calm that the Holy One provides.

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Bible Wisdom Teachings**

Psalm 19

✧ **Reflection Questions**

What have you witnessed in the natural world that awakens awe within you? Where do you find it easy to follow God's law and where do you struggle? When have you perceived God's voice or sensed God's presence?

Luke 4: 14-21

✧ **Reflection Questions**

What aspects of your life reveal where you are poor or captive, blind or oppressed? What do you need to hear and understand? Where are your blind spots? From what might you seek release?

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

All: **Thanks be to our God.**

## ✧Message

*“The Good News: Being Filled with the Power of the Spirit”*

Rev. Trish Eckert



## ✧Special Music Video

[I come with joy to meet my Lord | Hymn 304](#)

## ✧Sharing Our Wisdom

## ✧Affirming Our Faith with Intention...Our Prayer

All:

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one Triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth praying, “Come, Lord Jesus?” With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.**

## ✧A Moment of Quiet for Everyone

## ✧Community Prayers, Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer



### ✧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.**