



"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 10, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Freeing Jesus



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP
Palm Sunday

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 for Palm Sunday**

*Blessing of Palms*

This blessing  
can be heard coming  
from a long way off.

This blessing  
is making  
its steady way  
up the road  
toward you.

This blessing  
blooms in the throats  
of women  
springs from the hearts  
of men  
tumbles from the mouths  
of children.

This blessing  
is stitched into  
the seams  
of the cloaks

that line the road,  
etched into  
the branches  
that trace the path,  
echoes in the  
breathing of the willing colt,  
the click of the donkey's hoof  
against the stones.

Something is rising  
beneath this blessing.  
Something will try  
to drown it out.

But this blessing  
cannot be turned back,  
cannot be made  
to still its voice,  
cannot cease  
to sing its praise  
of the one who comes  
along the way  
it makes.  
—Jan Richardson

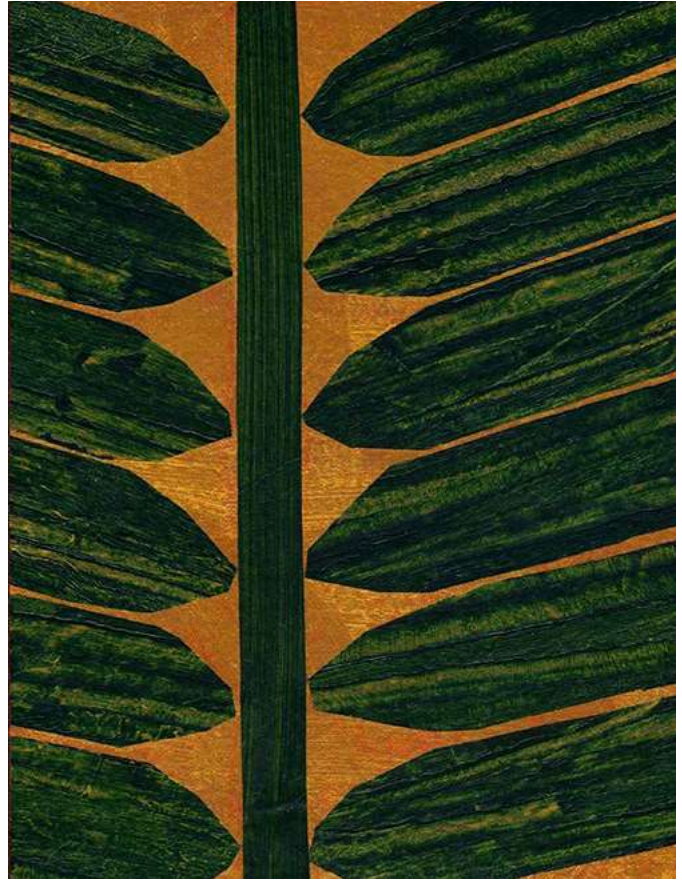


Image: *Where the Way Leads* © Jan Richardson

✧ **CELEBRATING WITH THE PALMS**  
**Walking the path of Jesus**

✧ **Celebratory Hymn: “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” #197**

✧ **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: Presence*



Yongsung Kim "HAND OF GOD" - Art Print - *Jesus Reaching Hand into Water*  
[HTTPS://YONGSUNGKIMART.COM/](https://yongsungkimart.com/)

This Lenten season we have reflected on our lives, our relationships, our practices – considering how to better align our *doing* with our *being*. Now here we are on Palm Sunday, preparing for Holy Week, a time to walk through the story of Jesus's final days and the celebration of the resurrection of the Christ, on Easter Sunday.

The ultimate question asked repeatedly of Jesus throughout the Gospels is: "Who are you?" Contemplating this multi-faceted question opens us to a deeper 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. We strive to walk the path with humility as we listen deeply to one another and to the still, small voice within.

This week, we peel back the layers of *Jesus as Presence*. We can think about presence in at least two ways:

- In thinking about "freeing Jesus" through the lens of "presence," we are naming the companionship and accompaniment of Jesus
- Through being mindful ourselves, we remain present to what is unfolding around us and within us

How are we present to one another? In relationships, in caring for one another, in making a home and moving through the mundane tasks of our lives that support one another's health and safety – these are just some of the ways that we are present. The theologian Grace Ji-Sun Kim writes, “The Christian faith is different from what the world teaches. The Christian faith is not ‘seeing is believing,’ but rather, ‘believing is seeing.’ We must open our eyes and hearts and see Jesus’s presence in our lives. We need to see him in the places that we dare not to look and dare not to think about.”

As we have discussed over throughout Lent, 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.

### ✧ **Opening Ourselves to God’s Grace – “Come Among Us, Jesus”**

Come among us, Jesus,  
You whom the angels worship and children welcome.

**ALL: COME, JESUS, AND MEET US HERE.**

Come among us, Jesus,  
You who hurled the stars into space  
and shaped the spider’s weaving.

**ALL: COME, JESUS, AND MEET US HERE.**

Come among us, Jesus,  
You who walked the long road to Bethlehem  
and lit a flame that dances forever.

**ALL: COME, JESUS, AND MEET US HERE.**

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

Creator God, reveal to us the path that you would have us walk. Grow in us, through our brokenness, the compassion that this world so desperately needs. Help us mine for the treasures in the darkness and to recognize the divine in one another. Amen.



I invite us now into a few minutes of quiet. May we acknowledge both the joy and the sorrow that arises in our own lives, abounds in the world around us, and is woven into the path that Jesus walks throughout Holy Week. Take time to name what you are navigating and what you are witnessing in these days. Enter the sacred hush and leave your burdens with God.

#### ✧ **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**

What might it mean for me to be of the same mind with others? With Jesus? What can I do that would enable me look to the interests of others?

##### **Luke 19:28-40**

#### ✧ **Reflection Questions**

How can I walk alongside Jesus? How can I remain present when on the path of suffering? What would it take to hear the stones shouting?

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: Presence”**

Rev. Trish Eckert



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

*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 the Way and we know  
You show us the way to go  
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 us calls us onward and  
inward too  
We learn to see ourselves anew  
And we rediscover you*

*You are the Way and we know  
You show us the way to go  
And we rediscover you  
And we see ourselves anew*

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:

*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 the Way and we know  
You show us the way to go  
And we rediscover you  
And we see ourselves anew*

### ✧Sharing Our Wisdom

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

**All: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

#### ✧A Moment of Quiet for Everyone



#### ✧Hymn # 466 Come and Fill Our Hearts



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

Ever-Present God, we are so grateful to you as we gather together and hold one another in prayer. Reveal to us how to continue to grow and nurture this community. Watch over us and comfort and keep the many people and situations that need your loving care. As you hear our prayers we ask that you help us to fulfill them, working according to your purpose, in peace, justice, and mercy, in all we do – through Jesus the Christ.

Precious Lord, we enter the gates with you now. So many times you have walked with us in our trials. It is we who walk with you in this moment. They will turn on you. We pray that we shall not. Give us courage to leave our silence behind, knowing that if we were silent, the stones would shout! Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father,  
Perfect Love,  
We turn again to You.

Guide us;  
help us to love,

so that Your Will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day  
that which we need.  
Fill us with hope and trust.

Help us to forgive  
our brothers and sisters  
(and ourselves as well);

and to look on them  
as you look on us.

Give us strength to resist temptation.  
When we are tempted, let us choose peace.

Deliver us from our fears.

For what You love is safe.

And your love remains  
forever and always. Amen.

## ✧Benediction

Passing from joy into sorrow and on to elation,  
we come to Christ this holy week.

Today is only a part of the story.  
Jesus' triumph leads to his death,  
his death to his resurrection.

May the journey of this week lead you  
into the fullness of Christ's love.



*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 Tippe Talk podcast, link on our website & Facebook.*

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

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