



"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 20, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Freeing Jesus



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP
Third Sunday of Lent

Preparing to Worship...



“Freeing Jesus”

~~~

- ✧ **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!***



*the*  
guest  
house

This being human is a guest house.  
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
some momentary awareness comes  
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!  
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,  
who violently sweep your house  
empty of its furniture,  
still, treat each guest honorably.  
He may be clearing you out  
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,  
meet them at the door laughing,  
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,  
because each has been sent  
as a guide from beyond.

by rumi



✧ **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 – *Freeing Jesus: Our Savior***



I am grateful for the opportunity to have the author, Diana Butler Bass, walk us through these different versions or descriptions of Jesus; enabling us to think more intentionally about our experiences of Jesus and how we want to show up in our own lives and in our relationship with Jesus. This seems an especially meaningful practice as we move through the Lenten season.

Diana Butler Bass points out that, “Savior” may be the most common term that Christians use to describe Jesus - this is especially true in Protestant churches where the emphasis on Jesus as the One who saves us from sin and death is a primary focus. Interestingly, though, “Savior” appears only twice in the gospels to describe Jesus.

For many of us, there is so much painful history connected to describing Jesus as our Savior. Often, this language includes a lot of shame, blame, and guilt. It emphasizes our brokenness and the likelihood that we’ll never get it right enough or be good enough.

There is no question that we are flawed, that we struggle, that we hurt one another, that we fail. It is important that we recognize that, name it, and own it – yet there is a tipping point where we can get so caught up in our failings that we can’t move forward, that we can’t pick ourselves up and try again; becoming so bogged down with shame that instead we just continue to flail around and hurt ourselves and everyone around us.

Often, when we hear the language of sin and being saved, we recoil, rather than digging deeper for the meaning of these words. We might even shut down to the point that we just go into denial, ignoring our mistakes, refusing to take responsibility for the things we have said and done that are misguided and hurtful.

So, I am inviting us into accepting and acknowledging that we are sinners – that we make mistakes, that we are human – and that there is always room to learn, that grace shows up in our lives, that we can try again and strive to be our better selves. I propose that we take the sting out of this language and instead, embrace it and embrace ourselves. How might we turn off the shame and stay awake to the times when we miss the mark?

As we gather this morning, I welcome all of us into this space to journey together.

Welcome, sinners!  
This space is for all of us:  
for healing  
and hope,  
for transformation  
and proclamation,  
for fertilization  
and bearing fruit.  
Our God is the God  
of second chances.  
Let us worship the Lord our God!



✧ **Gathering Hymn: “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” #187**

## ✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

Pastor: Come, God.  
Come walk with your people,  
for you alone are our strength and glory.

**All: And we put our trust in You.**

Pastor: 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.**

Pastor: 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.**

Pastor: 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

Loving Mystery, in our struggle to make sense of You, we assign meaning to words that do damage to ourselves and to our communities. We ask for your saving grace. Guide us in self-understanding and show us the way toward compassion. Save us from the wilderness of disconnection. Reveal to us the path that brings us closer to You. Amen.





I invite us now into a few minutes of quiet. Our gathered community enables us to become even more aware of the Divine presence. Enter the sacred awareness of God's accompaniment as you seek understanding and connection.

### ✧ **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**

Luke 2:8-11

### ✧ **Reflection Questions**

In these days, what within you needs saving? When have you been saved by others? How might you be the one who saves someone else?

John 4:39-42

### ✧ **Reflection Questions**

How does the Savior of the world show up in our lives? What does Jesus invite us into? What are some things that we can trust in because of our own personal experience?

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 Savior”***

Rev. Trish Eckert



✧ **Special Music: “Freeing Jesus” by Betsy Gonwa (verses 2 & 3)**

✧ **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. Amen.**

✧ **A Moment of Quiet for Everyone**



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



Loving God, we lift up in prayer all the people and situations that were named by this beloved community today. We are grateful that you also know all that we carry in our hearts and have not put into words because these also long for your presence and attention.

God, our creator,  
You made all things in Your wisdom,  
and in Your love, You save us.

We pray for the whole creation.

We pray for one another, we pray for our communities, we pray for our leaders and for our world.

Show your steadfast love, comfort the weary, protect those in harm's way, and reveal to us the ways that we can help and heal this broken world. Build in us the capacity to attend to one another as you would have us do. Amen.

And now let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

**All:**

**Our Father, who is in heaven,**

**Hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

✧ **Benediction**

On each threshold, wisdom  
at every doorway, love  
through every entry, grace  
with each beginning, peace



*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>