



"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

February 26, 2023

9:30 a.m.



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

"Wilderness Beginnings" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude: Zo Trembley**

✧ **Welcome and community news**

A reminder that you are always welcome to join us for Tippe's other worship opportunities which take place on Zoom weekly:

The link for this coming **Sunday evening 6 pm Centering Prayer** is:

<https://zoom.us/j/94639363594?pwd=djZxTDhkZHZzVDNkQ2goeUtVTVRtZz09>

Meeting ID: 946 3936 3594

Passcode: 001236

And the weekly link for our **Monday evening 6:30 pm Sanctuary Time of Belonging** continues to be:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85262123040?pwd=NmdKTzZrV3dYb2FDOGQvdThXenNDdz09>

Meeting ID: 852 6212 3040

Passcode: 543619

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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

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

The Wilderness is a Place of Beginnings

“Begin again,” life whispered in my ear;
For some days are beginning days.

Some days are designed to be the day we
try again,

And on those days—the sun rises for
you.

On those days, the birds sing for you.
On those days, God is cheering for you.
That's just the way God and beginnings
work.

For when your heart is broken and your
life is in pieces,

Or when the addiction or the depression
have found their way
back into your bones,
Or when you lose sight of the person
that you were called to be,
The wilderness will sing to you, “Begin
again.”

“Begin again” with the person you want
to be.

“Begin again” with the person you want
to love.

“Begin again” with the knowledge of
your faith.

“Begin again.”

The sun is rising for you.

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

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

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

✧ **Kid's Time**

✧ **Gathering as God's People: *Lenten Wilderness Journey***

As we gather on this first Sunday of Lent, we begin in the wilderness. In the first Gospel reading for this season, Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet, in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for ministry. Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit. We rarely enter the wilderness willingly, but hopefully through our wandering we remember who we are and whose we are. The wilderness can become sacred even if it remains dangerous. There is no wilderness space too harsh or threatening for God's love. This Lent, welcome to the journey.



Throughout this season, let us be mindful that:
The wilderness is a place of beginnings
The wilderness teaches us who – and whose – we are
The wilderness tests our strength and faith
The wilderness shapes our identity and our call
The wilderness is a place to fail and get it wrong
The wilderness can be isolating and dangerous

And as we explore the Bible Wisdom teachings over these Lenten weeks, the following questions invite us more deeply into contemplation:

- What is the physical or metaphorical wilderness in these texts?
- What do these texts teach us about the wilderness?
- How does the wilderness shape those who journey through it?
- Where is God in the wilderness?

✧ **Gathering Hymn 819 *Be Still My Soul***

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

One: God hovered over the void and breathed life into dust.

All: God created in the wilderness.

One: The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years.

All: The Israelites found God in the wilderness.

One: Jesus said “no” to the tempter time and time again.

All: Jesus claimed his identity in the wilderness.

One: We grow in the wilderness. We learn in the wilderness.

All: For God is with us—before, through, and after the wilderness.

One: Let us worship God!

All: Amen.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

God of wilderness and water,

your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.

Guide us through this season,
that we may not avoid struggle,

but open ourselves to blessing,

and awaken to your invitation toward transformation.

Amen.

✧ **Special Music *I Sing for You*** written, sung, and played by Rosie Rain



✧ **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 Matthew 4: 1-11**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,
*One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,
*He will command his angels concerning you
and On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.*”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, *Do not put the Lord your God to the test.*”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
*Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only God.*”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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 Wilderness Beginnings**



✧ Reflection Questions

As we enter into the landscape that the season of Lent offers us, what's stirring in your own interior terrain? What part of your earth might God be inviting you to open up or allow to give way? Is there something you need to let go of, something(s) to which you need to say, "not this," in order to make way for this? Is there a wild space—inner or outer—that would help you choose what you need for a more whole life? ~ Questions from Rev. Jan L. Richardson - excerpted from her blog, "The Painted Prayer Book" <https://paintedprayerbook.com/>

✧ Short period of silent reflection



✧ Sharing Our Wisdom

✧ Hymn 757 *Today We are Called to be Disciples*

✧ Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

ALL:

**O most Compassionate Life-giver,
may we honor and praise you;**

**May we work with you to establish your new order of justice,
peace, and love;**

Give us what we need for growth,

And help us, through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness.

Strengthen us in the time of testing, that we may resist all evil,

For all tenderness, strength and love are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

✧ **Benediction**

May God enfold you in tender and lasting love.

May Christ be beside you in times of struggle.

And may the Spirit guide you back to the path whenever you stray. 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**



