



"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 27, 2022

9:30 a.m.

*Freeing Jesus*



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

**TODAY'S WORSHIP**  
*Fourth 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!***

**A Blessing:**

*Blessing in the Chaos*

To all that is chaotic  
in you,  
let there come silence.  
Let there be  
a calming  
of the clamoring,  
a stilling  
of the voices that  
have laid their claim

on you,  
that have made their  
home in you,

that go with you  
even to the  
holy places  
but will not  
let you rest,  
will not let you  
hear your life

with wholeness  
or feel the grace  
that fashioned you.

—Jan Richardson  
from *The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of  
Blessings for Times of Grief*

Let what distracts you  
cease.  
Let what divides you  
cease.  
Let there come an end  
to what diminishes  
and demeans,  
and let depart  
all that keeps you  
in its cage.

Let there be  
an opening  
into the quiet  
that lies beneath  
the chaos,  
where you find  
the peace  
you did not think  
possible  
and see what shimmers  
within the storm.



Image: “Stories Move in Circles“  
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### ✧ **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**~

### ✧ **And the Children Will Lead the Way: Kids' Time**

## ✧Gathering as God's People: Our Theme – *Freeing Jesus: Our Lord*



Throughout Lent, we've been taking the opportunity to reflect on our lives, our relationships, our practices – contemplating how to better align our *doing* with our *being*.

The ultimate question asked repeatedly of Jesus throughout the Gospels is: "Who are you?" My sense is that if we examine that question, we might be better equipped to be in full relationship with Jesus.

We are exploring this question with the help of Diana Butler Bass's book, "Freeing Jesus," alongside the Bible Wisdom teachings and through our journey together - experiencing Jesus anew.

This week, we peel back the layers of *Jesus our Lord*. As has been the case with several of the names describing Jesus, "Lord" might bring up images or experiences for you that are difficult. "Lord" might be yet another potentially loaded term with plenty of baggage. As we've discussed these past weeks, uncovering language, context, and meaning, enables us to reclaim these words, or at least consider with fresh eyes whether a particular description or experience of Jesus provides you an entry point for a more intimate relationship with the Divine.

The word "Lord" indicates power, authority, hierarchy, ownership. Other words that are often used in exchange for "Lord," are: master, king, liege (and many other words that indicate royalty or nobility). We will attempt to unpack this, and in the meantime, I want us to be aware of the power of this language in relation to Jesus.



Diana Butler Bass's tells us, "...'Lord' held multiple meanings in the biblical world, meanings that were personal political, and theological, and expanded as a term to include multiple ways in which believers experienced Jesus." She notes that the Greek term for Lord, *kyrios*, was used so often in the New Testament that we as modern readers just take that language as a given. "Yet," she writes, "*kyrios* was a startling word to describe a wandering miracle-working rabbi. 'Lord,' 'master,' 'ruler,' 'God' – all *kyrios*, each signifying one who holds dominion over the lives and fates of those under his sway. 'Jesus is Lord' was subversive and empowering, a form of submission one could choose in a world of otherwise little choice, a way of life that resulted in finding oneself by giving oneself totally and unreservedly to this crucified Jewish peasant *kyrios*."

As we discover new understandings of Jesus, we come to better understand ourselves.

### ✧Gathering Hymn: "Fairest Lord Jesus" #630

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

**All: Lord Jesus, merciful and all-sufficient One, in every need, small or great, tangible or intangible, give me the discernment to discover Your extravagant gifts of grace, the wisdom to receive them, the eagerness to open them and the passion to cherish them well. Give me eyes to see and a heart to fully enjoy with gratitude each blessing You have prepared for me today, for this very moment, and may I thrill to Your every advance of love.**

#### ✧Sharing our Innermost Lives with God

Lord Jesus, 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 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**

Philippians 2:1-11

### ✧ **Reflection Questions**

How might I share in the Spirit with others? When do I struggle to be mindful of the interests and needs of others? What enables me to share love more fully?

Luke 6: 46-49

### ✧ **Reflection Questions**

What makes up the strong foundation of my life? In what areas have I built on shifting sands? How might I build a stronger foundation and connect more deeply with myself, with others, and with the Divine?

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 Lord”***

Rev. Trish Eckert



## ✧Special Music: “Freeing Jesus” by Betsy Gonwa (verses 1 & 2)

### Introduction:

*People used to think You lived up in the sky.  
Didn't expect to see You walking at their side.  
Don't let us box you in with what we believe.  
Help us to grow so we can set You free.*

### Chorus:

*A whole new way to see  
A whole new way to be  
The journey us calls us onward and  
inward too  
We learn to see ourselves anew  
And we rediscover you*

*You are our Lord and we put you first  
And live counter to our culture  
And we rediscover you  
And we see ourselves anew*

### Verse 1:

*Your way is relationship  
Your way is love  
To live in community is what You want for us.*

### Chorus:

*A whole new way to see  
A whole new way to be  
The journey us calls us onward and  
inward too  
We learn to see ourselves anew  
And we rediscover you*

*You are our Lord and we put you first  
And live counter to our culture  
And we rediscover you  
And we see ourselves anew*

### Verse 2:

*Each name reflects the path we walk into knowing you more deeply  
Whether day or night you're right beside us guiding us along*

### Chorus:

*A whole new way to see  
A whole new way to be  
The journey calls us onward and  
inward too  
We learn to see ourselves anew  
And we rediscover you*

*You are our Lord and we put you first  
And live counter to our culture  
And we rediscover you  
And we see ourselves anew*

## ✧Sharing Our Wisdom



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

**All:** Called to be thankful: 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**

Loving God, let us pray for all the world. Guide us in attending to the pain and sorrow, reveal to us the ways we compound the hurt, and accompany us in the struggle. And now let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

**All: Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation.**

**May your reign be a reality here on earth.**

**May we become more interested in building your kin-dom here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above.**

**Let us share our bread with those who hunger.**

**Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness.**

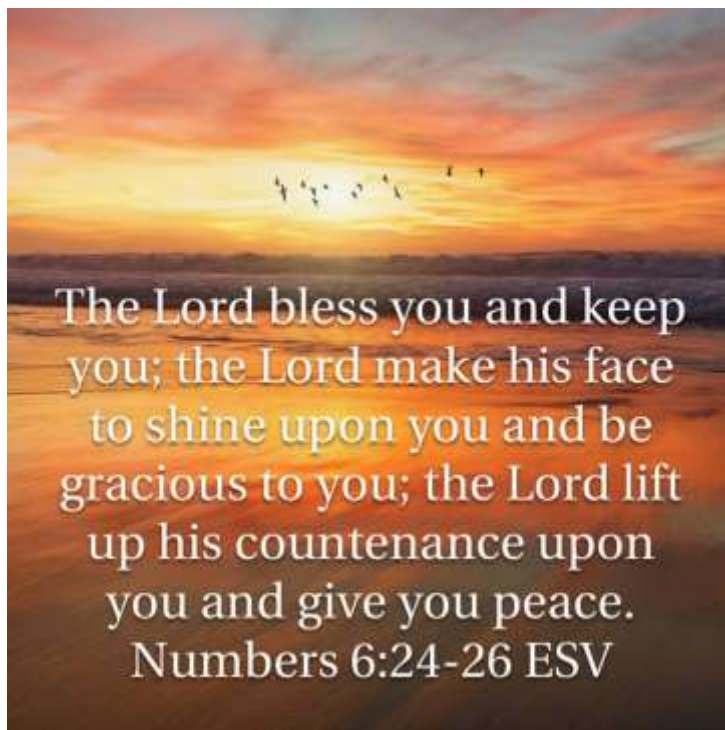
**Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil.**

**For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth. Amen.**

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## ✧Benediction



*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

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