



"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

April 3, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Freeing Jesus



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP
Fifth 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 Poem to Center Ourselves in this Moment-**  
**“What You Won’t Hear on Cable News,” by Carrie Newcomer:**

## What You Won't Hear On Cable News

I want to tell you  
What you won't hear on cable news.  
About a young woman in the airport  
Who was so exhausted and harried  
By hours of delay  
And wrangling an overtired toddler  
That when her little boy  
Finally and completely  
Melted down  
And planted himself on the floor,  
She sat down beside him  
And started to cry.

I want to tell you about five random women  
Who immediately flowed in from all directions.  
One pulled out a little toy from her purse,  
One offered a snack or to go get something to drink,  
One who called the child "Honey"  
Wiped his nose with a tissue  
And offered another one to the grateful mother.  
And the one who asked if it was alright  
To walk hand in hand with the child  
Right there at the gate,  
Close by and always, always in sight.  
I want to tell you about a man  
Who makes soup and bread  
And then gives it away.  
And the nurse who held his hand  
When he was breathless and afraid.

I want to tell you about my neighbor  
Who drives around all winter  
With snow chains in his car  
Just in case someone needs help.

I want to tell you about all the people I meet  
Who keep extending themselves,  
And braving the risk  
Of being told  
It's none of their business.  
Who offer a hand,  
Or a bit of encouragement,  
Or a couple of bucks.  
Who will walk a fussy child around the gate.  
Because it is the kind thing to do.

I want to tell you the world still turns  
Every single day  
On an axis of goodness  
And unexpected grace  
That shows up without fanfare  
And often where we least expect to find it.

By Carrie Newcomer

From *Until Now: New Poems*

❖ **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: Way*



A CHOICE ©2017 Lauren Wright Pittman <http://www.lewpstudio.com/devotionalart/a-choice-2017>

“Jesus offers us a layered and complicated choice, one that is as complex as his own dualistic nature. The first option is self-denial, a heavy burden, and a lost—but saved—life. The second is gaining the whole world but forfeiting life. It’s easy for a seasoned Christian to take this choice for granted. This choice that Jesus calls us into may even seem like a no brainer, but in this moment, Jesus teaches of the terrors that will befall him and invites the crowd to knowingly face that path alongside him. If we’re honest, it is extremely difficult to reject the tempting power and wealth this world has to offer and allow our life to take the shape of good news for all.

The choice isn’t an obvious one. One side looks like an opulent pile of riches, a crown, and endless power, while the other looks like tattered and worn hands with new life blooming out of wounds, work, burdens, and relationships. This choice may seem like a distant decision made long ago, but it’s a decision to be made every single day, one moment at a time. In working for and with the downtrodden, poor, orphaned, widowed, ostracized, and oppressed, we will find ourselves.”

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 as Way*. Thinking through the potential meanings of “way” offers us a rich opportunity to search our own understandings - at both the head and the heart level - and pay attention to how we perceive Jesus when we look through the lens of “the way.”

Diana Butler Bass observes, “Throughout the New Testament, Jesus invites people to follow him, to walk with him, to go on a journey. There is nothing particularly new in this, as the Hebrew scriptures are full of stories of wanderers, pilgrims, exiles, and immigrants.” Throughout the Bible, as well as other wisdom literature, sacred texts, fairy tales, and even in our popular culture, we hear stories about the journey, the path, the odyssey, the passage. (Remember all those road trip movies you've seen!?! ) These stories ignite our imaginations, open our hearts, and enable us to envision how we might navigate our own sojourn.



The word, “way,” might trigger the assumption that there is THE way - one particular way, - rather than “A” way... As we have discussed over these past weeks, uncovering language, context, and meaning, empowers 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.

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

✧**Gathering Hymn: “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” #618**

✧**Opening Ourselves to God’s Grace**

**All: God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise.**

**Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth,**

**through Jesus our Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, and Way. Amen**

✧**Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Holy One, we realize that there are many routes to the top of the mountain. Continue to reveal to us the ways you show up in our lives and the paths available to us on the journey. We seek connection with you, with one another, and with ourselves. Lead us along the way.



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

Psalm 86:8-12

### ✧Reflection Questions

How do I move, like the psalmist, from being desperate and discouraged to praise and hope? How do I walk a purposeful path amidst the twists and turns? Where might I find wholeness when my heart feels divided? (*Questions adapted from Sara Zallar's exploration of Psalm 86.*)

John 14:1-7

### ✧Reflection Questions

Do I notice where the sacred dwells? How might I release fear and embrace love? What *way* might Jesus be revealing to me?

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: Way”***

Rev. Trish Eckert



✧**Special Music: “Freeing Jesus” by Betsy Gonwa (verses 1 & 3)**

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:

|                                           |                                    |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>A whole new way to see</i>             | <i>You are the Way and we know</i> |
| <i>A whole new way to be</i>              | <i>You show us the way to go</i>   |
| <i>The journey us calls us onward and</i> | <i>And we rediscover you</i>       |
| <i>inward too</i>                         | <i>And we see ourselves anew</i>   |
| <i>We learn to see ourselves anew</i>     |                                    |
| <i>And we rediscover you</i>              |                                    |

Verse 1:

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

Chorus:

|                                           |                                    |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>A whole new way to see</i>             | <i>You are the Way and we know</i> |
| <i>A whole new way to be</i>              | <i>You show us the way to go</i>   |
| <i>The journey us calls us onward and</i> | <i>And we rediscover you</i>       |
| <i>inward too</i>                         | <i>And we see ourselves anew</i>   |
| <i>We learn to see ourselves anew</i>     |                                    |
| <i>And we rediscover you</i>              |                                    |

Verse 3:

*Here we go again! Why wonder, when does it end?  
As long as I'm alive, I won't arrive, just keep beginning again.*

Chorus:

|                                        |                                    |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>A whole new way to see</i>          | <i>You are the Way and we know</i> |
| <i>A whole new way to be</i>           | <i>You show us the way to go</i>   |
| <i>The journey calls us onward and</i> | <i>And we rediscover you</i>       |
| <i>inward too</i>                      | <i>And we see ourselves anew</i>   |
| <i>We learn to see ourselves anew</i>  |                                    |
| <i>And we rediscover you</i>           |                                    |

✧**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.

✧ **A Moment of Quiet for Everyone**



✧ **Community Prayers and the Pastoral Prayer**

Creator God, we know that you are with us everywhere and in every moment, yet we struggle to remain awake to this truth and to the possibilities you provide. We know that you attend to the many people, places, and circumstances that call for aid and seek your grace.

Hear our prayers, God of grace, and help us to fulfill them, working according to your purpose, in peace, justice, and mercy, in all we do – through Jesus the Christ.

This morning, O God, your voice sounds into our lives again. We are grateful to hear your call, for on many mornings we hear other voices—voices urging us to care only about ourselves; voices urging us to serve other gods: our work, our bank accounts, our egos, our peer groups, our ideologies.

By the end of the week, we feel trapped in our anxiety, our work, our spending, our need for control, and our excuses. And then we hear your voice again, calling us to your healing care, to your spacious freedom, to your giving humility. We come to rest and be fed. Call us to your freeing love again. Feed us now, God of our strength. Amen.

### ✧ **Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread** **Communion of the People**



Jesus prepares the way and beckons us to embrace the journey.

*Jesus assures:* “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?” (John 14: 1-2)

*Jesus proclaims:* “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” (John 14: 6a)

*Jesus invites:* “I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.” (John 10: 9)

#### Welcome

Lent reveals the liminal space of beginnings and endings, of life and of death. The Lenten season is a period of prayer, reflection, and preparation, building in us the capacity to seek a deeper journey and a more intimate relationship with Jesus. Today we gather to celebrate and bear witness to Jesus Christ, the living Word, and proclaim the mystery of our faith. We come to the table in search of the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right and good that together we lift up Your name as holy, O God, Giver of New and Renewed Life! Always active, ever watchful, You keep Your promise even when we lose sight of all that you provide us. We fail to trust, we become distracted, we hurt one another and harm Your creation. Yet, You claim us as Your very own in this life and all time to come. You make a way where there is no way, through your beloved Son.

Lord Jesus, we are grateful that you walked among us to show us the way toward wholeness. Through your life, ministry, death, and resurrection, you manifest the love poured out for us and the love that we are called to share with the world.

Abiding Spirit, you provide glimpses of the Christ among us every day, joining us together as the Body of Christ.

Through your powerful love and abiding presence, draw us into Christ's presence, and may we also be present to one another as we share in this holy meal of bread and cup.

Gracious God,  
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break  
and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
that we may be one with all who share this feast,  
united in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

We join our voices as one, praying as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread

Jesus said:

Come to me,  
all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

In fellowship and at table, Jesus again revealed to the disciples what was to come through his life, death, and resurrection. He took bread, blessed it, and broke it. Then he gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

He then took up the cup, blessed the juice of the vine and gave it to the disciples, saying, Drink of the cup of life, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Pastor: Come, let's share in the feast of new and everlasting life!

**All: We are ready. The Table is set. And we remember. Your Spirit is life.  
Through this faithful act of communing, You join us more deeply to  
Yourself, to Your people here and to all Your people. In deepest gratitude,  
we imbibe grace!**

*You are invited to come forward to celebrate in the Lord's Supper. Please bring your worship elements with you if you haven't already placed them on the worship table.*

Communion of the People

### Prayer after Communion

Holy One, we walk the path trusting that You will show us the way. May we awaken to Your invitation to life, sustained on the journey by this meal and nurtured by this gathering. May we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Liturgy adapted from PCSUA resources

The Book of Common Worship  
The Directory of Worship  
and online PCUSA materials

### ✧ **Benediction**

Let us go forth, ever mindful of the love God provides and the paths that God reveals. May we follow the way before us. Amen.



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*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.*

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