



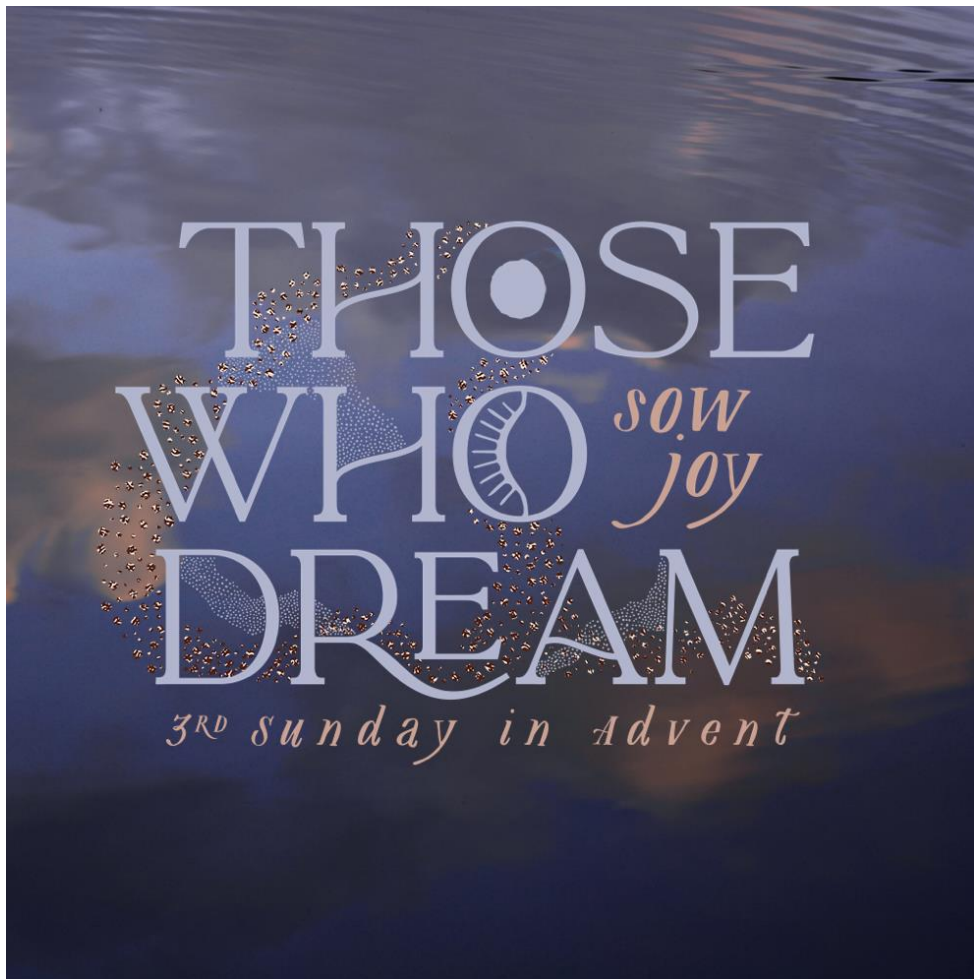
"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

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 17 2023

9:30 a.m.



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

*"Gentle Mary, Meek and Mild?" Rev. Zo Trembley*

✧ **Welcoming music** ~ Tippe Musicians

*Singing bowl/chimes*

✧ **Introit: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and help us in that way to go.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;  
Love stir within the womb of night, and death's own shadows put to flight.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

✧ **Prelude: Ode to Joy** ~ Tippe Musicians

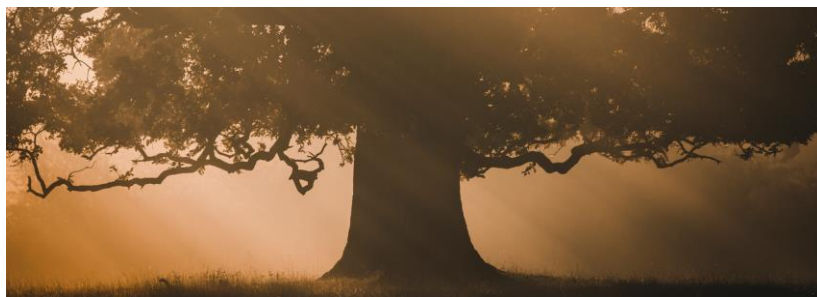
✧ **Welcome and community news**

• **Christmas Eve**

- We are invited to worship with Grace Presbyterian at Grace (2921 S Kinnickinnic Ave) on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 am for their Christmas Eve morning service. *If you're interested in riding over with others from Tippe, please put your name on the signup sheet on the Tippe Café table.*
- Tippe's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service starts at 4 pm in our sanctuary – a simple service with readings and carols, enjoy mulled cider and cookies afterward. Join us before your evening celebrations with family and friends, or better yet – bring your family and friends to worship with us before your festivities!
- Remember that we will not have Sunday morning worship on December 31<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Eve morning. Happy New Year!
- We look forward to celebrating Epiphany together on Sunday morning, January 7<sup>th</sup>!

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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



## ✧ A Poetry Prayer as we Center Ourselves in this Moment

**Sow Joy** ~ by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

If I wanted to sow joy,  
I wouldn't use words.

I would turn the music all the way up,  
And push the table against the wall,  
Until we had room to dance.

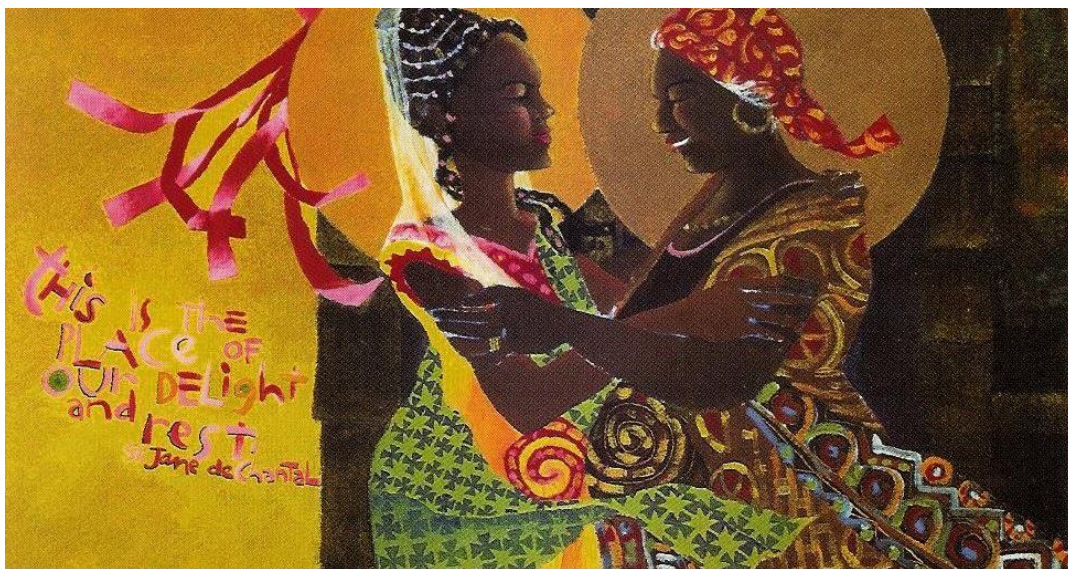
I would roll the windows down  
And drive you out of town,  
Until fresh air filled your lungs.  
I would squeeze your hand  
And look you in the eye,  
So that you would know you are not alone.

I'd lay down the picnic blanket and we'd look at the stars,  
So that nothing could separate you from God's great beauty.

I'd open my door, like Elizabeth did for Mary.  
I'd tell you to stay as long as you'd like.  
Make yourself at home. What's mine is yours.

And maybe we'd sing. And maybe we'd laugh.  
And maybe it would be enough to be in the presence of God and each other.

If I wanted to sow joy, that's what I'd do.  
So sing me your song. We've got dancing to get to.



"Windssock Visitation" by Br. Mickey McGrath, OSFS for the Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis

## ✧ Gathering as God's People

## ✧ **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

## ✧ **Candle-lighting ~ *The Candle of Joy***



*While We are Waiting, Come*

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Christ, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

A: I dream of dance parties in the kitchen.

B: I dream of laughter that is contagious.

A: I dream of birthday candles and another beautiful year.

B: I dream of family game nights and dinner parties with friends.

A: I dream of homemade Halloween costumes and homemade family recipes.

B: I dream of pillow forts, fireflies, and front porch swings.

A: I dream of every little thing that brings joy; and I know it comes from God.

B: So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder that God's dream for this world involves the end of all tears.

*(Light the candle of joy)*

A: God's dream for this world involves a joy that overflows and is contagious.

B: So may this fire burn bright, and as it does, may we sing.

A: May we dance.

B: May we laugh.

A: May we hold onto the people we love.

B: May we sow joy in a hurting world, and may it be an act of holy resistance. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus 82***

### ✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who had a terrible day.

She left her lunch at home.

She skinned her knee on the playground, and no one wanted to sit with her on the bus.

As she sank into her mother's arms at the end of the day, her mother said,

"Honey, what was the best part of today?"

The little girl cried and said, "Nothing! The entire day was terrible."

So the mother got down on one knee, wiped away her tears and said,

"There is always some good. Sometimes we just really have to look for it."

The little girl looked up at her mom and said, "What is good about today?"

And the mother said, "For starters, you're here in my arms."

Friends, anytime we gather together to worship God, we are here in God's arms.

So may we recognize that gift, and in doing so, may we sow joy.

### ✧Sharing our Innermost Lives with God

**ALL: O Great Writer,**

**With a sky full of stars and a world full of flowers, there should be no end to my joy.**

**And yet, instead of decorating my very being with joy, I let it slip away like loose change.**

**Instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David,**

**I pass by remarkable beauty and love most days, unfazed. Forgive me.**

**Teach me the ways of children, who laugh and dance and sing**

**as if joy is the very thing**

**that keeps them alive.**

**Maybe they have joy figured out.**

**Gratefully we pray, amen.**

### ✧Prayer for Illumination

Creator God,

Scripture is flooded with dream-like images:

the lion lying down with the lamb,

justice rolling like a mighty river,

swords being beaten into plowshares,

the prisoner being set free,

good news to the oppressed,

the whole world rejoicing.

To our human ears, there are times

when these words can sound

like nothing more than a far-off dream—

downplaying prophecy to fantasy.

However, what we know is that to dream is to hope,

and to hope is to imagine,

and to imagine is to wonder,

and to wonder is to believe,

and to believe is to live and breathe for

your promised day.

So give us the strength to listen as we

dream, O God.

For deep down, we know your words are

the very thing we need.

Amen.

### ✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

Great Creator, We are in awe of you.

**We will never know how you managed to dream up**

**Mountains and valleys,**

Freckles, dimples, and curly hair,

**A cool morning mist,**

The change of seasons,

**Or the magic of music.**

Your greatness is beyond our reckoning.

**And because we are in awe of you,**

We believe we must follow Mary's lead

**And allow our souls to sing.**

We believe that the appropriate reaction to your goodness

Is complete gratitude,

**Which looks like love for our neighbor,**

Justice for the poor,

**Food for the hungry,**

And joy that overflows.

**And even though we do not always believe in ourselves,**

We believe that our song is pleasing to you.

**We believe. Help our unbelief.**

In Christ's name we pray, **Amen.**



✧ **Music for Those Who Dream** *Come O Lord and Set Us Free* ~ by the Dameans

### ✧ **Reflection Questions**

What is behind the idea of “not mixing religion and politics”?

Why do you agree or disagree with this position?

What is your joy? Where do you find your joy?

What is the difference between “happiness” and “joy”?

### ✧ **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 126 *A Harvest of Joy ~ A Song of Ascents*

When our God restored the fortunes of Zion,

**We were like those who dream.**

Then our mouth was filled with laughter

**And our tongue with shouts of joy;**

Then it was said among the nations,

**“The Sovereign God has done great things for them.”**

Our God has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**Restore our fortunes, O God,**

Like the watercourses in the Negeb.

**May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

**Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

Luke 1: 46-55

***My spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . .***

46 And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Sovereign,

47 **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior:**

48 for God has looked with favor on the lowly state of God’s servant.

**Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,**

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

**the Mighty one whose name is holy;**

50 Indeed, God’s mercy is for those who fear God

**from generation to generation.**

51 God has shown strength;

**and has scattered the proud**

**in the imagination of their hearts.**

*My spirit rejoices in God my Savior*

52 God has brought down the powerful from their thrones

**and lifted up the lowly;**

53 God has filled the hungry with good things

**and sent the rich away empty.**

54 God has helped God’s servant Israel,

**in remembrance of God’s mercy,**

55 according to the promise made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and Sarah and to their descendants forever.”

*My spirit rejoices in God my Savior*

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 “Gentle Mary, Meek and Mild?” -- Rev. Zo Trembley  
(Text – Luke 1:52)



The Immaculate Conception by Tjepolo, 1768 [Prado, Madrid].

✧Short period of silent reflection

✧Sharing Our Wisdom

✧Hymn *Dare to Dream* ~ by Betsy Gonwa (song sheets)

✧Our gifts of support

✧Community Prayers... Pastoral Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer**

**ALL: Our Parent, Perfect Love, we turn again to You.  
Guide us; help us to love, so that Your Will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day that which we need.  
Fill us with hope and trust. Help us to forgive  
our brothers and sisters (and ourselves as well);  
and to look on them as you look on us.**

**Give us strength to resist temptation.  
When we are tempted, let us choose peace.  
Deliver us from our fears. For what You love is safe.  
And Your love remains forever and always. Amen.**

~ Peter Parr

<https://www.thingstoremember.org.uk/blog/the-lords-prayer-an-alternative-version>



## ✧ **Benediction**

Be people of joy.

Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet.

Share joy **by seeing the good in each other.**

Share joy **by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.**

Share joy **by praying for our world.**

In this Advent season, **we need to see, feel, and share joy.**

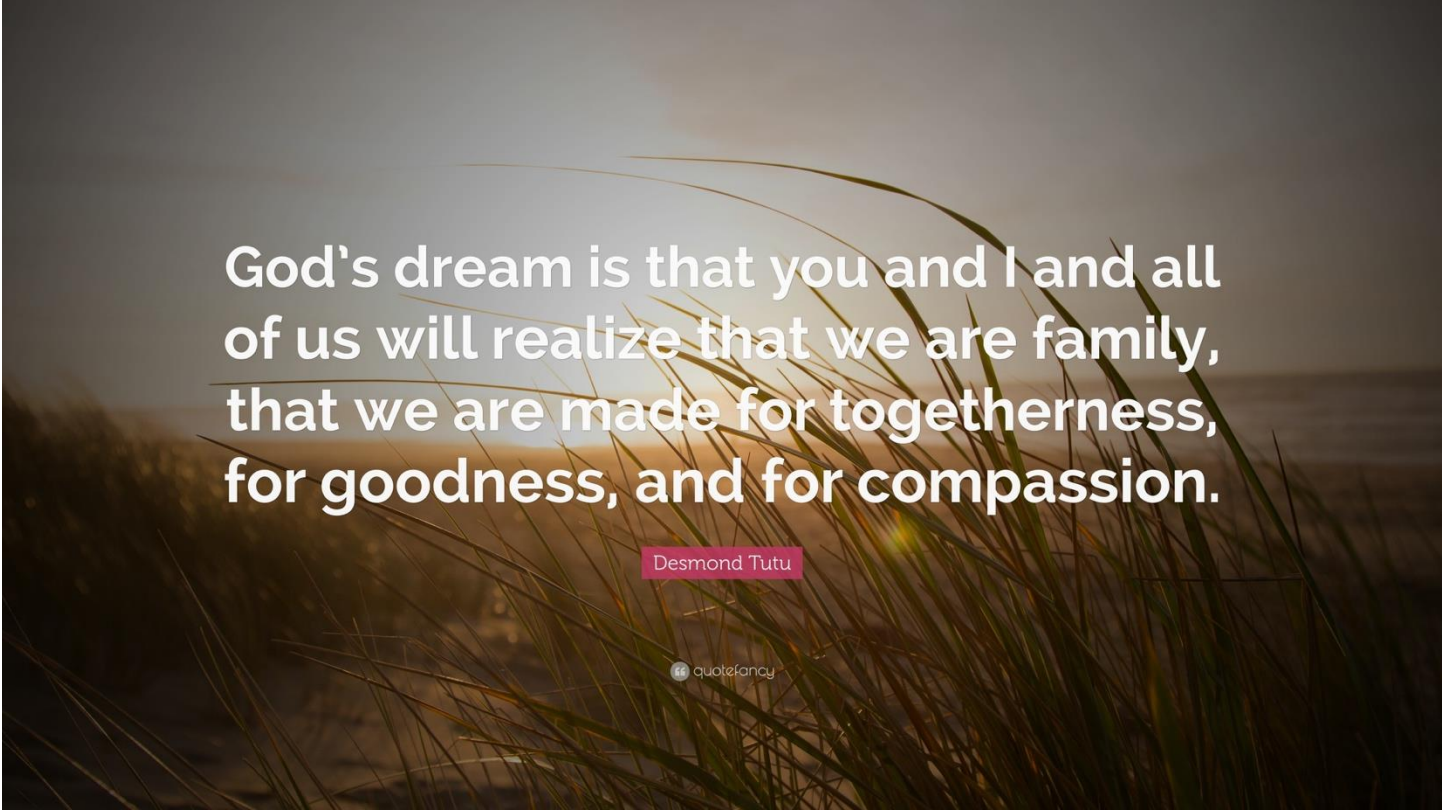
As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. **Amen.**

*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** *To Dream the Impossible Dream* ~ Tippe musicians



God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion.

Desmond Tutu

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