



"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 29, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of Easter



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

TODAY'S WORSHIP
Seventh Sunday of Easter

Preparing to Worship...



“Endings and Beginnings”

~~~

✧ **Prelude: Zo Trembley**

✧ **Welcome and community news**

Join us for our first Adult Night Out of the Year! Next Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm at Botanas II on Howard. Please RSVP to Pastor Trish or to Janet Scheffel by this Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Childcare will be provided by Natalia here at Tippe.

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

***Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!***  
***Surely God is in this place,***  
***Holy Ground!***

✧ **A Prayer to Center Ourselves in this Moment**

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Let us pray . . .

O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness,  
no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or  
concern ignored.

You have proven that blessings abound  
when we fall on our knees in prayer,  
and so we turn to you in our hour of need.

Surrounded by violence and  
cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required . . .  
“Only to do justice and to love goodness,  
and to walk humbly with your God” (Mi 6:8).

Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be  
merciful to others.

Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism  
so that we may seek peace and justice in our  
communities.

Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the  
rhythm of your holy will.

Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly  
toward a future  
filled with encounter and unity.

Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the  
prompting of your grace  
can we progress toward virtue.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Copyright © 2016, Therese Wilson-Favors.



✧ **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 ~



Love one another.

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



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

We are coming to the end of Eastertide and our exploration of the theme, “Both/And.” In April we reflected on “Breathing and Praising,” and as we entered May, we thought about “Shepherding and Dancing,” and later considered all that is “Sacred and Desecrated” in our lives. Today we will contemplate “Endings and Beginnings.”

Throughout this season 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.

The texts today highlight moments of farewell, of endings as well as beginnings, of encouragement in going forward, and so that is what we will reflect on this week: endings and beginnings. We continue to navigate so many shifts and transitions in our own lives, and I think it is helpful to take time to contemplate the patterns, the gifts, the challenges of our days, as we strive to gain perspective and engage with intention.

John O'Donohue, Irish poet, priest, and theologian, speaks to us about endings and new journeys, noting that honoring our experience of endings shapes our sense of self, of time, and of our journey in this life. In his book, "To Bless the Space Between Us," he reflects:

*Endings are natural. Often what alarms us as an ending can in fact be the opening of a new journey, a new beginning that we could never have anticipated; one that engages forgotten parts of the heart. Due to the current overlay of therapy terminology in our language, everyone now seems to wish for "closure." This word is unfortunate: it is not faithful to the open-ended rhythm of experience. Creatures made of clay with porous skins and porous minds are quite incapable of the hermetic sealing that the strategy of "closure" seems to imply. The word "completion" is a truer word. Each experience has within it a dynamic of unfolding and a narrative of emergence.*

*When a person manages to trust experience and be open to it, the experience finds its own way to realization. Though such an ending may be awkward and painful, there is a sense of wholesomeness and authenticity about it. Then the heart will gradually find that this stage has run its course and the ending is substantial and true. Eventually the person emerges with a deeper sense of freedom, certainty, and integration.*

*The nature of calendar time is linear; it is made up of durations that begin and end. The Celtic imagination always sensed that beneath time there was eternal depth. This offers us a completely different way of relating to time. It relieves time of the finality of ending. While something may come to an ending on the surface of time, its presence, meaning, and effect continue to be held into the eternal. This is how spirit unfolds and deepens. In this sense, eternal time is intimate; it is where the unfolding narrative of individual life is gathered and woven.*



✧ **Gathering Hymn 450 Be Thou My Vision**



### ✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

One: We come in worship to God

**All: In our need, and bringing with us  
the needs of the world.**

One: We come to God, who comes to us in Jesus,

**All: And who knows by experience  
what human life is like.**

One: We come with our faith and with our doubts,

**All: We come with our hopes  
and with our fears.**

One: We come as we are because it is God who invites us to come,

**All: And God has promised never  
to turn us away.**

### ✧Sharing our Innermost Lives with God

We are here, God – coming to you with bruised and heavy hearts. We witness the pain and suffering in our world. We don't know where to turn or what to do. We come to you, frozen, seeking solace and nurture and guidance. Thank you for being here with us, for accompanying us, for ensuring that we do not suffer alone. We open our eyes and ears, our hearts and minds – turning to you as one, that we may awaken to the truth that there is no "them," only "we," only "us," and we are one. 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

**Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

### ✧Reflection Questions

What beginnings and endings am I experiencing right now? How might I acknowledge my thirst and turn to the Divine? In what ways might I participate in making room for everyone?

**John 17:20-26**

### ✧Reflection Questions

When do I feel oneness with others? When is it a challenge to do so? How might I witness to the Divine in others?

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 *“Endings and Beginnings: Going Forward as One”*  
Rev. Trish Eckert



✧Hymn: 92 While We are Waiting

✧Sharing Our Wisdom

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

**Organ side of Congregation:** I believe in God, who places joy in our souls releasing sorrow. I believe God places dancing in our toes and songs in our hearts honoring the fullness of life whatever life may bring us. I believe God is always with us, we are never alone. I believe God wants justice to flow like a river of gladness and so creates a bountiful earth and peoples, providing plenty for all to share in a great banquet.

**Pulpit side of Congregation:** I believe in Jesus, who turns water into wine, parties with outcasts and sinners just like me, and touches the broken so we can leap and dance. I believe Jesus shows us the way to bring God into our lives through the daily choices we make. I believe Jesus shows us how to believe, and how to trust in the timing and power of God's love and compassion. I believe Jesus rolls away our "stones," opens doors, and sets an extra place so we can all feast.

**All:** I believe in the Holy Spirit, who prompts us to both smile and to find release in tears. I believe the Spirit nudges us toward openness and tenderness. I believe the Spirit breathes new freedom into our hearts and souls. I believe the Spirit is present every time we gather and is always urging us to look at ourselves humbly and live joyfully and walk hopefully. I believe the Spirit continually sends us invitations to come and dine.

Forever filled, I will live in the embrace of God and be a witness to resurrection life.  
Thanks be to God....our three as One. Amen.

## ✧A Moment of Quiet for Everyone





## ✧Community Prayers and the Pastoral Prayer

We are your people, God.

In this time and place, you have called us to pray for those in need.

We pray for the people whose names the world knows, whose stories are told daily in the news...

*Silence*

God in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for people in places of suffering, whose names only you and their friends and families know, and whose lives you cherish...

*Silence*

God in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people whose names and lives we know, those who today are in pain or distress or trouble, those who are happy, those who are sad...

*Silence*

God in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, God.  
You know each one of us by name.  
Make us into the people you want us to be,  
And when that hurts,  
Reassure us how much you love us.  
God, we bring you ourselves and our prayers  
In Jesus' name. **Amen**



***The Lord's Prayer***

**ALL: Indwelling God,  
infused throughout all existence,  
we honor you with many names.**

**Your realm is within the human heart.  
We accept life for all that it can be,  
on earth as throughout all creation.**

**May we continue to draw sustenance from this earth,  
and may we receive forgiveness equal to our own.**

**May we ever move from separation toward union,  
to live in grace, with love in our hearts,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**✧Benediction**

Go now with the peace of God resting upon you.  
Go with the love of Christ dwelling within you.  
And depart with the presence of the Holy Spirit  
abiding in your heart, mind, and soul. Amen.

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

<http://www.tippechurch.org>