

"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 22, 2022 9:30 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Preparing to Worship...



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**♦Prelude:** Come Worship the Lord (Willie and Betsy Gonwa)

#### **♦Welcome and community news**

• Please join us for our first Adult Night Out this year! Friday evening, June 3rd at 7 pm. This is a great opportunity to build community and regain connection. The location is being established and we'll update you soon, so stay tuned!

## **♦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**

## "Pluck" ~ Zo Trembley

I picked six red tulips; Here they sit contained flames amid detritus on kitchen counter.

Remembering – first encounter at age five: Fell head-long into its cup; Fell in love, burning with yearning.

Impetuously claimed single prize; paid price for stolen treasure.

Scolding could not strip satin petals of intensity or wonder. In mind's eye single insouciant tulip nods approvingly

#### **♦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**

Theological thinking too often reduces our faith experience to logical premises and arguments, to claims and counterclaims. It shrinks our world to either/or. Imagistic, symbolic, and genuine religious language, however, makes our worlds bigger. Instead of reduction, we experience expansion in our spirits, a broadening of relationships and welcoming of otherness. The Scriptures today invite us to enter a new Realm of love and healing -- with God, with one another, and with ourselves.

## **♦Gathering Hymn: #35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty**

#### **♦Opening Ourselves to God's Grace**

One: Gracious God, touch our hearts, our minds, our spirits with your light, your truth, your love.

**All:** (Place palm center on heart) **Touch our hearts.** 

One: Open us to your light, your truth, your love.

All: (Place palm center on forehead) Touch our minds.

One: Open us to your light, your truth, your love.

All: (Sign "Holy Spirit") Touch our spirits.

One: Open us to your light, your truth, your love.

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

Loving God, you have called us out from the world into your Beloved Community. Help us practice Christ-presence with one another. Help us grow toward hope, healing and wholeness. You nurture us with the life-giving streams of truth and wisdom, and fill us with your love. Our hearts overflow with gratitude. Touch us anew with your healing grace; enlighten us so we will shine with your light in the world. You have loved us; help us love ourselves, one another, and your world. Amen.

Let there be some silence.

## **♦Bible Wisdom Teaching**

## Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

## **♦Reflection Questions**

How can I encourage new life and healing ...in myself ...my relationships ...and the world?

Let there be some silence.

#### **♦Special Music:** On My Way by Betsy Gonwa

#### Verse 1

When there comes a pause, I don't analyze the cause, I'm gentler now. Instead of judging harshly, remember I'm just starting to get it down

#### **CHORUS**

I know I'm not quite there, I say, I'm not quite there, I'm on my way. Remind myself that I'm okay I know I haven't stopped yet I know I haven't stopped yet, I'm on my way. In my heart, I know I'm on my way
Haven't stopped, I paused, but I'm on
my way!
My heart knows I'm on my way,
Haven't stopped, I paused, but I'm on
my way!

#### Verse 2

My body wants to move, to find something to do, yet I want to learn To allow myself to rest, and not hurry ahead of the Spirit's urge.

#### **CHORUS**



#### **♦Bible Wisdom Teaching**

## John 13:31-35

## **♦Reflection Questions**

How is love both an emotion and a decision? Do I favor one more than the other? How/why might this emphasis matter?

Let there be some silence.

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** "Commanding Love – Huh?" The Rev Zo Trembley



**♦Special Music:** Gary Scheffel

**♦ Response to the Proclamation:** Sharing Our Wisdom

## **♦**Affirming Our Faith with Intention...Our Prayer

One: Christ commands us to love . . .

All: We will love ourselves as Christ has loved us.

One: Christ commands us to love . . .

All: We will love one another as Christ has loved us.

One: Christ commands us to love . . .

All: We will love our world as Christ has loved us.

Let there be some silence.

## **&Community Prayers, Pastoral Prayer, The Lord's Prayer**

Our Mother, whose love surrounds us, In whose womb all living exist and move, Blessed be your name. The Universe is ordered by your Wisdom. You are Mother to all Nature.

Feed us, your hungry nestlings.
Catch us on your pinions when we fall.
Draw us, your chicks, back to your breast;
Gather us under your wings
when we stray too far from you.
Carry us from danger on your broad wings.

We are your conception, enlivened by your breath. We would reflect your shining glory Forever and ever. Amen.

-- Zo Trembley (assembled from Scripture)



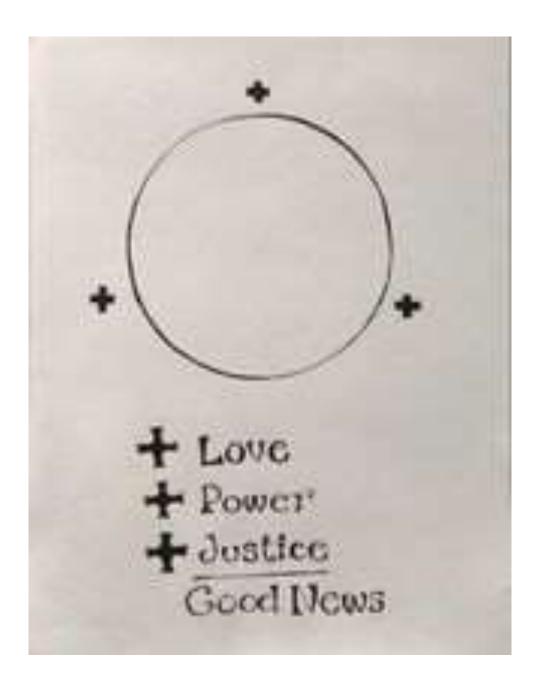
## **♦Closing Hymn: #821 (vs 1, 2, 4) My Life Flows On**

#### **♦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: Freely, Freely (Willie and Betsy Gonwa)



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