



"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 30, 2021

9:30 a.m.

The Good News



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP
Fourth 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!***

“Starlings in Winter” by Mary Oliver

Chunky and noisy,  
but with stars in their black feathers,  
they spring from the telephone wire  
and instantly

they are acrobats  
in the freezing wind.  
And now, in the theater of air,  
they swing over buildings,

dipping and rising;  
they float like one stippled star  
that opens,  
becomes for a moment fragmented,

then closes again;  
and you watch  
and you try  
but you simply can't imagine

how they do it  
with no articulated instruction, no pause,  
only the silent confirmation  
that they are this notable thing,

this wheel of many parts, that can rise and spin  
over and over again,  
full of gorgeous life.

Ah, world, what lessons you prepare for us,  
even in the leafless winter,  
even in the ashy city.  
I am thinking now  
of grief, and of getting past it;

I feel my boots  
trying to leave the ground,  
I feel my heart  
pumping hard. I want

to think again of dangerous and noble things.  
I want to be light and frolicsome.  
I want to be improbable beautiful and afraid of nothing,  
as though I had wings.



## ✧ **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**

[Alicia Keys, Brandi Carlile - A Beautiful Noise \(Official Video\)](#)

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

Our theme is “The Good News!” In the weeks leading up to Lent, we will explore 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. This week we will hear from Jeremiah.

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 are hungry for good news! In this case, New Testament authors use the term, “good news” to mean the news of salvation, or liberation from sin/brokenness, and bringing us closer to 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 can build our capacity to stay awake and open up 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 aware that we work hand in hand with the Holy One to live the “good news.”

So, here are a few questions that we'll consider each time we gather in the coming weeks: 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 opening our hearts to the possibility of liberation from such brokenness?



✧ **Gathering Special Music Video**

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

✧ **Opening Ourselves to God's Grace**

**All: Loving God, we are here today to center ourselves within your presence. We are here to listen to your Word, to bring to you the concerns of our hearts, and to join together as a community. Speak to us; through Scripture, hymns, prayer and silence. Grant us ears to hear, hearts to listen, and lives prepared to follow your call to love. Amen**

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Holy One, reveal to us the obstacles that are blocking us from hearing one another, that are blinding us to what we need to see and understand, that shut us out from the love and grace that you offer us in all times and places. Guide us in our next steps and aid us in perceiving your call. Amen.





As you tune into the Divine presence both within and without, what is weighing you down or distracting you? Ask God 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**

Jeremiah 1:4-10

✧ **Reflection Questions**

Does God *know* each of us? Does God appoint everyone for some specific work? Have you ever experienced a call from God? What has supported you in following that leading and what has made it difficult?

Luke 4:21 - 30

✧ **Reflection Questions**

For the people gathered around Jesus in this text, what was so hard for them to hear? Can you imagine a different response (rather than rage) to Jesus' message? What might we need to hear from this wisdom teaching today?

One: May we hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our tradition.

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

✧Message

***“The Good News: The Gift and Call of Prophecy”***

Rev. Trish Eckert



✧Special Music Video

[The Gift of Love - Arr. Hal H. Hopson](#)

✧Sharing Our Wisdom

✧Affirming Our Faith with Intention...Our Prayer

**All: We celebrate God’s grace in worship, reflection, and action; nurture personal discipleship through education, prayer, and fellowship; and reach out with healing into a world seeking peace and justice. We welcome people of diverse backgrounds, lifestyles, beliefs, and relationships with God to join us on this journey.**

✧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.*

