



"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

October 23, 2022

9:30 a.m.

***"Being Salt and Light"***

Rev. Trish Eckert



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

## ✧Prelude

### ✧Welcome and community news

- Be sure to vote! Election day is Tuesday, November 8th
- We're watching for your HUGS pledge cards – receiving those enables us to establish the 2023 budget, which will be up for congregational approval when we gather for Annual Meeting after worship on November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Mark your calendars for:
  - “Cherished Memories” grief support group each Sunday through November 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:15-12:45
  - November 6 - Communion Sunday
  - November 13 - Adult Education: “On the Brink of Everything” after worship until noon
  - November 19 - Global Day of Prayer and Peace 10 am -noon at Tippe hosted by Betsy Gonwa <https://www.theschoolforcontemplativeliving.com/>
  - November 20 - Annual Meeting
  - November 27 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – decorating the sanctuary

### ✧Readying Ourselves for Worship ~ SING:

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



## ✧ Blessing

*Blessing of Salt, Blessing of Light ~ Jan Richardson*

By the time you come  
to the end of this blessing  
these words will be barely enough  
to fit in the palm of your hand

but fold your fingers around them  
and take them  
as an offering  
a sacrament  
a sign:

touch the words  
to your tongue  
and taste how  
they have traveled  
through marrow and bone  
to reach you,  
how they have passed  
through each chamber  
of the heart,  
how they have come  
through the layers  
that make up the soul:  
the strata of stories  
and questions,  
longings and  
dreams.

Savor the way the words  
are not mere residue  
or dross,  
the bitter leavings  
from the refining.

By their taste  
you will know instead  
they are the essence  
they are the core  
they are what has come  
through the burning,

holding still  
the memory of fire  
and the imprint of light;  
holding the clarity that comes  
when all that is not needful  
passes away.

So take these words  
as a blessing; touch them  
to your mouth

*(may you taste)*

your eyes

*(may you see)*

your ears

*(may you hear)*

and then let them go,  
let them fall to earth  
where all salt finally goes.

See the path they make  
for you,  
the path that blazes  
inside of you,  
lighting the way  
ahead of you  
that only you  
can go.

## ✧ 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: Kid's Time

## ✧ **Gathering as God's People: Our Theme ~ Gifts and Gratitude**

Throughout the fall season, leading up to Advent, we continue to explore the theme of "Gifts and Gratitude."

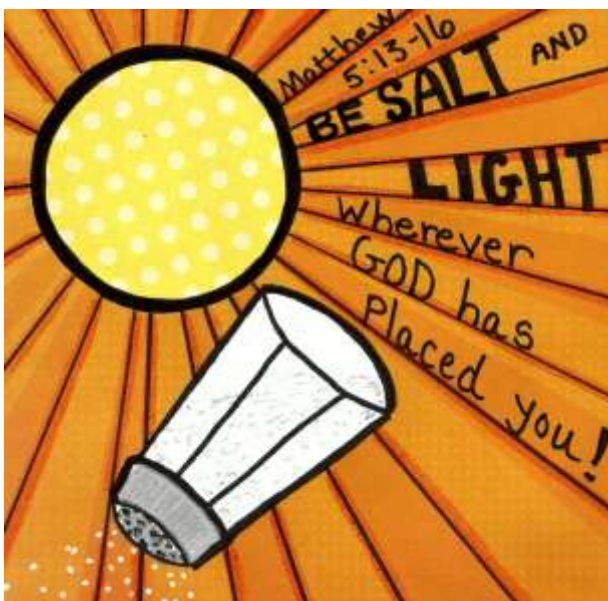
We've been thinking about our spiritual gifts, those gifts that we recognize in others, what happens when we bring our spiritual gifts to bear in community, and last week as we marked All Saints Day, we celebrated those, both living and dead, who have transformed us through the sharing of their gifts as well as what they have modeled for us and how we ourselves might show up as saints in others' lives. So much to be grateful for!

Last Sunday we focused on part of Matthew's Gospel – the "Beatitudes" - the portion of the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus is reminding people of what a blessed life might look like: "Blessed are those who mourn, God will comfort them" and "Blessed are the pure in heart, they will see God."

Immediately after that text, Jesus continues his sermon and speaks about salt and light. This seems like the next step in our exploration – to think about what it means to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Jesus is inviting us to think about salt's worth and purpose, to acknowledge the gift of light and honor the light in each of us. Let's continue to contemplate what we carry within us and how to share that with others.

## ✧ **Gathering Hymn #22 Bring Forth the Kingdom (Worship & Praise book)**



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

Glory to You, O God, Source of All Being!

In this gathered time, we come to you in a posture of prayerful openness, with listening hearts, loving spirits, and holy wonder.

May the sacred web that unites us

with each other, our God, and all creation,

ignite communities of light and hope throughout the Earth.

May we be open to the Source of All being, Our God within and among us!

✧ **Sharing Our Innermost Lives with God**

**All: O Gracious, gentle Spirit of Love,**

**Your energy permeates the Universe,**

**igniting Earth with**

**Your Goodness, Truth, and Beauty.**

**Open our minds and hearts**

**to a deeper awareness**

**of our interconnectedness with You,**

**each other and all creation.**

**May we experience**

**Your unique presence**

**within the sacred web of creation. Amen**

✧ **Special Music "Love"** (words by Rumi, music by Rosie Rain)

LYRICS

*Love came and became*

*Like blood in my body,*

*It rushed through my veins*

*And encircled my heart.*

*Everywhere I looked I saw one thing,*

*Love's name written on my limbs,*

*On my left palm*

*On my forehead*

*On the back of my neck,*

*On my right big toe*

*Oh my friend, all that you see of me*

*Is just a shell*

*And the rest belongs to LOVE*



## ✧ **Bible Wisdom Teaching Matthew 5: 13-16**

### *Salt and Light*

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.”

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Abba in heaven.”

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: “Being Salt and Light” Rev. Trish Eckert**



## ✧ **Reflection Questions** (Queries written by Rev. Jan Richardson)

- ◇ How savory are you these days?
- ◇ How is light finding its way into you and through you?
- ◇ Is there anything – or anyone – that is working against this, that is tipping a bushel over your shining?
- ◇ Might there be some part of you that needs revealing, needs to unhide itself in this season?

## ✧ **Short period of Silent Reflection**

## ✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

## ✧ **Hymn #401 Together We Gather**

## ✧Community Prayers, Pastoral Prayer

### Welcome

Walking down the Mount of Beatitudes in Israel offers a unique opportunity to reflect on being light in the world. The first thing God created was light. Like salt, it is essential to life. Light has a purpose - to guide us, to keep us from being afraid, to illuminate what is hidden, to provide warmth.

Just as the suggestion that salt would stop being salty, it seems just as ridiculous that you would light a candle and hide it away or paint a light fixture black. Doing so defeats its purpose for being.

In John's Gospel, Jesus says he is the Light of the World. If Jesus is the Light of the World, then how can we be? Maybe Matthew heard Jesus wrong. But if we think back to what else Jesus said in John's Gospel, we are reminded that if we abide in Jesus, Jesus abides in us. And when the incarnate Jesus left this world, Jesus didn't leave us orphaned because we received the Holy Spirit.

As we abide in Christ, we become the light of the world. Certainly, we are not Jesus but our words and actions seek to glorify God. This is what God wants to make clear in this passage. It's not that God can't save the world all on God's own, but in God's plan of redemption, we are as essential as salt and light.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.



### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, you created the world and all who live in it. As your first act of creation, you said, "Let there be light." There was light, and it was good. You make the sunrise on the good and evil alike, for your love has no prejudice. It is not dependent on who we are but is steadfast and true because that is who you are.

Jesus, Light of the World, you came into the world so we may have life. In the mystery of God, you call us to be light in the world because life is something to be shared. With your compassion for the sick, the poor, and the outcast, you taught us

what love is. In the glory of your resurrection, you demonstrated how far love will go. Love, life, light - you have given us a purpose in the world.

Holy Spirit, light within us, you enable us to be the fragrance of life and the salt of the earth. You lead our hearts so that we may season the world with grace. In the same way, you gather us at this Table to sustain us so that we may be salt and light in the world.

Ever thankful, we pray that you would sprinkle salt on this meal we share today. May it renew our communion in Christ and with one another. With joy, we celebrate that this meal is not limited to this time and place. And so, as you bind us together with the cup and the loaf, we give thanks that this table extends to every cathedral, sanctuary, home, and group where two or three gather in your name.

With the boldness of those who know the love of God, the light of Christ, and the saltiness of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in the prayer you taught us. Using the words each of us find most familiar, we pray:

**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 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

As Jesus sat down to eat with his disciples, he took the bread, broke it, and gave thanks. He then passed it to his disciples, saying, "Eat! This is my body broken for you." Next, he took the cup, and after he had blessed it, he gave it to the disciples and said, "Drink! This is the blood of the new covenant. My blood shed for you."

You *are* the salt of the earth.

You *are* the light of the world.

These are holy statements - and they are impossible statements. But when faced with the impossible, Jesus reminds us that in him, all things are possible. So, come: eat and drink so that body and soul may be nourished so that we may go out and bear the ministry of Jesus into the world.



## Communion of the People

### Prayer after Communion

Faithful and loving God, you created salt within the earth to protect and heal; to cure and add flavor to the food we eat. When you created our bodies, you put that salt in us. In you, we are the salt of the earth.

You created light to warm the world so that life could exist and find order. You came to us as light so that we would not be overcome by the darkness. You place that light in us and call us to be the light of the world.

As we reflect on these mysteries, we give you thanks for the sustenance you have provided at your Table. May our light so shine before people that you will be glorified and the whole world would join us in our praise of you. Amen.

*Communion Liturgy written by Rev. Michelle Henrich's from her book: "Come to the Table: Communion Liturgies of Invitation to Celebrate and Experience the Love of God"*

### ✧ **Benediction**

Beloved, as we depart this holy space nourished and renewed, let us live into our dreams and expand our circle of justice to encompass all of creation.

Let us love one another and the earth, for as a body is animated through the relationships among its many parts, so God is made manifest among us through our love.

Remember your promise,  
live in hope,  
and go in Peace. 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**



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

<http://www.tippechurch.org>