



"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

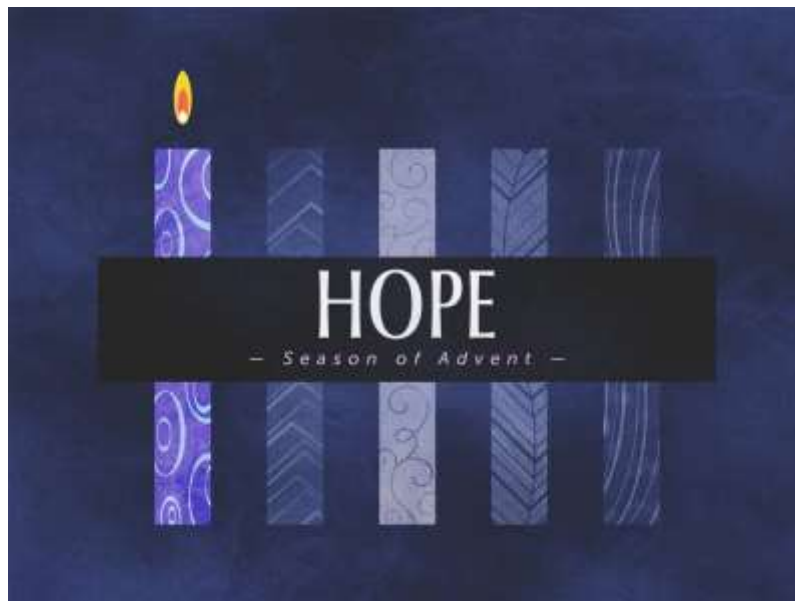
November 27, 2022

9:30 a.m.

1st Sunday of Advent

***"From Generation to Generation:
There's Room for Every Story"***

Rev. Trish Eckert



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

✧Prelude

✧Welcome and community news

- Please remain with us after worship today for a fun Tippe Café where we'll share snacks, and then decorate the sanctuary together!
- Next Sunday, December 4th, is the second Sunday of Advent and Communion Sunday. We have the final session of our Cherished Memories grief group as well as another session of our Adult Education class in which we continue our exploration of Parker Palmer's book, "On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, and Getting Old."
- **December 11th, the third Sunday of Advent, Session has scheduled a Special Called Meeting – please remain with us after worship as Session presents the 2023 budget.**
- Our Christmas Eve service begins at 5 pm with carols and cookies, and the worship will begin at 5:30.

✧Readying Ourselves for Worship ~ SING:

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

✧Blessing

Room – by Rev. Sarah Speed

I asked God—
what about my
fingernail-biting habit
or the way I leave all the cabinets
open in the kitchen?

What about the way I can be dramatic,
drumming up a fight, only to
hand out apologies like souvenirs?

What about the way I second-guess
myself,
let shame drive, or stay quiet when I
have something to say?

What about the way I chase
accomplishments
like a dog with a bone?

What about the doubt, or the fact
that I'm terrible at prayer and
cannot help but yawn during church?

What about
What about
What about?

My baggage might be too big for the van.

But then
God called me by my first and middle
name,
which always means business,
and said:
Who told you that you were too much?
Sugar, there is so much room for you
here.

So that's when I grabbed a seat
and we hit the road
and I knew right then
that the rumors were true.

There is room.
There is room.
There is room.

✧ **Becoming Present to God and Each Other...Our Check-in:**

How Are You as You Arrive...how is it with your spirit?

✧ **Candle Lighting ~ Hope**

Pastor: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “What gives you hope?” From the voices of different generations, hear their answers...

(Four readers are invited to the front for our candle lighting liturgy)

~ **The Joy of Passing the Peace** ~

✧ **And the Children Will Lead the Way: Kid’s Time**



✧ **Gathering as God’s People:**

Our Advent Series ~ *From Generation to Generation*

On this first Sunday of Advent, we begin a new series that will include a theme to focus on each week. This week we’ll reflect on the theme: “There’s Room for Every Story.”

This season we are taking time, through different Gospel readings from Matthew and Luke, alongside the Book of Isaiah, to piece together a chronological storyline leading up to Christ’s birth. We’ll learn about the many people involved in this story, and through the Bible Wisdom teachings, we’ll seek the full scope of the Christmas story.

The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in – to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone.

As we hear these familiar texts yet again, let’s pay attention to each of the characters and ask ourselves:

What did each person pass on or contribute?

How did they either participate in God’s liberation and love—or try to thwart God’s justice?

*What can we learn from them, and what is our role now?
What will we pass on to the next generation?*

As we move through the season and look through this series' lens: "From Generation to Generation," it points to the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may we each remember that we belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let go.

✧Gathering Hymn

✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

One: In God's house, everyone is welcome—those who seem like they have it all together, and those who feel like their world is falling apart. No matter who we are, there's room for us here. With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer, speaking the truth of our lives.

Let us pray:

God of today and God of tomorrow,
you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."

But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

God of today and God of tomorrow,
we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.

Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.

Help us remember, today and tomorrow,

There's room for every story. Amen.

✧Sharing Our Innermost Lives with God

Loving God, we are grateful to be gathered in this family of faith – we who feel scattered are held together.

We who have lost our way are forgiven and found.

And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told,
"There's room for you here."

From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

✧Special Music

✧Prayer for Illumination

God of the ages,
in scripture we hear stories of people like us—
ordinary people,
people who longed to know you,
people who longed to follow you,
people who made mistakes,
people who tried to grow—
old, young,
native, immigrant,
new to the faith, lifelong believer.
In scripture we hear stories of people like us,
so just as you walked with them,
help us to hear and remember all the ways that you walk with us.
We are listening.
We are grateful.
We are yours.
Amen.

✧Bible Wisdom Teachings

Isaiah 2:1-5

The Future House of God

1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

3 Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

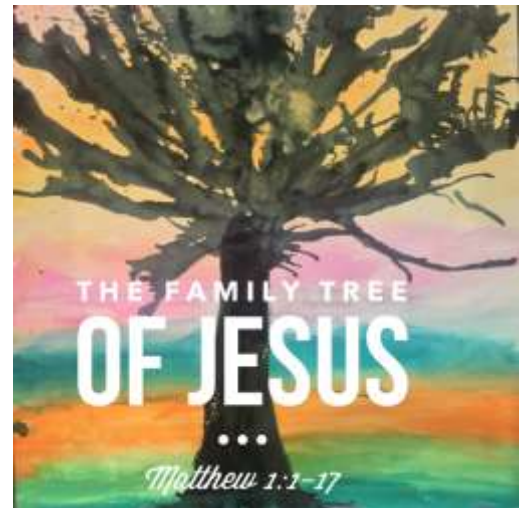
5 O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Matthew 1:1-17

1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, 4 and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, 7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, 8 and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, 9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.



12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, 15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

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: “Naming and Claiming Our Stories” Rev. Trish Eckert**

✧ **Reflection Questions**

- ◇ What is the significance of names/naming in your family or in your life?
- ◇ How do people in your life add to the tapestry of your story?
- ◇ How is the complex genealogy of Jesus mirrored in families today? (What stories are given voice among blended families, families through adoption, or families who don't know their ancestry?) How does this create room for your story?

✧ **Short period of Silent Reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn**

✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in a God
who promised to Abraham,
who wrestled with Jacob,
who walked with Ruth,
who spoke with Moses,
who grieved with Bathsheba,
who danced with David,
who dreamed with Joseph,
and who hoped like Mary.
We believe in a God who has been
loving, inviting, transforming, and challenging us
from generation to generation.
And we believe that same God
is here with us now,
saying, “Come on in; there’s room for you here.” Amen.**

✧ **Community Prayers, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

Pastoral Prayer

God of Abraham and Isaac,
God of Tamar and Ruth,
God of Mary and Joseph,

We bow our heads today hoping to catch a glimpse or a shimmer of you.
We know that you are here with us, just as you walked with every generation before,
so we bring you our prayers.

Thank you for creating space for us.
Thank you for seeing our scattered thoughts,
our imposter syndrome,
our fragments of doubt, and still saying,
“Come on in.”
Thank you for seeing our ordinary selves
with anxious concerns
and unflattering habits and saying,
“I have bigger plans for you.”
Thank you for seeing
our fragile egos,
and our uncertain relationships,
and saying,
“You still belong here.”

Your expansive love makes room for us to breathe, and we want to love with our lungs and hearts full. So today we pray—teach us how to make that same room for others.

When we come face to face with stories that are different from ours, show us how to add chairs to the table. When we find ourselves face to face with stories that frustrate and test our patience, show us how to build bridges instead of walls. When we find ourselves face to face with stories that feel foreign or unrelatable, remind us to open the door and to listen fully.

From Abraham to Mary, you made room for every story - and that love continues to make room for us. Teach us to do the same for our neighbor so this world will know love.

With hope we pray, using the words your son taught us to say:

**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**

✧ **Benediction - Becoming a Living Blessing**

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.

From generation to generation,

God has been by our side.

From generation to generation,
we are not alone.

The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, “Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon.”

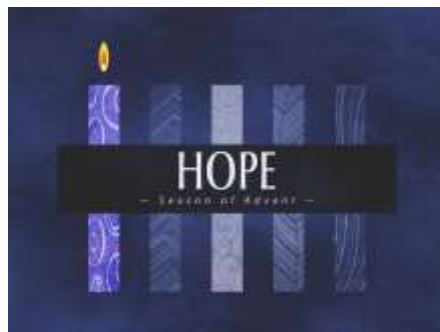
May it be so. Amen.

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>

All prayers, worship words, and candle lighting liturgy written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.