



"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

April 21, 2024

9:30 a.m.



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

*"Love: Knowledge, Empathy, and Compassion" Rev. Trish Eckert*

✧ **Prelude** ~ Tippe Musicians

✧ **Welcome and community news**

We are partnering with Prince of Peace Lutheran in the coming months! We will gather for a Summer Supper Service on third Wednesdays: May 15, June 19, July 17, and August 21. Bring your own chair and a dish to pass as we worship and fellowship outdoors (weather permitting). Potluck starts at 5:30 pm and a simple worship and communion service begins at 6:30 pm. PoP will host in May and July, Tippe will host in June and August.

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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

✧ **A Poem as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**

***Within Me***

My dear, in the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love.  
In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile.  
In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm.  
I realized, through it all, that...  
In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.  
And that makes me happy.  
For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me,  
within me, there's something stronger-  
something better, pushing right back.  
~ Albert Camus

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

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

One: May the peace that surpasses all understanding be with you

**All: And also with you**

One: Thanks be to God

✧ **Time for Young Hearts** *A reflection on the power of love*

✧ **Gathering as God's People ~ Our Theme: *To Love and Be Loved***

Throughout this Eastertide, as we move toward Pentecost, we hear about the appearances that Christ made to the followers of Jesus after the Resurrection, and how they began to spread Jesus' teachings while also feeling unsure, worried, anxious, and full of doubt.

Jesus consistently taught and preached and acted out of love, and this continued after the Resurrection. The Christ continued to model love and compassion as the early followers attempted to find their way.

In the coming weeks we will be exploring the many expressions and layers of love, and consider: how we express our love, the ways that love builds resilience and courage, and vision what the world can look like where love is more freely given and received.

Our conversation partner will be Sam Keen, an American author, philosopher, and lecturer known for his insightful writings on a wide range of topics including psychology, spirituality, and personal growth.

One of Keen's most notable publications is the influential book "Fire in the Belly: On Being a Man," published in 1991. In this groundbreaking work, he explored the challenges and expectations placed upon men in modern society and offered insights on how to transcend traditional gender roles and find fulfillment and purpose.

His text, "To Love and Be Loved" will be our resource for inspiration as he articulates the many "elements of love" that make up the full spectrum of human affection – empathy, commitment, attention, and compassion, to name a few. Keen taps into mythology, ancient wisdom, and a variety of spiritual traditions, integrating them with psychological approaches that provide a holistic understanding of the human experience.

While reflecting on our lived experience, may we find our way forward together as a beloved community committed to love, compassion, and empathy.

✧ **Gathering Hymn *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*** (song sheet)

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

God of love, peace, and justice

**Come and stand among us today.**

God of love, peace, and justice

**Bring Your healing and wholeness as we gather.**



"Compassion" Original Watercolor – Jodi McKinney  
<https://lifeinbetween.me/2016/04/29/compassion/>

### ✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Loving God, we cannot always make sense of Your purposes.  
But that doesn't mean You aren't at work.  
The way may be hidden, the path may appear dark,  
but sometimes when You seem far off You are at Your most near.

Teach us, we pray, never to despair,  
however bleak it may seem.  
When injustice seems all around and peace far off,  
help us to hear Your words of promise.

Forgive us when our journey is not humble, or faithful, or just.  
Forgive us when we do not take heed of Your words.  
Forgive us when we do not notice Your presence.  
Forgive us when we don't recognize You working in our midst,

Come in our weakness and fill us with Your renewing power.  
Loving God, when we are in a tight place, give us room. Amen.

### ✧ **Special Music** *O God, Be Gracious* ~ Tippe Musicians

### ✧ **Prayer of Intention**

Holy Spirit, may we hear your gracious 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**

#### **Psalm 4**

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!  
You gave me room when I was in distress.  
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

2 How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?  
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? *Selah*  
3 But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;  
the Lord hears when I call to him.

4 When you are disturbed, do not sin;  
ponder it on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*

5 Offer right sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the Lord.

6 There are many who say, 'O that we might see some good!  
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!'

7 You have put gladness in my heart  
more than when their grain and wine abound.

8 I will both lie down and sleep in peace;  
for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

**Acts 3: 12-19**

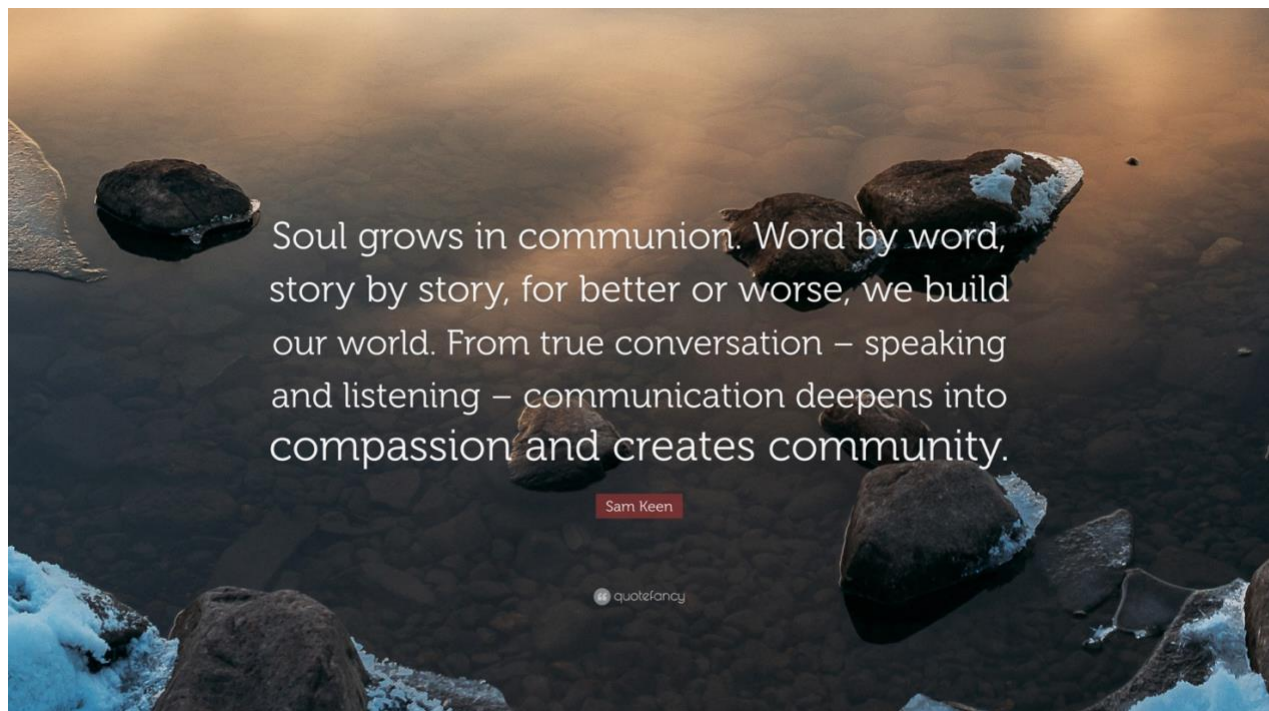
12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, ‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. 14 But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

17 ‘And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. 19 Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

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 “Love, Knowledge, Empathy, and Compassion”** Rev. Trish Eckert





### ✧ **Reflection Questions**

- When has my life been transformed by love? When has my love helped transform the lives of others?
- When I feel discouraged by the state of the world, what helps me keep going?
- In what ways am I helping to create a more peaceful and hopeful world?

Queries from Catherine Whitmire's text:

"Practicing Peace: A Devotional Walk Through the Quaker Tradition"

### ✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

### ✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

### ✧ **Hymn *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*** (song sheet)

### ✧ **Our gifts of support**

God of grace, your love knows no limits.

Reveal to us the ways in which we too can love this way.

Accept our gifts, and as we give,

warm and soften our hearts

to lead us into lives which reflect your generosity.

Change us we pray. Amen.

### ✧ **Community Prayers**

### ✧ **Pastoral Prayer**



## **The Lord's Prayer**

Spirit of Life and Love, Holy God, Source Eternal,  
in our midst yet still ever so elusive:

To breathe your sacred name is a blessing.

Your world become,

Your will be done here, on Earth,  
inspired by our aspirations to do and be better people.

May we have all that we need to survive, live, and thrive.

Remind us to be gentle; may we love mercy and kindness,  
recalling the times when we've fallen short ourselves.

Call us to be firm; may we not be tempted to follow selfish motivations or reside in our narrow privileges, unexamined and uninterrogated;  
move us to counter and overcome evil and injustice in ourselves, our lives, and institutions.

Yours is the Beloved Community,  
the fire of commitment in our hearts,  
and the spirit of generosity and abundance, now and always. Amen.

~ Alex Jensen <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/invocation-spirit-life-alternative-lords-prayer>

### ✧ **Benediction**

As we leave this place,  
may we keep in step with You,  
walking humbly,  
seeking justice,  
living faithfully,  
bringing your Peace and wholeness  
to a broken and unjust world.

*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** ~ Tippe Musicians

