



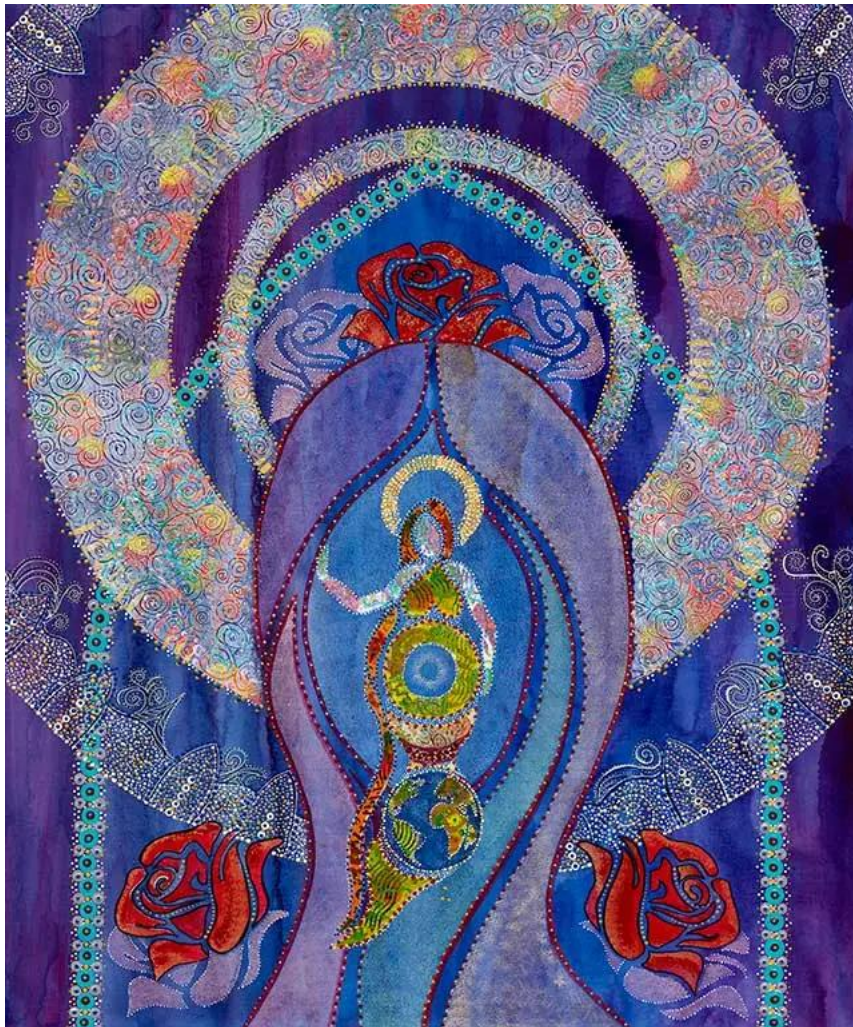
"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

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

August 27, 2023

9:30 a.m.



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

"The Good in our Midst" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧Prelude Zo Trembley

✧Welcome and community news

- Tippe Break: We will not gather for Sunday morning worship next Sunday, September 3rd due to the Labor Day weekend. We will still offer Centering Prayer at 6 pm on Zoom. There will be no Monday night gathering on Zoom September 4th, but Sanctuary Time of Belonging will resume on September 11th.
- As we kick off the fall season at Tippe, we're starting with a 4-week worship series, entitled: "I've Been Meaning to Ask" – a series focused on community – how we build it, repair it, and sustain it. We'll explore how we can listen to one another, how we might find connection despite ideological differences, and consider how to create space for compassionate dialog and for seeking the holy in one another. To delve more deeply into the "I've Been Meaning to Ask" materials, an Adult Education discussion group will be offered immediately after worship on 4 consecutive Sundays: September 10, 17, 24 and October 1st.
- "Cherished Memories" grief support group is being offered again this fall on Sundays for 6 consecutive weeks from October 15 through November 19 from 11:15 am – 12:45 pm. Diane Wirhanowicz and Carol Meverden will co-facilitate.

✧Readying Ourselves for Worship

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

✧A Blessing as we Center Ourselves in this Moment

The Magdalene Blessing ~ Jan L. Richardson

You hardly imagined
standing here,
everything you ever loved
suddenly returned to you,
looking you in the eye
and calling your name.

And now
you do not know
how to abide this ache
in the center of your chest,
where a door
slams shut
and swings open
at the same time,
turning on the hinge
of your aching
and hopeful heart.



I tell you,
this is not a banishment
from the garden.

This is an invitation,
a choice,
a threshold,
a gate.

This is your life
calling to you
from a place
you could never
have dreamed,
but now that you
have glimpsed its edge,
you cannot imagine
choosing any other way.

So let the tears come
as anointing,

as consecration,
and then
let them go.

Let this blessing
gather itself around you.

Let it give you
what you will need
for this journey.

You will not remember
the words –
they do not matter.

All you need to remember
is how it sounded
when you stood
in the place of death
and heard the living
call your name.

✧ **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

✧ **Time for Young Hearts**

Reflect about the women
who root you
who shelter you
who nurture you
who sustain you



✧ **Gathering as God's People: Our Theme – *Women in the Bible***

Throughout the summer we've been delving into the stories that lift up women's voices, enabling us to turn our attention to perspectives that are rarely considered. We witnessed Hagar, in the Book of Genesis, turning faithfully to God in the most dire of circumstances. We observed the women throughout the Book of Exodus, noting the pivotal roles they played at every phase of Moses' life. Their radical acts empowered the Israelites to become a nation. We turned our attention to the deep love and connection between Ruth and Naomi, recognizing the depth of relationship we desire and that can be attained.

We have also gleaned wisdom from women in the New Testament - coming to understand more fully, through the often-studied story of Mary and Martha, that we each are called to action and also to make time for contemplation. Then we trained our gaze on one of the many "unnamed women" in the Bible, with a story that shows up differently in each of the four gospels. It was from the woman's vantage point in the Gospel of Luke, as she anointed Jesus, that we were invited to recall our own moments of pain and desperation – witnessing her faithfulness and vulnerability as she poured out the precious contents of her alabaster jar over his feet.

In our final week of this series, we turn to one of Jesus' most celebrated disciples and the woman weighed down by more projections and assumptions than any other in the Bible: Mary Magdalene. This morning we're invited to listen deeply to familiar gospel stories with fresh ears and open our hearts to the words attributed to Mary from her own ancient text.

✧ **Gathering Hymn 201 *A Prophet Woman Broke a Jar***

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

Siblings in Christ,
whatever your perspective,
whatever your background,
your orientation,
your race,
whatever your hopes,
your dreams,
your fears,
gather to worship,
for here we are all one in Christ.
Thanks be to God!

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Litany, "Past, Present, and Future," by Rev. Dr. Denise Kingdom Grier

One: For she who went before,

All: Blazing, praying, pushing, and shoving,

One: As we quenched, silenced, and diminished,

All: Lord, forgive us.

One: For she who stands before us now

All: Preaching, proclaiming, reaching, and naming,

One: As we listen, receive, and embrace,

All: Lord, we thank you.

One: For she who will come

All: Prophesying, leading, creating, and innovating,

One: As we long, anticipate, and hope,

All: Lord, make us ready.

**All: May we ever look back and lament,
look up with gratitude, and
look forward with open hearts.**

✧ **Special Music 144 *Thy Word*** (Worship & Praise hymnal)

✧ **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 Teachings**

Luke 8: 1-3

Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

Mark 15: 37-41

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39 Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Matthew 27: 35-37, 55-56

And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

John 20: 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of Mary Magdalene

(Pages 1-6 are missing)

Page 7

...”What is matter?

Will it last forever?

The Teacher answered:

“All that is born, all that is created,
all the elements of nature
are interwoven and united with each other.

All that is composed shall be decomposed;

everything returns to its roots;

matter returns to the origins of matter.

Those who have ears, let them hear.”

Peter said to him: “Since you have become the interpreter
of the elements and the events of the world, tell us:

What is the sin of the world?”

The Teacher answered:

“There is no sin.

It is you who make sin exist,
when you act according to the habits
of your corrupted nature;

this is where sin lies.

This is why the Good has come into your midst.

It acts together with the elements of your nature
so as to reunite it with its roots.”

Then he continued:

“This is why you become sick,
and why you die:

it is the result of your actions;

what you do takes you further away.

Those who have ears, let them hear.

Page 8

“Attachment to matter

gives rise to passion against nature.

Thus trouble arises in the whole body;

this is why I tell you:

‘Be in harmony...’

If you are out of balance,

take inspiration from manifestations
of your true nature.

Those who have ears, let them hear.”

After saying this, the Blessed One
greeted them all, saying:

“Peace be with you – may my Peace
arise and be fulfilled within you!
Be vigilant, and allow no one to mislead you
by saying:
‘Here it is!’ or
‘There it is!’
For it is within you
that the Son of Man dwells.
Go to him,
for those who seek him, find him.
Walk forth,
and announce the gospel of the Kingdom.

Page 9

“Impose no law
other than that which I have witnessed.
Do not add more laws to those given in the Torah,
lest you become bound by them.”
Having said all this, he departed.
The disciples were in sorrow,
shedding many tears, and saying:
“How are we to go among the unbelievers
and announce the gospel of the Kingdom of the Son of Man?
They did not spare his life,
so why should they spare ours?”
Then Mary arose,
embraced them all, and began to speak to her brothers:
“Do not remain in sorrow and doubt,
for his Grace will guide you and comfort you.
Instead, let us praise his greatness,
for he has prepared us for this.
He is calling upon us to become fully human [Anthropos].
Thus Mary turned their hearts toward the Good,
and they began to discuss the meaning of the Teacher’s words.

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** “The Good in our Midst”



✧ **Reflection Questions**

- How do Mary Magdalene and other women in our Bible Wisdom teachings shape my spiritual journey?
- In what ways do I stand up for others or accompany them on difficult paths?
- How might I remain awake to the Good in my midst?
- Where am I called to reflect the love and light of the Divine?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**



✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn 324 *For All the Faithful Women***

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

ALL:

Eternal Spirit

**Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,**

Father and Mother of us all.

Loving God, in whom is heaven.

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

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, 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.

(New Zealand Prayer Book)

✧ **Benediction**

May we, inspired by God's grace and the stories of so many courageous women,
go forth from this place,

ready to listen deeply,

accompany compassionately,

and discern way forward faithfully. 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**