



"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

March 13, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Freeing Jesus



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Lent

Preparing to Worship...

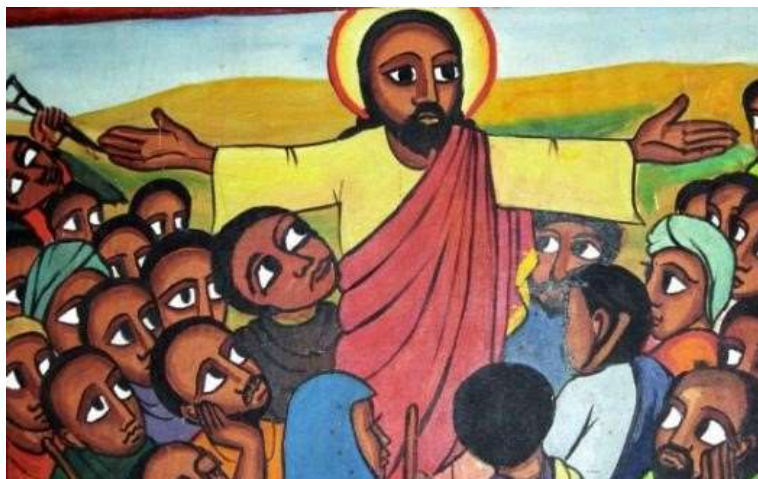


“Freeing Jesus”


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- ✧ **Prelude: Zo Trembly**
- ✧ **Welcome and community news**
- ✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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



*Mindful*

A full moon is visible in the upper right quadrant of the page, set against a twilight sky that transitions from a pale blue at the top to a darker blue near the horizon. The horizon line is visible in the lower third of the page, with the ocean surface below it.

Every day  
I see or hear  
something  
that more or less  
kills me  
with delight,  
that leaves me  
like a needle  
in the haystack  
of light.  
It is what I was born for—  
to look, to listen,  
to lose myself  
inside this soft world—  
to instruct myself  
over and over  
in joy,  
and acclamation.  
Nor am I talking  
about the exceptional,  
the fearful, the dreadful,  
the very extravagant—  
but of the ordinary,  
the common, the very drab,  
the daily presentations.  
Oh, good scholar,  
I say to myself,  
how can you help  
but grow wise  
with such teachings  
as these—  
the untrimmable light  
of the world,  
the ocean's shine,  
the prayers that are made  
out of grass?

—Mary Oliver

## ✧ **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**~



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

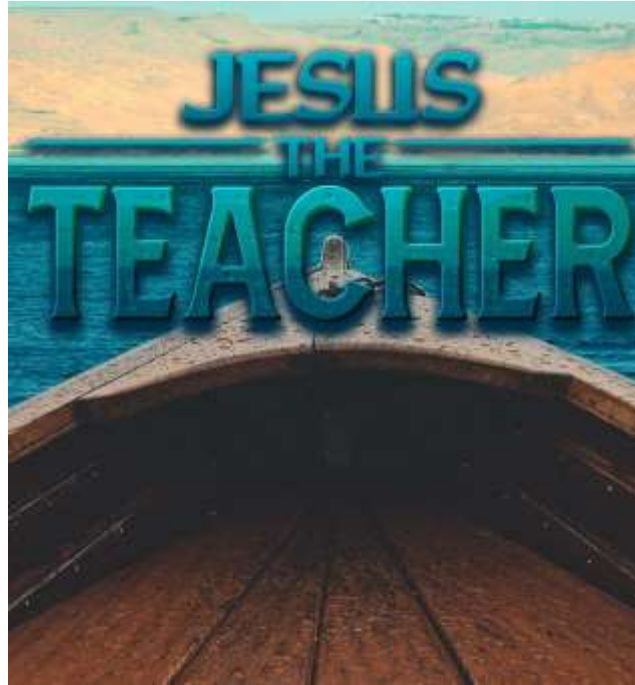
As we began to discuss last week, the theme, “Freeing Jesus” might be titled more accurately as “Freeing Ourselves.” Freeing ourselves from pre-conceptions about Jesus, freeing ourselves from old patterns, behaviors, ideas - and awakening to a more authentic and holistic relationship with the Divine, in which we see the many facets of who Jesus was and is and will become in our lives.

Today we will explore Jesus as teacher. Diana Butler Bass, the author of “Freeing Jesus,” points out, “Although Christians call Jesus by many names, those who knew him best mostly called him ‘teacher.’ Of the ninety or so times Jesus is addressed directly in the New Testament, roughly sixty refer to Jesus as ‘teacher,’ ‘rabbi,’ ‘great one,’ or ‘master’ (as in the British sense of ‘schoolmaster’).”

Throughout the Gospels, most of the action is centered around Jesus’s teaching - he teaches at the Temple, on a hillside, by a lake, in a field, by a campfire, at a dinner table, while at a wedding, and in the center of the city. He teaches individuals, his disciples, large crowds, small groups, his friends, and his adversaries. The one Bible story we have about his childhood involves him teaching in the Temple at the age of 12!

The next time we hear about Jesus, he is being baptized by John and immediately afterward he walks into a local synagogue and begins to teach. Of course, we know that his words upset everyone to the point of running him out of town, but teach, he did. Throughout his journey, we hear stories of him teaching all along the way, including teaching on the night before he was arrested and even while being tortured by the Romans. Jesus lived and died a teacher.

Some people feel that calling Jesus a teacher is overly simplistic and inadequate. But it happens that the word “teacher,” typically translated as “rabbi” or “rabbouni,” was a new - and even revolutionary term - in the first century. At that time, “rabbi” didn’t mean a Jewish clergyperson. It was just coming into use during Jesus’s time, referring to one whose teachings bore spiritual authority - a sage, a storyteller, an insightful interpreter of the Law, or a particularly wise elder.



✧ **Gathering Hymn: “Be Thou My Vision” #450**

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

Pastor: Incoming tide of God – cover my feet.

**All: I yield the direction of my life to You.**

Pastor: Incoming tide of God – cover my knees.

**All: I yield the rule of my life to you.**

Pastor: Incoming tide of God – cover my hands.

**All: I yield the shaping of my life to You.**

Pastor: Incoming tide of God – cover my heart.

**All: I yield the tending of my emotions to You.**

Pastor: Incoming tide of God – cover my head.

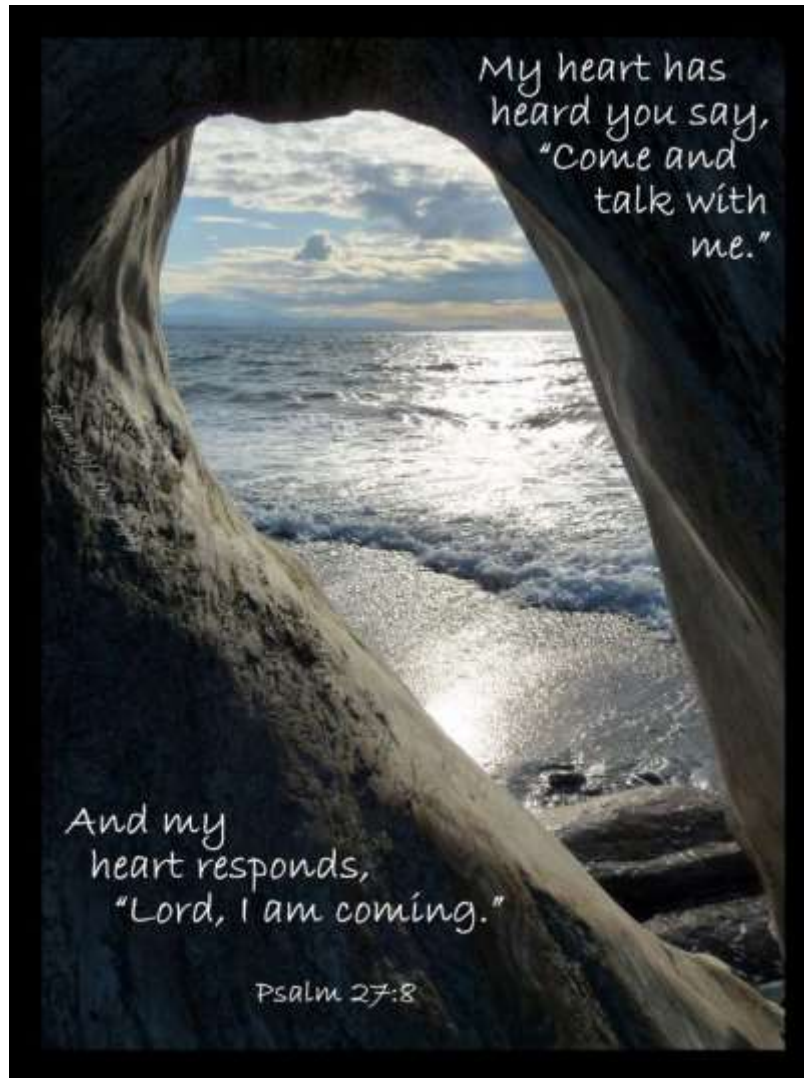
**All: I yield my need for control to You.**

Pastor: Incoming tide of God – overwhelm me.

**All: Carry me out into Your unimaginable depths.**

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

All-knowing God, You have so much to teach us. Sometimes we are eager to learn, at other times we are overwhelmed. Often, we depend on our assumptions rather than being open to revelation and deeper understanding. Help us take in new truths and insights. Guide us on our journey of learning, as we strive to put into action what you teach us. Reveal to us the wisdom of one another and build in us the capacity to truly see and hear what others have to teach us Amen.



In the company of this beloved community, let us intentionally sit in the lap of God. Open yourself to the things that have been difficult for you to learn. Let that pain and frustration dissipate. Through your mind's eye and rooted within your heart, ask God to reveal what is most important to your learning right now.

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

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

## ✧Bible Wisdom Teachings

Psalm 27:1, 7-11

### ✧Reflection Questions

What are the greatest sources of fear in your life? How do you maintain trust in God when God appears to be silent? When you ask God, “teach me your way,” what might that “way” look like in your life?

John 13:1-15

### ✧Reflection Questions

What is Jesus teaching us through his relationship with the disciples? Through his relationship with God? How might you live into Jesus’s example?

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

### *“Freeing Jesus: Our Teacher”*

Rev. Trish Eckert



✧Special Music: “Freeing Jesus” by Betsy Gonwa

✧Sharing Our Wisdom

✧Affirming Our Faith with Intention...Our Prayer

### **Organ side of Congregation:**

I believe in God, who places joy in our souls releasing sorrow.

I believe God places dancing in our toes and songs in our hearts honoring the fullness of life, whatever life may bring us.

I believe God is always with us; we are never alone.

I believe God wants justice to flow like a river of gladness and so creates a bountiful earth and peoples, providing plenty for all to share in a great banquet.

### **Pulpit side of Congregation:**

I believe in Jesus, who turns water into wine, parties with outcasts and sinners just like me, and touches the broken so we can leap and dance.

I believe Jesus shows us the way to bring God into our lives through the daily choices we make. I believe Jesus shows us how to believe, and how to trust in the timing and power of God's love and compassion.

I believe Jesus rolls away our "stones," opens doors, and sets an extra place so we can all feast.

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, who prompts us to both smile and to find release in tears.**

**I believe the Spirit nudges us toward openness and tenderness.**

**I believe the Spirit breathes new freedom into our hearts and souls.**

**I believe the Spirit is present every time we gather and is always urging us to look at ourselves humbly and live joyfully and walk hopefully.**

**I believe the Spirit continually sends us invitations to come and dine.**

**Forever filled, I will live in the embrace of God and be a witness to resurrection life. Thanks be to God...our three as One. Amen.**

**✧A Moment of Quiet for Everyone**

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

Eternal God, we pray for all the people and places that are caught in the machine of war. We pray for their safety, for their well-being, for their lives. At times we are like strangers on this earth, taken aback by all the violence, the harsh oppositions. Like a gentle breeze, you breathe upon us the Spirit of peace. Transfigure the deserts of our doubts, and so prepare us to be bearers of reconciliation wherever you place us, until the day when a hope of peace dawns in our world.

Holy Teacher, we struggle to learn what you repeatedly place before us: to love one another. Deliver us from cowardice that dares not face truth; laziness content with half-truth; or arrogance that thinks we know it all.



We ask for your guidance on our journey. Help us hear one another and strive to remain open to new learnings and truths. May we take in what we learn and let it shape our actions and spark our compassion. Show us where we are needed and reveal to us how to be present in the ways you call us to be. Amen.

And now we pray together as Jesus taught us:

**All:**

***Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother,  
Holy and blessed is your true name.  
We pray for your reign of peace to come,  
We pray that your good will be done,  
Let heaven and earth become one.  
Give us this day the bread we need,  
Give it to those who have none.  
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,  
From each one to each one.  
Lead us to holy innocence  
Beyond the evil of our days -  
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.  
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:  
Forever your name is All in One.***

(This version of the Lord's Prayer, written by Quaker author, Parker Palmer)



✧ **Benediction**

Go in peace and in love.  
Be filled, through all your being,  
with the fulness of God.

*Now that the worship has ended, may the service truly begin.*

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

Postlude: Zo Trembly



*Hear this service presented on TippeTalk podcast, link on our website & Facebook.*

<http://www.tippechurch.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TippecanoeChurch>