



"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 14, 2023

9:30 a.m.



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

"We are Not Alone" Betsy Gonwa

✧ **Prelude: Chaconne played by Betsy Gonwa**

✧ **Welcome and community news**

Pastor Trish is still on vacation 😊

We're looking forward to a summer that will be rich in community and connection as we develop opportunities for fellowship on Friday evenings and Saturday gatherings in the Tippe gardens for far-ranging conversations and spiritual practices. Stay tuned!

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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

✧ **Let this Reading be our Prayer as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**

Above all else then: be prepared at all times for the gifts of God, and be ready always for new ones, for God is a thousand times more ready to give than we are to receive.

For the person who has learned to let go and let be, nothing can hinder.

Then each creature points you toward God and toward new birth
and toward seeing the world as God sees it: Transparently!

Then all things become nothing but God,

and we learn to know with God's knowledge and to live with God's love.

When we learn this, we know that everything praises God.

Darkness, privations, defects, evil, too, praise God. For all paths lead to God, and God is on them evenly for those who know with transformed knowledge.

What is best is to take God and enjoy God in any manner, in anything.

All my life, this has been my joy.

God does not ask anything else of you except that you let yourself go
and let God be God in you.

~Meister Eckhardt

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

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

✧ **Kid's Time**

✧Gathering Hymn: Dios Está Aquí / God is Here Today

Refrain: Dios está aquí, tan cierto como el aire que respiras
Tan cierto como la mañana se levanta
Tan cierto como que te canto y me puedes oír
Tan cierto como que te canto y me puedes oír

God is here today, as certain as the air I breathe
As certain as the morning sun that rises,
As certain when I sing you'll hear my song
As certain when I sing you'll hear my song

(v1) You can find God, just look at the person who's next to you.
You can find God, abiding in your own heart. (repeat entire verse)

(v2) You can see God, just spend a moment in nature.
You can feel God, when you breathe in the scent of a rose.
You can hear God in the current that flows in the river.
You can feel God, abiding in your own heart.

(v3) You can love God in each individual gathered here.
You can love God in each woman, each man and each child.
You can love God in each person you meet when you walk outside
You can feel God, abiding in your own heart.

~Text and music by Raúl Galeano (#411 Glory to God), verses translated from the Spanish by Betsy Gonwa

✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

One: You who abide with the Spirit, welcome!

ALL: The Spirit of Love and Grace welcomes us.

One: Welcome to this place of Spirit and Truth.

ALL: The Spirit of Truth abides with us.

One: Welcome beloved ones, capable of more than you imagine.

ALL: Let us believe in ourselves as God believes in us, that we are able to love as Jesus loved.

One: God invites all of us to let the Spirit flow through us.

ALL: As we abide in the Spirit, Divine love flows through us to the world.

One: Welcome to this place of healing and wholeness.

ALL: Let us rest in this space, loved just as we are, and open to more.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

God of new life,

1: We come to you with honest and open hearts.

2: We acknowledge that we don't always trust that You are with us.

1: We don't remember that Your Spirit is in us.

2: We forget about your promises and we think that we are orphaned and alone.

1: In our fear and confusion, we hide and lash out.

2: We miss the mark. Sometimes by a little. Sometimes by a lot.

So, draw us back to You.

1: To truth, to trust, and Your abiding love,

2: And let us rest in the grace of your gentle compassion.

1: Let us rest in the comfort of Your embrace,

2: You, the One who created us and knows us in all of our ways,

ALL: And loves us still.

✧ **Sung Prayer: There is a Longing in Our Hearts, #470**

✧ **Prayer of Intention**

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 Teaching: Diane Wirhanowicz**

Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'

"Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has

overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

John 14:15-21

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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: We are Not Alone**

✧ **Reflection Questions**

Take a moment to acknowledge the Spirit present in you and let yourself abide together in companionship. What does the Spirit want to say to you today?

Do you intentionally seek connection with others?

Recall a time when the Spirit nudged you. Did you respond with timidity or courage?

Can you recall a time when a social interaction was healing, like medicine, for you? Or, perhaps for someone with whom you interacted?



✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧Sharing Our Wisdom

✧Hymn: Shine Jesus Shine, #123 (purple hymnal)

✧Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: O God, you love us like a good parent, and are present in every aspect of our existence.

May your nature become known and respected by all. May your joy, peace, wholeness and justice be the reality for everyone as we live by the Jesus Way.

Give us all that we really need to live every day for you. And forgive us our failures as we forgive others for their failures.

Keep us from doing those things which are not of you and cause us always to be centered on your love.

For you are the true reality in this, our now, and in all our future. In the Jesus Way we pray. Amen. (David Sorril)

✧Benediction

May the Source of life hold you in the faith;
the Word of life speak clearly in truth around you;
and the Breath of life, of grace, of wisdom,
sing in your inmost being this day and all your days. 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

