



"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 7, 2024

9:30 a.m.



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

"Here's My Heart" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude:** *There is a Longing in Our Hearts* ~ Tippe Musicians

✧ **Welcome and community news**

Please go to Tippe's Facebook page and share our post about seeking garden equipment

On Monday, April 8, Milwaukee will see its biggest solar eclipse in 70 years! The moon will cover about 90% of the sun, clear skies permitting. One place to view it is at the Milwaukee Public Museum, between 12:30-3 pm. They'll provide eclipse glasses, and they also have telescopes with special filters. The next TOTAL solar eclipse that can be viewed in Milwaukee will be September 14, 2099.

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!

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

Here's My Heart

As a child I made a nativity set for my mother—
pinch pot clay, uneven angel wings,
hair made with the help of a garlic press,
Joseph's staff rolled out like I was God
and it was an earthworm.
There was nothing beautiful about it,
nothing whispering of talent,
but I made it for my mother!
So I wrapped
that questionable piece of art in a box
and gave it to her
like I was handing her a Picasso.

*Here, mother,
you carried me in your womb.
You bandaged my knees when I fell.
You made soup when I was sick.
You rocked me to sleep as an infant
and sewed my costumes by hand.
In return, I made you this haphazard
nativity!*

And in my childlike mind,
I thought that the small white lamb,
molded from a lumpy piece of clay,
could somehow make us even,
could somehow balance the scales,
could somehow pay her back.
And bless my mother,
because in her grace,
she smiled and she displayed that
hodge-podge nativity set
on the mantel
as if it were her pride and joy.
(I believed that it was.)

Maybe that's the way it is with God.
I say, *Here's my heart*
and God smiles.
And God takes it.
And despite the ragtag nature of my
human-hearted faith,
whatever I can give always ends up on
God's mantel.
Whatever I can give always calls for
pride and joy.

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |
sanctifiedart.org Inspired by "The Lanyard" by Billy Collins

✧ **Singing our “Theme Song” *Come O Fount*** (song sheet, all verses)

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

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

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

All: **And also with you**

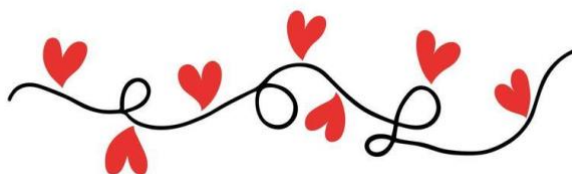
One: Thanks be to God



✧ **Gathering as God’s People: Our Theme – *Wandering Heart*:**

“Here’s my Heart”~ Though Peter’s story does not end with the conclusion of the gospels, we finish our series with Peter’s encounter with the risen Christ. In this final week, we come full circle with Peter. He has dropped his nets, walked on water, professed his faith, been rebuked, received foot washing, denied Jesus, and run to the tomb. And now, Jesus once again meets him at the shoreline where Peter is casting his nets. Jesus offers abundant nourishment and also a new command: “Feed my sheep.” Then he turns to Peter and asks three times, “Do you love me?” It’s as if Jesus says, “Here’s my heart,” which washes over Peter’s three denials like a healing balm. No matter if our faith is strong or weak, what we can give is our love. No matter how far we wander, we can entrust our hearts to God.

✧ **Time for Young Hearts** ~ Betty Salamun



✧ **Gathering Hymn**

Enter the Journey (song sheets)



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

Jesus said,

"Follow me."

Jesus said,

**"Take heart, it is I;
do not be afraid."**

Jesus said,

"Forgive seventy times seven."

Jesus said,

"Feed my sheep."

In response, we say:

"Here's my heart.

Take and seal it.

Seal it for thy courts above."

Let us worship God with all our hearts.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Gracious God,

Like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink.

You tell us your truth and we push it away.

We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance.

We profess our faith and deny it three times.

We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence.

**Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering
along the journey of faith.**

Tether us to your heart.

Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination.

Call us out of the boat once more.

We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray, amen.

✧ **Prayer for Illumination**



God of second chances
and God of new life,
we have spent our days wandering.
Like Peter, we have had milled about
through nearly every state of faith.
We have had courageous days
and convicted days,
learning days
and questioning days.
We have had days where we run to you,
days for diving out of the boat,
days for deep joy,
and days where the pain of the world feels too close to bear.
So as we bring our wandering hearts to you,
we ask that you draw us in.
Allow this story to spark something new in us.
Allow this story of grace to give us pause
and pull us in.
We are listening. Amen.

✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in a God who shows up in our lives—
surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways.**

**We believe in a God who cares for God's people—
a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended.**

**We believe in a God who took on flesh—
a God whose love changed the world as we know it.**

**We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat,
calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and
community.**

**And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less.
Amen.**

✧ **Special Music** *All that is Hidden*, performed by Betsy Gonwa

✧ **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 Teaching

John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. 2 Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3 Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' 6 He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. 8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' 16 A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' 17 He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' 19 (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

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**

***Wandering Heart:
“Here’s My Heart”***

Rev. Trish Eckert



✧ **Reflection Questions**

- Am I nurturing the seed God has sown in my heart?
- Am I willing to obey the still, small voice within when it speaks to my instruction?
- As I move along my faith journey, how might I let love lead the way?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn 451 *Open My Eyes, That I May See***

✧ **Our gifts of support**

God of the desert, God of the garden,
By sharing our resources, we proclaim
“One does not live by bread alone,”
“Do not put the Lord your God to the test,”
“Worship and serve only God.”
Let us witness to this in all things. Amen.

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**



✧ **Words of Invitation and the
Breaking of the Bread
Communion of the People**

Welcome

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of second chances,

God of grace,

meet us here.

Just as you met the disciples at the beach,

meet us here.

Meet us now.

Walk toward us

and gather us in.

For God, like Peter, we have known storms.

This week, people in this room have grieved.

This week, people in this room have felt overwhelmed by the news cycle and helpless to make a difference.

This week, people in this room have been lonely, stressed, or uncertain.

You know what our wind and waves look like.

You know the nature of our storms,

so just as you walked toward Peter, walk toward us.

Meet us here.

Meet us now.

Gather us in.

Fortunately, like Peter, we have also seen you stop the storms.

We have seen your fingerprints in our lives in ways we did not always expect.

So with gratitude in our hearts, we come to you today to say thank you.

Thank you for this church family that feels like a home.

Thank you for the stars in the sky that remind us of your vastness.

Thank you for stories of hope and forgiveness that inspire us to love.

And thank you for the unending grace that encircles our wandering hearts.

God, we have been back and forth,

to and from,

on this journey of faith.

For every time that you walked the valley with us,

for every time that you have met us on the mountaintop,

and for every time you have stayed still while we ran toward you,

we give you thanks.

Never stop meeting us here,

meeting us now,

gathering us in.

With wandering but grateful hearts, we lift up these words of prayer together:

✧ **The Lord's Prayer**

**Beloved, our Father and Mother,
in whom is heaven,
hallowed be your name,
followed be your royal way,
done be your will and rule,
throughout the whole creation.**

**With the bread we need for today,
feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another,
forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test,
Strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure,
spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil,
free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and forever. Amen.**

From 'Human Rites' by Ward and Wild

✧ **527 *Eat This Bread***

Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion



✧ **Benediction**

Beloved wanderer,
as you leave this place,
may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.
May you look for God in every face.
May you find the courage to get out of the boat,
to run to the tomb,
and to speak of your faith.
And when the world falls apart,
may you hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."
You are called.
You are blessed.
In both your ups and your downs,
you always belong to God.
Go now in peace.
Go trusting that good news. 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** *Come into My Heart* ~ Tippe Musicians