



"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 18, 2024

9:30 a.m.



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

"Jesus Sought Me" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Introit *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*** (v2 on song sheets)

✧ **Prelude *Will You Come and Follow Me*** ~ Tippe Musicians

✧ **A Lenten Ritual of Candle Unlighting 205 *Ubi caritas***

As we sing, one candle among our Lenten candles is extinguished. With each week of Lent, yet another of the candles will be extinguished. (The Christ candle remains lit.) The dimming of light during the season of Lent reminds us that this 40-day journey is leading to the cross of Good Friday. The Christ candle returns Easter morning.



✧ **Welcome and community news**

- Tippe is providing dinner for our Divine Intervention guests next Sunday, February 25th (be sure to check out the sign up sheet after worship).
- Stay tuned for Holy Week worship opportunities taking place the week of March 25th as we gather with area churches from the Southeast Clergy Association.
- Interested in working and serving alongside us in the Tippe gardens this growing season? Be sure to let Pastor Trish know of your interest.

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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

✧ **A Poem as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**
All This Time

I put my headphones in.
I walk quickly.
I look toward the ground.
I create one million barriers
of independence,
but *still* God seeks after me.
God leans a rainbow over the sky.
God sends sun after the rain.
God blankets the earth with
wildflowers.

God allows music to carry
and laughter to rise,
all so that I might notice.
And when I do notice,
the unfurling that begins in my soul
is slow and holy and burning.
I am not alone.
God has been chasing after me
all this time.

*Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified
Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

✧ **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 Lenten Theme – *Wandering Heart***

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

We are tapping into the liturgical resource, “A Sanctified Art” throughout the season, and as their creative team contemplated Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of “Come Thou Fount” came to mind. They noticed that it was as if Peter himself wrote the song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, there is a selected phrase from this hymn, and we will sing a verse from it as we first gather every Sunday morning throughout Lent. This first Sunday, we will also sing the entire hymn together later in the service. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

Through this Lenten series we are acknowledging that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We want to affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We want to recognize the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls. This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.



✧ **Time for Young Hearts**

✧ **Gathering Hymn 721 *Lord You Have Come to the Lakeshore***

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

Come in.

Feel your feet on the floor.

Settle your worries.

Take a deep breath.

Dust the cobwebs from your ears. Relax the tension in your jaw,

for Christ is here.

God never stops seeking us.

We have been found.

Let us find God in return.

Let us worship the God of deep waters. Amen.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

ALL: Loving God,

You call us by name.

You join us in the deep waters of life.

You invite us to drop our nets and follow you,

and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter.

Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised to find you in our midst.

Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own.

Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves.

Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat.

Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Sovereign, our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.

✧ **Prayer for Illumination**

Creator God,

You hear everything.

You hear the rush of the wind through the trees.

You hear a baby's first cry.

You hear the crickets chirping, our silent prayers, and laughter around tables.

You hear it all!

We don't need that same capacity,

but we do need to hear your Word, O God,

for we cannot live on bread alone.

So today we pray: give us the ability to truly listen.

Give us the ability to listen with our hearts,

and may the truths revealed in your scripture today change us.

With hearts full of gratitude we pray, amen.

✧ **Special Music 751 *From the Nets of our Labors* 751** (v 1 & 6)

✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in a God of abundance—

**a God who sees possibilities where I cannot,
and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.**

I believe in a God who comforts—

**a God who says, “Do not be afraid;”
a God who joins me in life’s deep waters.**

I believe in a God who invites—

**a God who says, “Follow me,”
and, “You will be fishers of people.”**

I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—

**a God of second chances and boundless mercy;
a God who calls us by name.**

We believe.

Help our unbelief.

In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

✧ **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**

Psalms 25: 1-10

1 To you, O Sovereign, I lift up my soul.

2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me
be put to shame; do not let my enemies
exult over me.

3 Do not let those who wait for you be
put to shame; let them be ashamed who
are wantonly treacherous.

4 Make me to know your ways, O God;
teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

6 Be mindful of your mercy, O God, and
of your steadfast love, for they have been
from of old.

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth
or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love
remember me, for your goodness’ sake,
O Sovereign!

8 Good and upright is the Sovereign;
therefore God instructs sinners in the
way.

9 God leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble God’s way.

10 All the paths of the Sovereign are
steadfast love and faithfulness, for those
who keep God’s covenant and decrees.

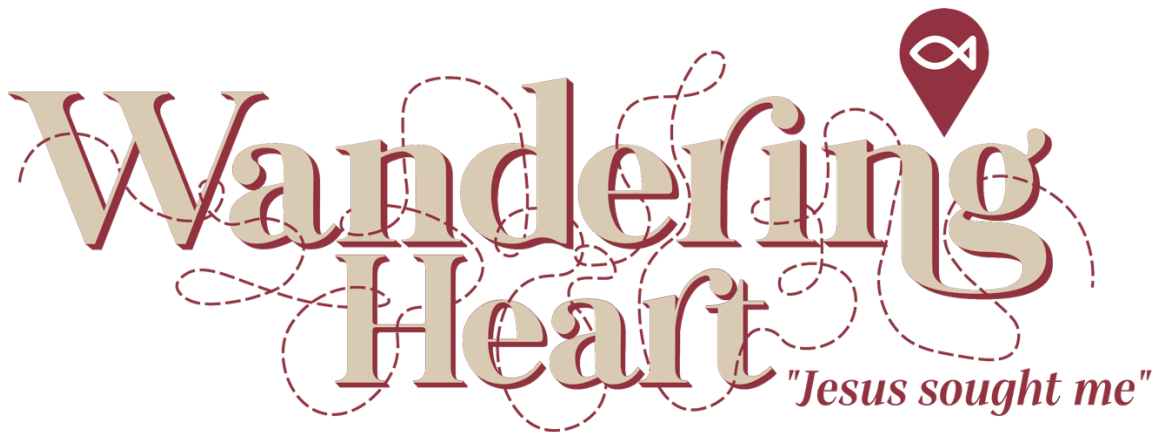
Luke 5:1-11

5 Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, 2 he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' 5 Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' 6 When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' 9 For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' 11 When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed 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** *Wandering Heart: Jesus Sought Me*, Rev. Trish Eckert



✧ **Reflection Questions**

- ◇ Why does Peter resist the abundant catch of fish? When have you been offered an abundant gift? Did you feel any urge to resist it? If so, why?
- ◇ This is a dramatic turning point for Peter. He will leave his home, his business, and his way of life to follow Jesus into a new calling. Have you ever pivoted your life in order to follow a new calling? What did you leave behind? How did that new path unfold? Where was God along the way?
- ◇ What is the beginning of your faith story? What are the first things you were taught about God? When was the first time you felt God's presence?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn *Come O Fount of Every Blessing*** (song sheets – v 1 thru 3)



✧ **Our gifts of support**

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

**ALL: Indwelling God,
infused throughout all existence,
we honor you with many names.**

**Your realm is within the human heart.
We accept life for all that it can be,
on earth as throughout all creation.**

**May we continue to draw sustenance from this earth,
and may we receive forgiveness equal to our own.**

**May we ever move from separation toward union,
to live in grace, with love in our hearts,
forever and ever. Amen.**

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.

✧Our Response:

Please remain quiet in place until the postlude is finished.

❖ **Postlude** *Enter the Journey* by Friedman and Vogt ~ Tippe Musicians

