



"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

May 15, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Preparing to Worship...



“Sacred and Desecrated”

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✧ **Prelude: Zo Trembley**

✧ **Welcome and community news**

- Tippe is hosting a Town Hall with Sen. Larson, Rep. Sinicki, and Rep. Brostoff. Open to the greater community. A great way to know more so you can be the citizen you are called to be in your faith. May 17th 6-7:30pm in the sanctuary.

✧ **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**

**“Twice Blessed” ~ David Whyte**

So that I stopped  
there  
and looked  
into the waters  
seeing not only  
my reflected face  
but the great sky  
that framed  
my lonely figure  
and after a moment  
I lifted my hands

and then my eyes  
and I allowed myself  
to be astonished  
by the great  
everywhere  
calling to me  
like an old  
and unspoken  
invitation,  
made new  
by the sun

and the spring,  
and the cloud  
and the light,  
like something  
both  
calling to me  
and radiating  
from where I stood,  
as if I could  
understand  
everything  
I had been given  
and everything ever  
taken from me,  
as if I could be  
everything I have ever  
learned  
and everything  
I could ever know,  
as if I knew  
both the way I had come  
and, secretly,  
the way

underneath  
I was still  
promised to go,  
brought together,  
like this, with the  
unyielding ground  
and the symmetry  
of the moving sky,  
caught in still waters.

Someone I have been,  
and someone  
I am just,  
about to become,  
something I am  
and will be forever,  
the sheer generosity  
of being loved  
through loving:  
the miracle reflection  
of a twice blessed life.



✧ **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**



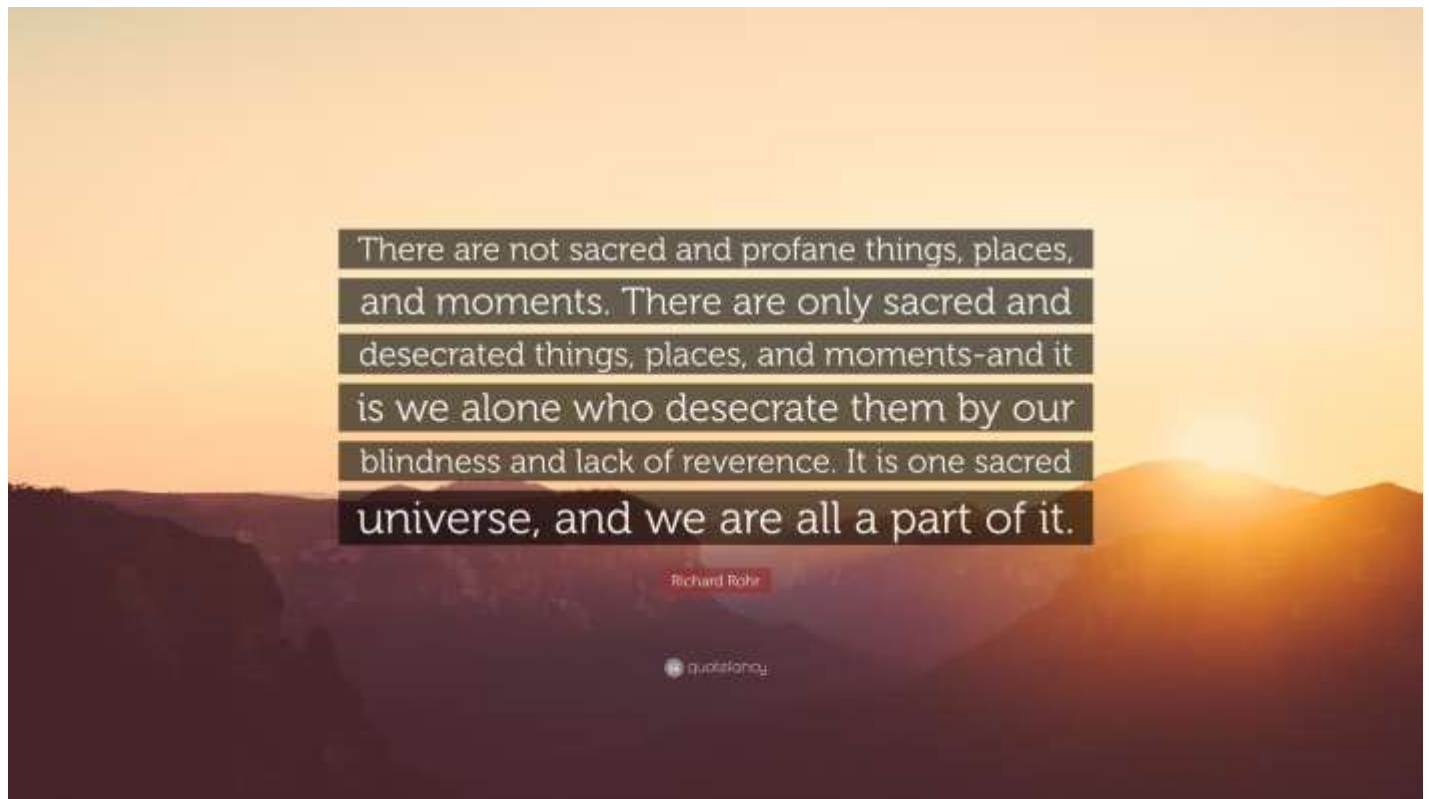
✧ **Gathering as God's People: Our Theme**

In this Easter season, we are exploring the theme of "both/and." Throughout Eastertide we witness in our own lives and in the story of the risen Christ, death and rebirth, stillness and movement, sorrow and joy. Amid these experiences, it seems an appropriate time to listen to and watch for what appear to be opposites. Upon a closer look, often we come to recognize what seems disconnected is actually related, and when we attempt to categorize things, we find that they rarely fit neatly into a box. The Bible Wisdom Teachings provide us opportunities to consider the breadth and depth of experience in fresh ways; expanding our awareness beyond dualistic thinking and finding approaches that engage a fuller reality rather than solely looking through the lenses of either/or.

In Richard Rohr's blog for the Center for Action and Contemplation, last fall he posted about "Seeing Things as They Truly Are." In it, he wrote, "Francis of Assisi knew that the finite manifests the infinite, and the physical is the doorway to the spiritual. If we can accept this foundational principle we call 'incarnation,' then all we need is right here and right now—in *this* world. *This* is the way to *that!* Heaven includes earth and earth includes heaven. There are not sacred and profane things, places, and moments. There are only sacred and *desecrated* things, places, and moments—and it is *we alone* who desecrate them by our lack of insight and reverence. It is one sacred universe, and we are all a part of it. In terms of a spiritual vision, we really cannot get any better or simpler than that."

Rohr went on to observe, "The intimate link between creation and incarnation revealed to Francis that the whole of creation is the place to encounter God. As his eyes opened to the holiness of creation, he came to see that there is nothing trivial or worthless. Rather, all created things point beyond themselves to their Creator. . . ."

May we spend the coming weeks together as a community, seeking a more expansive understanding and considering practices that build in us the capacity to embrace the possibilities within and around us. I invite each of us to pay attention to the range of experiences and feelings that arise for us in the coming week and note how often we are given the opportunity to consider the fullness or wholeness of what shows up, even as we are tempted to see things dualistically.



✧Gathering Hymn 288 Spirit of the Living God

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

**All: Loving and caring God, we come this morning seeking wisdom and guidance for our lives. Open us to your words of life and love and truth. May we proclaim with our tongues what we know in our hearts. In this time of worship, help us more fully understand what it means to truly be a disciple, a follower of the way of Jesus, a follower of the path of wisdom. May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, our rock, and our redeemer. Amen.**

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Alpha and Omega,  
you make your home with us,  
you dry our tears and quench our thirst,  
you are the tender love  
that welcomes all people.  
Like a mother,  
you nurture your children,  
giving them life,  
teaching them to love.  
Come and dwell among us,  
and make all things new. Amen.



Let us enter 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**

**John 13:31-35**

✧ **Reflection Questions**

How do I remain aware that I am one of God's children? How might I maintain the deep knowing that everyone is a child of God? When do I feel challenged to follow this new commandment to love?

**Acts 11:1-18**

(“The Message” translation from Eugene Peterson)

✧ **Reflection Questions**

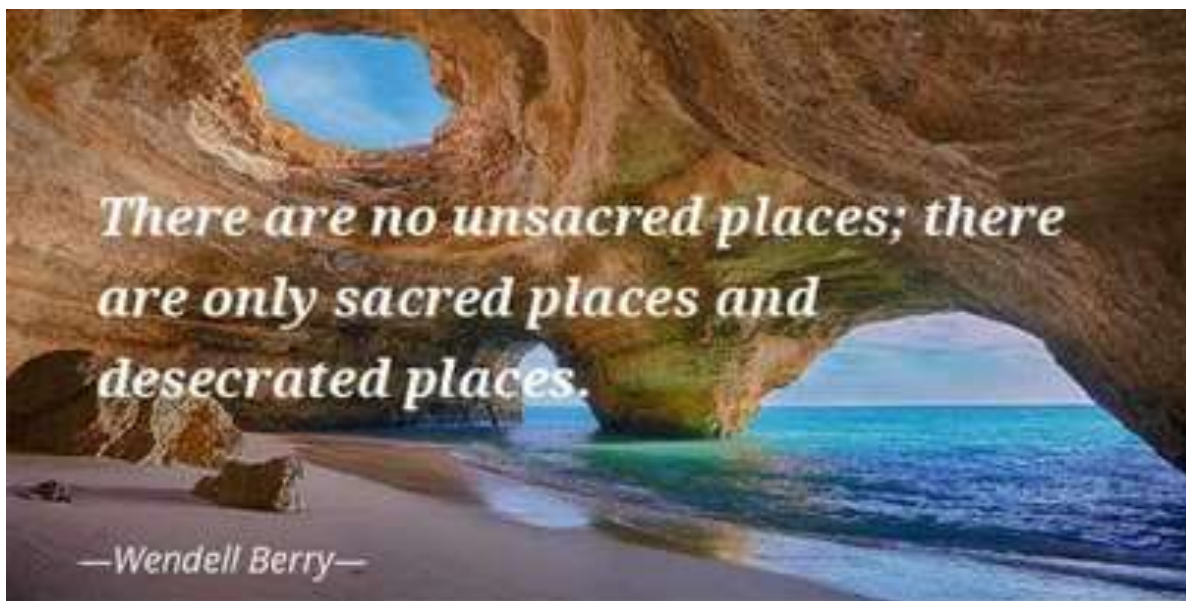
Where in my life has God revealed that the rules need to be rewritten? Do I remain open to the movement of the Spirit? How might I come to recognize the sacred that is woven throughout everything and everyone?

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 “Sacred and Desecrated Places Within and Around Us”**

Rev. Trish Eckert



✧ **Hymn: 300 We Are One in the Spirit**

✧ **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 and the Pastoral Prayer**

God of all people,  
our hearts are too narrow,  
our perspectives are too small.  
We reject those who are not like us—  
those with different political opinions,  
those who struggle with mental illness,  
those who disagree with us.  
We forget that all are your beloved children,  
and neglect your call to love one another.  
Forgive us, O God,  
for the many ways we have failed  
to be a people known by our love.  
Show us how to be more caring.  
Teach us how to love one another,  
and make us faithful disciples. Amen.



***The Lord's Prayer***

**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.**

**✧Benediction**

We leave this gathered community,  
But we don't leave our connection,  
Our concerns, our care for each other.  
Our service to each other, to the world, and to our faith continues.  
Until we are together again, friends,  
Be strong, be well, be true, be loving.

*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 Trembley



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

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