



"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 25, 2024

9:30 a.m.



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

"Rescue Me From Danger" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude** *Jesus Let Us Come to Know You* ~ by Michael Card, played by Tippe Musicians

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

✧ **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**

- You are invited to **join Divine Intervention for dinner this evening 2/25** to help serve the meal and join us for fellowship, from 6-7:30 pm.
- **March 10 “Pulpit Swap”** – Pastor Trish will preach at Bay View United Methodist Church and share about our Divine Intervention ministry. Pastor Jerry Cho of BVUM will preach here at Tippe! We warmly welcome Pastor Jerry, who also serves as one of our Divine Intervention pastors every Friday.
- Save the dates - Holy Week worship opportunities in Bay View:
 - **Maundy Thursday** service **Thursday, March 28 at 7:00pm** at **Grace Presbyterian Church, 2931 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue**
 - **Good Friday** service **Friday, March 29 at 7:00pm** at **Bay View United Methodist Church, 2772 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue**
- 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**

Rescue Me

I'd rather not need rescue.
I'd prefer a five-step plan
and a quick-fix solution.
I'd prefer stubborn insistence
over honest vulnerability,
because rescue requires
asking for help.
Rescue names
the rising water.
Rescue sees
the tired, treading feet.
Rescue feels
the swell of the wind
and the rain at a slant.
But when the floor falls out
and the world is on fire
and my small hands
cannot fix the hurt welling in me,
the prayer that slips out
is *rescue*
rescue

rescue me.

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***

Throughout Lent, as we focus on the life and faith of the disciple, Peter, we'll witness a flawed follower of Jesus. In Peter, I imagine we'll see ourselves, and by following Peter's journey, we'll watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a human trying to figure it all out, just like we are.

Our liturgical resource, "A Sanctified Art," invites us to delve into the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount." For each step in Peter's journey, there is a selected phrase from that hymn – the phrase this week is, "Rescue Me From Danger." As we first gathered this morning, we sang about God rescuing us from danger and guiding us safely home.

The Bible Wisdom teachings this season reveal how faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We are reminded that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. Through the Gospel stories we'll notice how Peter just 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.

The Gospel story we'll hear today makes you wonder if, as a new disciple, maybe Peter wants to prove himself. Boldly, in the middle of a storm, Peter steps out of the boat to join Jesus who is walking on top of the waves. Peter walks on water until the wind shakes his trust and he begins to sink. Many of us know what it feels like to be thrown off balance, to feel as if we're sinking. Maybe this looks like doubt, unexpected change, a too-busy season of life, devastating grief, or feeling distant from God. We can relate to the desperation Peter feels as he cries out - we pray for God to save us when we sink.

This is the reality of life and faith: inevitably we will face many emotional, relational, professional, physical, and global dangers. The lyric for this week speaks to the desperation we feel when these dangers are imminent. It also acknowledges all who may be offering this prayer as a desperate plea—all in need of rescue, as this morning's poem so beautifully articulated.

May we come to know these stories on a deeper level and tap into their wisdom as we wander and explore.



✧ **Time for Young Hearts**

✧ **Gathering Hymn *Enter the Journey*** by Friedman and Vogt (song sheet)

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

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,
the courageous and the fearful,
the hungry and the hopeful,
the impatient and the reserved.

**God welcomes the young and the old,
the poets and the prophets,
the faithful and the tired,
the curious and the convicted.**

Wherever you are on your journey,
wherever your boat is at sea,
there is room for all to gather here.

This is God's house.

Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

ALL: Gracious God,

**There are days that threaten to swallow us,
days when the storms of life feel too big.**

**In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear,
spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you.**

Forgive us for doubting ourselves.

Forgive us for doubting you.

Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us.

With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.



✧ **Prayer for Illumination**

Holy God,

There are days where the wind is loud.

There are days where the rain tears through the trees
and the storms of life beg for our attention.

So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts.

Quiet our restless minds.

Reach out your hand to us and pull us into your Word
so that we might hear, *really hear*, your message to us today.

With one foot out of the boat, we pray, amen.

✧ **Special Music** *Little Cushion*, written and performed by Betsy Gonwa

✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage.

I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.

I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.

I believe in a God who knows my name.

I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid. 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 22: 23-31

You who fear the Sovereign, praise God!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God;

stand in awe of God, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴ For God did not despise or abhor

the affliction of the afflicted;

God did not hide God's face from me,

but heard when I cried to God.

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will pay before those who fear God.

²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek God shall praise the Sovereign.

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember

and turn to the Sovereign;

and all the families of the nations

shall worship before God.

²⁸ For dominion belongs to the Sovereign,

and God rules over the nations.

²⁹ To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;

before God shall bow all who go down to the dust,

and I shall live for God.

³⁰ Posterity will serve God;

future generations will be told about the Sovereign,

³¹ and proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying that God has done it.

Matthew 14: 22-33

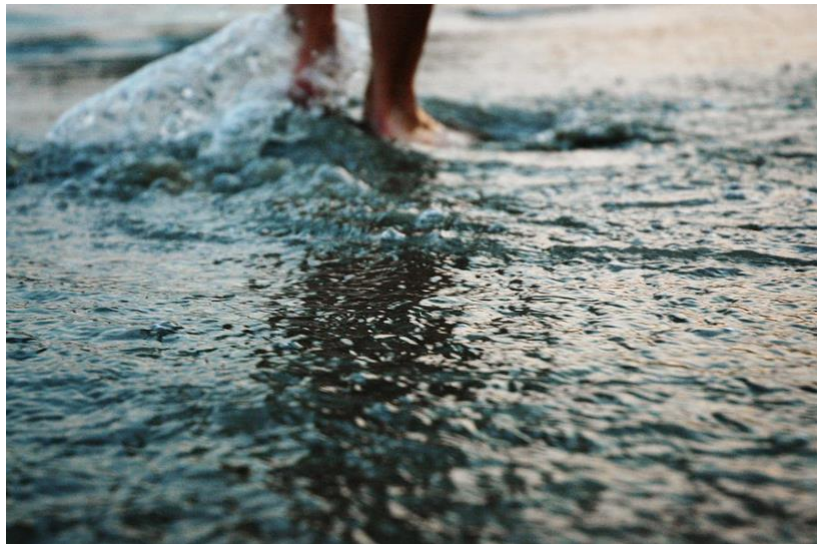
Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

²⁸ Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' ²⁹ He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

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.**



Wandering Heart

"Rescue me from danger"

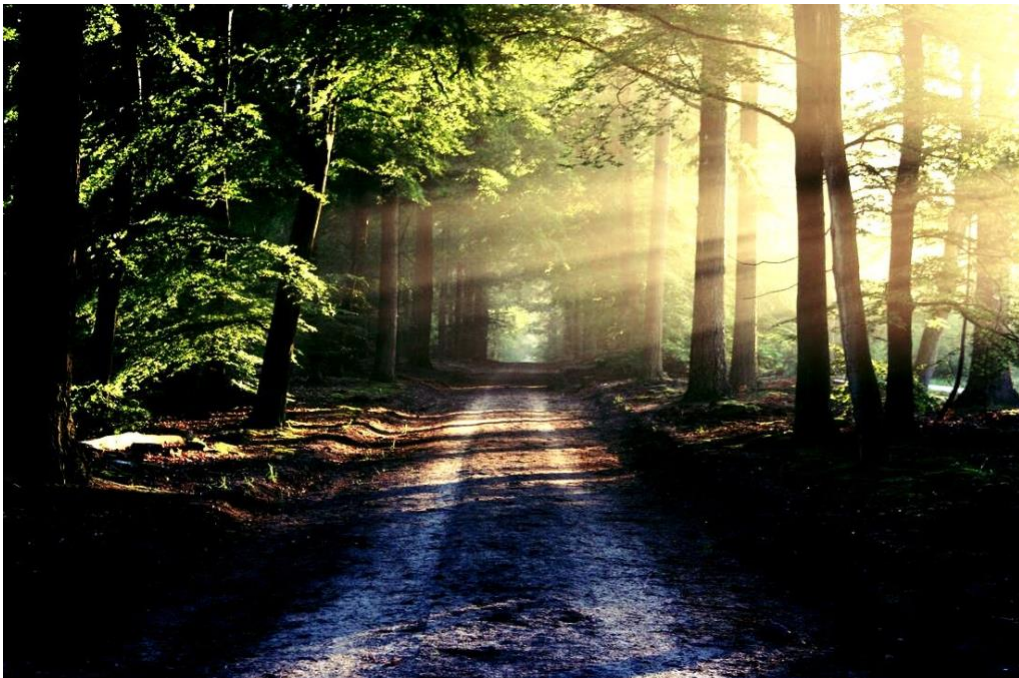
✧ **Reflection Questions**

- ◇ Do I understand my spiritual longings as a gift and a nudge from God, and do I act on them?
- ◇ Do I live with my eyes and my heart open – watching and listening for the One who seeks me?
- ◇ How do my needs for control and security interfere with my faith?
- ◇ Imagine Peter's motives in this story. Is he trying to prove himself to Jesus by emulating him? Is he earnest and eager, or brash and foolish – or a combination of all these things? Do you see yourself in any of his actions?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn *On My Way***, by Betsy Gonwa (song sheets)



✧ **Our gifts of support**

God, we look at our humble offerings and we think
they might not change the world today.

But they help us remember.

We remember that you are generous.

We remember that when we give of our resources, we are giving ourselves.

We remember that you working in us does change the world,
letting your kingdom come on earth.

Bless all of these gifts. Amen.

✧ **Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer**



The Lord's Prayer

**ALL: Spirit of Life and Love, Holy God, Source Eternal,
in our midst yet still ever so elusive:**

To breathe your sacred name is a blessing.

**Your world become,
Your will be done here, on Earth,
inspired by our aspirations to do and be better people.**

May we have all that we need to survive, live, and thrive.

**Remind us to be gentle; may we love mercy and kindness,
recalling the times when we've fallen short ourselves.**

**Call us to be firm; may we not be tempted to follow selfish motivations
or reside in our narrow privileges, unexamined and uninterrogated;
move us to counter and overcome evil and injustice in ourselves,
our lives, and institutions.**

**Yours is the Beloved Community,
the fire of commitment in our hearts,
and the spirit of generosity and abundance, now and always. Amen.**

✧ **Benediction**

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.

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.

Please remain quiet in place until the postlude is finished.

✧ **Postlude** *Step by Step ~ Tippe Musicians*