



"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

February 20, 2021

9:30 a.m.

*The Good News*



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

**TODAY'S WORSHIP**  
*Seventh 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!***

✧ **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~**

The Bible Wisdom teachings this week center around the messages: “do not fret” and “love your enemies.” I don’t think either of these practices come easily to us! As I reflected on the readings, a prayer that has been attributed to Mother Teresa came to me - I wanted to share it with you here and then we can listen together to a version of it set to music by the Roche sisters, entitled “Anyway” on their album, “Zero Church”

## **Prayer**

People are often unreasonable and self-centered.

FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.

BE KIND ANYWAY.

If you are honest, people may cheat you.

BE HONEST ANYWAY.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous.

BE HAPPY ANYWAY.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

DO GOOD ANYWAY.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.

IT NEVER WAS

BETWEEN YOU AND THEM

ANYWAY.

## **✧Opening Special Music Video**

[Anyway](#)

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

We are exploring the theme, "The Good News" - also translated as gospel or glad tidings. A literal meaning of the good news is *the message that saves us*. To be "good news," it makes sense that a gospel would connect us to the transforming love of God. The good news reminds us of the nearness of God's kingdom and the potential of living into the kingdom here and now.

We continue with this theme throughout the month of February, leading into the Lenten season. The Gospel readings that are highlighted in the lectionary in this cycle come from Luke's Gospel. We have also been exploring the messages of the prophets and the psalmists while thinking about what Luke has to say. This week we will hear more from Jesus's "Sermon on the Plain" and consider that message while also listening to sections from Psalm 37, in which the psalmist reminds us to "trust in the Lord."



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.” May we each hear what we most need in this time, empowering us to put into action the loving and inclusive message revealed to us in our gathered worship.

Let us continue to consider the questions that we’ve been reflecting on throughout this theme: 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**

One: Come, God.

Come walk with your people,  
For you alone are our strength and glory,

**All: AND WE PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU.**

One: Come, God.

Come walk behind us, beside us, before us,  
for you alone are our shelter and direction.

**All: AND WE PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU.**

One: Come, God.

Come seek and find and put us right,  
for you alone are the light in our darkness,

**All: AND WE PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU.**

One: Come, God.

We know you are near.

The sound of your footsteps sets us dancing.

**All: HELP US TO PRAISE AND WORSHIP YOU.**

### ✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

God of Life, thank You for Your immense love. We ask You to open our hearts, enabling us to receive Your love more and more each day. Guide us to see more clearly the obstacles we create and the ways that we deflect Your love. Be with us and enfold us in Your healing embrace. Amen.



### ✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

Take this sacred moment to speak your heart to God and listen for the still, small voice. Ask for guidance. seek the opening within yourself that enables you to trust in the Divine and lay down your burdens.



Holy Spirit, may we hear and take in deeply your precious word for us today. May we grow in wisdom, strength, and love as we open our ears, our hearts, and our minds, to the transformative message you have in store for each of us. Amen.

✧ **Bible Wisdom Teachings**

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

✧ **Reflection Questions**

How might I release myself from chronic worrying? What would I do if I were not afraid? When have I failed to see my flaws and instead, attributed them to others?

Luke 6:27-38

✧ **Reflection Questions**

What helps me trust God and others, knowing that trust offers no guarantees or safety? How well have I been able to forgive myself for my past behavior? Is my inability to forgive myself interfering with my ability to forgive others? Do I pray that an act of forgiveness that today seems impossible for me may, one day, with God's help, become achievable?

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: Transformation Through Love and Forgiveness”***

Rev. Trish Eckert



✧ **Special Music Video**

[Love Divine, All Loves Excelling \(Grace Community Church\)](#)

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

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

**All: We believe**

**that God has revealed God's self as the one  
who wishes to bring about justice and true  
peace among people;**

**that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God  
of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;**

**that God calls the church to follow God in  
this; that God wishes to teach the church  
to do what is good and to seek the right;**

**that the church must therefore stand by people  
in any form of suffering and need,**

**which implies, among other things,**

**that the church must witness against and strive against  
any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

✧ **A Moment of Quiet for Everyone**

Help Me Listen

O Holy One,

I hear and say so many words,  
yet yours is the word I need.

Speak now,

and help me listen;

and, if what I hear is silence,

let it quiet me,

let it disturb me,

let it touch my need,

let it break my pride,

let it shrink my certainties,

let it enlarge my wonder.

## ✧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.***



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