



"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

December 4, 2022

9:30 a.m.

*2nd Sunday of Advent*

***"From Generation to Generation:  
God Meets Us in Our Fear"***

Rev. Trish Eckert



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

## ✧Prelude

## ✧Welcome and community news

- Today is the final session of our Cherished Memories grief group, and we also have the gathering 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.”
- **Next Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, Session has scheduled a Special Called Meeting – please remain with us after worship as Session presents the 2023 budget.**
- Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Tippe is participating in a “Blue Christmas” service in collaboration with the Southeast Clergy Association at Bay View United Methodist Church at 7 pm. All are invited. *Blue Christmas service provides a quiet and contemplative worship service as an alternative to more traditional gatherings. This is in honor of those who are experiencing grief and struggling with loss.*
- Our Christmas Eve service begins at 5 pm with carols and cookies, and the worship will begin at 5:30 pm.



## ✧Readying Ourselves for Worship ~ SING:

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

## ✧ **Blessing**

*Love Comes Running* – by Rev. Sarah Speed

I remember  
the first time I was afraid.  
I was a child.  
It was a nightmare.  
(*You remember those pesky  
monsters under the bed.*)

I remember  
minutes felt like hours.  
I begged  
the sun to rise.  
(*Fear always begs  
the sun to rise.*)

Eventually,  
after minutes that felt like hours,  
I cried out.  
My dad came running.  
He sat at the edge of my bed.

He said there is no reason to be afraid.  
He checked the closet and the  
floorboards.  
He rearranged my pillows.  
He said, “*I can stay.*”

And that’s when I learned  
that when you are afraid,  
love always comes running.  
Love says, “*I can stay.*”

That’s what God does for us.  
God sits at the edge of the bed.  
God checks the closet and the  
floorboards.  
God says, “*Be not afraid.*”  
God stays until sunrise.  
Love always comes running.

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

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

## ✧ **Candle Lighting ~ Peace**

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

Pastor: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “What are you afraid of?” Let’s listen to this wide range of experiences and responses:

ONE: Not making enough of a difference.

TWO: Not being strong enough.

THREE: Losing my job.

FOUR: That we will forget we belong to one another.

ONE: Climate change.

TWO: My child having to learn gun violence drills at school.

THREE: Spiders.

FOUR: Not having someone to take care of me; not having someone who knows my stories.

ONE: Chronic illness.

TWO: Ending up alone.

THREE: Nightmares.

FOUR: Stopping short of following God all the way.

THREE: Today we light the candle of peace, because we so desperately need God's peace in the midst of all we fear.

FOUR: May this light be a reminder that Christ is coming. God was with generations before, God is with us today, and God will be with us tomorrow. Even now, God is on the way. Amen.

### ~ 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 second Sunday of Advent, we continue with our series, "From Generation to Generation," which will include a theme to focus on each week. This week we'll reflect on the theme: "God Meets Us in Our Fear." This is a powerful theme to consider as we turn our attention to peace.

This season, through different Gospel readings from Matthew and Luke, alongside the Book of Isaiah, we are piecing together a chronological storyline that leads 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 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 #50 “God Be with You”** (Worship & Praise)

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

Fear can be a good thing.  
It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway.  
It can alert us to possible accidents. It can motivate us to do our best.

However, fear can also be harmful.  
For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to make harmful choices in our lives—choices such as building walls or tearing others down.

Today, in fuller awareness, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. In our confession, we come before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, “Do not be afraid.” Let us pray:

**ALL: Patient God,  
you know just how often  
we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love.  
You know just how often  
we allow fear to take the place of logic,  
fanning unhealthy fires in our lives.  
You know just how often  
we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid”  
on dusty shelves and in the back of closets,  
stubbornly holding onto our own point of view.  
Forgive us for giving fear the microphone.  
Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection,  
which spark and feed so much of our fear,  
to recenter us in love.  
With hope we pray, amen.**

✧ **Sharing Our Innermost Lives with God**

Family of faith,  
even when we forget God's words,  
God does not forget us.  
Even when we lose our way,  
God does not lose us.  
Even when we fall short or make mistakes,  
God forgives and holds onto us.  
We are known, forgiven, and loved.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.

## ✧ **Special Music “May All Beings Be Happy”**

Music and arrangement by Rosie Rain, played and sung by Rosie Rain

## ✧ **Prayer for Illumination**

Holy God,  
whether it's through  
angels or music,  
friendships or sermons,  
study or nature –  
when you speak,  
we long to hear it.  
In a world as chaotic and broken as ours,  
we could use your words of hope and healing.  
With gratitude we pray, amen.

## ✧ **Bible Wisdom Teachings**

### **Luke 1: 26-38**

#### *The Birth of Jesus Foretold*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

### **Isaiah 11:1-10**

#### *The Peaceful Kingdom*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

*Return of the Remnant of Israel and Judah*

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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: “Here Am I” Rev. Trish Eckert**

✧ **Reflection Questions**

- ◇ What is the relationship between fear and wonder?
- ◇ In the face of fear, when have you been convinced to trust a new calling?
- ◇ Where do you see glimpses of the vision described in the Book of Isaiah coming to life? (In which God’s spirit intervenes, leading to a world of justice and peace.)

✧ **Short period of Silent Reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

**ALL: We believe in a God who knows our fears.  
We believe in a God who says, “Be not afraid.”  
We believe in a God who kicks off her shoes  
and wades into the muck of our lives with us.  
We believe in a God who stitches herself to our heels,  
and invites us to dance.  
We believe in a God who hemmed stars into the night sky  
so that we can find our way home,  
and who sends us friends with open doors,  
so we can find our way to love.  
We believe in a God who finds us in our fear  
and does not leave us alone.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.  
Amen.**

✧ **Hymn #263 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”**

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

Holy One,  
we take a deep breath in and know that you are here,  
for where two or more are gathered, you are there.  
You never leave our sides.  
Like a protective mother hen,  
or the sun who circles the earth,  
you carry us with you.

So today, we bow our heads with tender spirits and ask that once more  
you would lean in close.  
Hear our prayers.  
Buoy our hearts.  
Send your Spirit rushing through us like a mighty wind.



For these days, God, we have much to fear.

We fear the return of a COVID variant that could once again shut down the world.

We fear the rising tide of violence.

We fear global warming. Will our grandchildren have trees to climb?

We look at our own lives and are afraid that we aren't making much of a difference, that we might be forgotten at the end of the day.

We fear rejection, we fear grief, we fear not being enough.

Holy God, the muck of our lives is deep. At times, it feels like we're swimming in it.

And so, we come to you today, because you are a God who said, "Do not fear" 365 times in scripture—once for every day. You are a God who has inserted yourself into the corners of our lives, refusing to let us go, refusing to leave us alone.

And so, we rest in that.

We empty our pockets of our fears and give them to you, trusting that you will hold them tenderly, just as you hold us.

You whisper, "Be not afraid."

You promise to never leave our side.

You call us "Beloved."

May that be enough for today. Amen

## ✧Communion of the People

### Welcome

Advent is a time for contemplating where we've been and where we're going. As we reflect on our connections through the generations – the traditions we hold dear, the rituals that nurture and sustain us, the gifts and the heartache that our elders have passed on to us – we are invited today to consider the gift of peace that is always available to us. Although there is much to fear, although we are often mired down by worry, recoil at the thought of failure, struggle with uneasiness in our work and uncertainty in our relationships, we are reminded over and over again that we need not be afraid. We are not alone. We are seen and heard, loved and forgiven.



In this community we bear witness to one another as we share our stories and as we revel in the beauty of the stories leading up to the birth of Jesus. We turn to these stories every season, and at every communion we remember the story of a Messiah who gathered his friends together for one last supper, the story of a Messiah who loved us so much he just couldn't stay away.

So, friends, bring the parts of you that are so hungry for peace, the parts of you that are afraid and worried and distressed. And let us bring the parts of us that are aching to hear the stories again that reveal to us the good news.

As we partake of the Lord's Supper, we are reminded that God is present with us always. Jesus walks alongside us. The Holy Spirit watches over us. We share in the celebration and are sustained through this shared meal.

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Author of our lives, it is right and good that together we lift up your name! Reveal to us the peace that surpasses all understanding. Guide us in sharing that peace among one another and beyond the walls of this church. Always active, ever watchful, You keep Your promise even when we lose sight of all that you provide us. We fail to trust, we surrender to our fears, we lose sense of your presence. Yet, You are always with us.

Lord Jesus, we are grateful that you walked among us to show us the way toward wholeness. Through your story, you reveal to us the love poured out for us and the love that we are called to share with the world.

Abiding Spirit, you provide glimpses of the Christ among us every day, joining us together as the Body of Christ. Through your powerful love and abiding presence, draw us into the peace of Christ, equip us to deepen our peaceful community as we share in this holy meal of bread and cup.

Gracious God,  
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break  
and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
that we may be one with all who share this feast,  
united in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

As we tell your story of good news, let us once again speak the prayer your son taught us to pray, saying:

**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**

Jesus said:

Come to me,  
all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

In fellowship and at table, Jesus again revealed to the disciples what was to come through his life, death, and resurrection. He took bread, blessed it, and broke it. Then he gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

He then took up the cup, blessed the juice of the vine and gave it to the disciples, saying, Drink of the cup of life, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Pastor: Come, let's share in the feast of new and everlasting life!

**All: We are ready. The Table is set. And we remember. Your Spirit is life. Through this faithful act of communing, You join us more deeply to Yourself, to Your people here and to all Your people. In deepest gratitude, we imbibe grace!**

## Communion of the People

### Prayer after Communion

Jesus, we are sustained and nurtured by the meal that we have shared. We are so grateful for the peace offered at your table. You feed each of us to walk the path of our individual and communal stories. We root ourselves in the hope, peace, joy, and love that you reveal to us throughout the Advent season. In your name we pray, 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. For the communion service, some language excerpted from A Sanctified Art LLC.*