



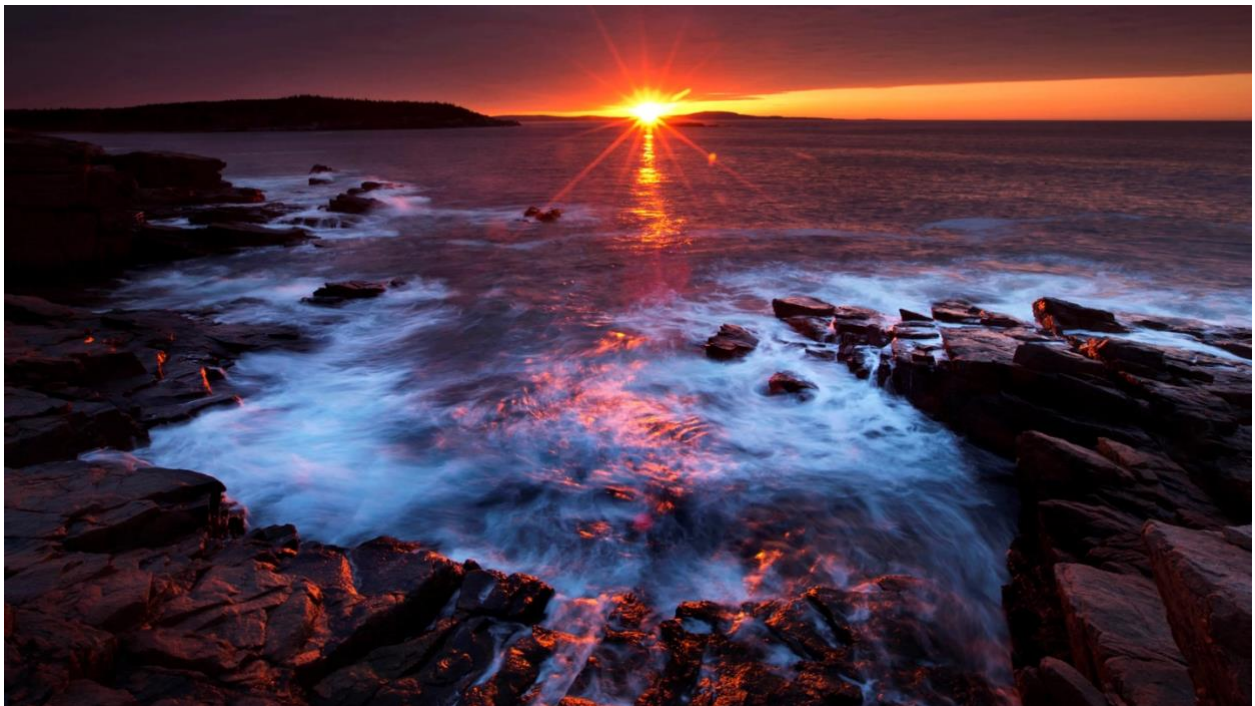
"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

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 12, 2023

9:30 a.m.



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

*"Be Still" Rev. Trish Eckert*

✧ **Prelude: Zo Trembley**

✧ **Welcome and community news**

Our Adult Education class meets after worship this morning

This evening's link to Centering Prayer at 6 pm: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92393322810?pwd=VWtkZGRWeHFY3V4TVBockJlMVFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 923 9332 2810

Passcode: 527347

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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

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

*Matins ~ John O'Donohue*



1

Somewhere, out at the edges, the night  
is turning and the waves of darkness  
Begin to brighten the shore of dawn.

The heavy dark falls back to earth  
And the freed air goes wild with light,  
The heart fills with fresh, bright breath  
And thoughts stir to give birth to color.

2

I arise today

In the name of Silence  
Womb of the Word,  
In the name of Stillness  
Home of Belonging,  
In the name of the Solitude  
Of the Soul and the Earth.

I arise today

Blessed by all things,  
Wings of breath,  
Delight of eyes,  
Wonder of whisper,  
Intimacy of touch,  
Eternity of soul,  
Urgency of thought,  
Miracle of health,  
Embrace of God.

May I live this day

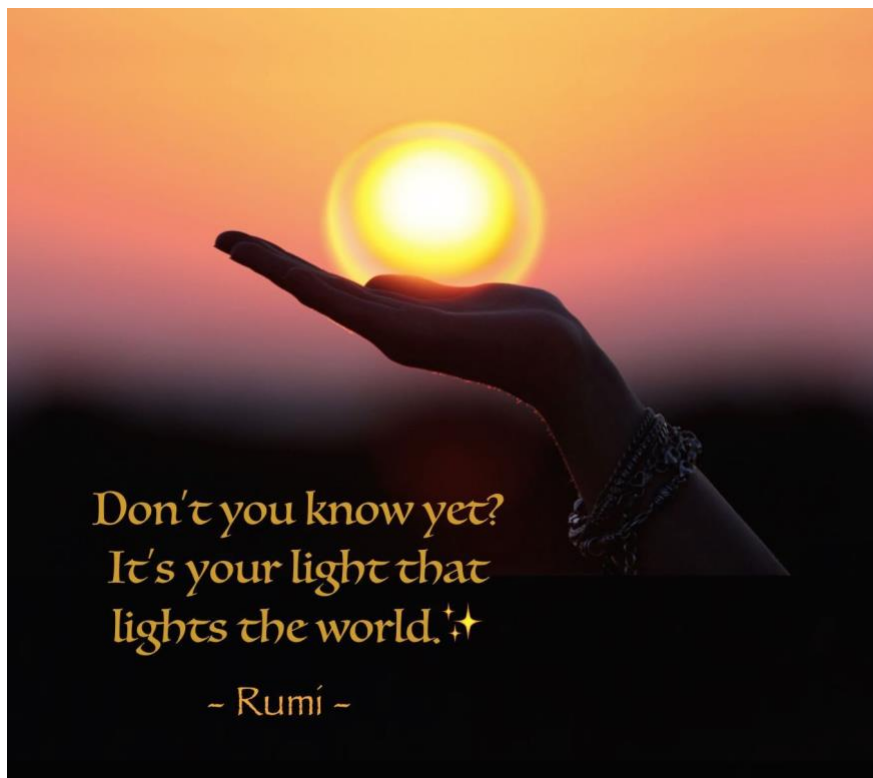
Compassionate of heart,  
Clear in word,  
Gracious in awareness,  
Courageous in thought,  
Generous in love.

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

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

**✧ Kid's Time**

## ✧Gathering as God's People: *Seasons of Contemplation & Illumination*



Don't you know yet?  
It's your light that  
lights the world. ✧ ✧

- Rumi -

In these Sundays after the Epiphany, we live into the insights gained throughout the season, in which we wait for the light to come forth. Many of our winter days are overcast and drab, and yet we know with each passing day, we gain more daylight as our hemisphere tilts incrementally closer to the sun. This gain will be minuscule at first, just a matter of seconds a day, but will steadily grow until daylight expands by three daily minutes per day in March.

In the past week, I've experienced a mixture of highs and lows, and I imagine that is the case for you, as well. This pattern echoes our exploration of the Gospel of Matthew, the words of the prophet Isaiah, and the wisdom of the Psalms, as we've reflected on seasons of light and dark in our lives. Over these past weeks, we have considered what lights our way, what glimmers of light appear in the dark, the treasures that are waiting for us there, and how we might more intentionally shine our own light.

At a point that was especially difficult for me this week, I was minutes away from our Monday night zoom worship and hadn't been able to do any preparation for it. But I showed up, as did a couple of other precious people, and we sat together in the moment. We listened to one another, we acknowledged our struggles and named our vulnerabilities, we talked about what buoys us and what moves us more deeply into the "divine dance" with God. That time together shaped the way I experienced the rest of my week and has pointed me toward contemplation over the past few days.

Many of us are in desperate need of contemplation, of stillness, of centering ourselves in the deep knowing that is waiting within each of us. So, I invite us into a contemplative space and welcome you to carry this with you going forward, as you acknowledge where you are hurting, discover your gifts and strengths, and as we discern together how we as individuals might continue to accompany one another and move forward as a beloved community. Let us practice contemplation and seek illumination together.

✧ **Gathering Hymn 123 *Shine, Jesus, Shine***

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

One: Children of God: Welcome!

**ALL: Welcome to this place of love and grace,**

One: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

**ALL: God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,**

One: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

**ALL: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.**

One: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

What is this awesome mystery

that is taking place within me?

I can find no words to express it;

my poor hand is unable to capture it

in describing the praise and glory that belong

to the One who is above all praise,

and who transcends every word...

My intellect sees what has happened,

but it cannot explain it.

It can see, and wishes to explain,

but can find no word that will suffice;

for what it sees is invisible and entirely formless,

simple, completely uncompounded,

unbounded in its awesome greatness.

What I have seen is the totality recapitulated as one,

received not in essence but by participation.

Just as if you lit a flame from a flame,

it is the whole flame you receive. ~ *St. Symeon the New Theologian (949-1022)*

✧ **Special Music *Unto Thee*** – 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 Psalm 46**

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.  
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

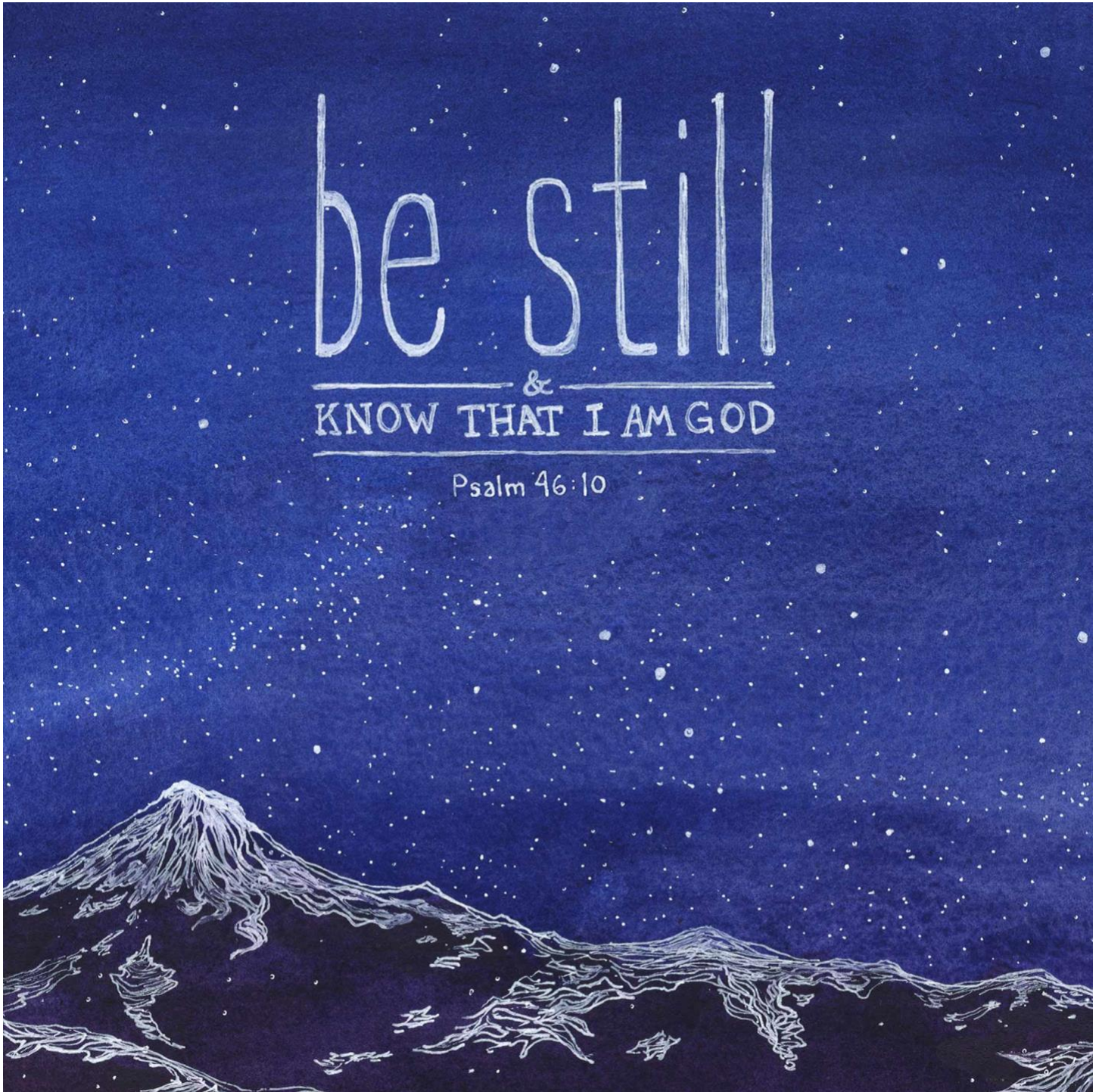
Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.  
'Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth.'  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

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 *Be Still and Know*



✧ Reflection Questions

- How might I find stillness?
- What scares me about being still?
- Which practices enable me to enter stillness?
- How might I embrace uncertainty and rest in my own/God's Presence?

✧ **Short Period of Silent Reflection**



✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn 147 *We are Called***

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**ALL:**

**God, our holy and ever present Light,  
With your Light our spirits are fed with daily joy and purpose.  
Forgive us when we contribute to the darkness.  
Help us to call out those who also contribute to the darkness.  
Lead us always into the Light.  
In the darkness of the world today, illuminate our paths with  
righteousness.  
For yours is the Light of loving grace, forever and ever. Amen.**





✧ **Benediction**

In the darkness,  
May you awaken to the hidden treasures awaiting you  
May you remember the goodness of rest and renewal  
May you notice the glimmers of joy, peace, and grace that surround you.  
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**

