



"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

January 14, 2024

9:30 a.m.



O LORD,

*you have
searched me
and known me!*

Psalm 139:1

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

"Knowing and Being Known" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude** *There is a Longing in Our Hearts* ~ Tippe Musicians

✧ **Welcome and community news**

Divine Intervention Dinner

Tippecanoe is signed up to bring dinner for our Divine Intervention guests on Sunday evening, January 21st. Please talk with/email Janet Scheffel damekexote@gmail.com to coordinate the part of the meal you can contribute. We invite you to remain with us during dinner and share in fellowship with our guests.

Adult Education winter series: *Exploring our Resistance to the Unknown*, developed and facilitated by Betsy Gonwa - Sundays, 11:15 am – 12:30 pm
January 28, February 11, 18, 25, and March 3

We tend to have an ambiguous relationship with the unknown. The unknown can scare us and attract us at the same time. Yet even while we sense the Spirit drawing us into the unknown, we resist. We may stay where we are comfortable rather than pursuing something new, whether it is a job, a faith community, or a relationship.

Through the lens of darkness and light, you will be invited to explore your resistance to the unknown. You will be guided through spiritual practices that allow you to move into the unknown with gentleness and grace.

Sessions will include Individual reflection and group sharing as well as the introduction and practice of three spiritual practices over the course of the sessions.

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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

✧ **A Blessing Poem as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**



Known

A Blessing ~ Jan Richardson © Jan Richardson janrichardson.com

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| First we will need grace. | what we have built our beliefs upon. | knows in knowing us, intricate and unhidden |
| Then we will need courage. | We will need this and more. | no part of us foreign no piece of us fashioned from other than love |
| Also we will need some strength. | Then we will need to let it all go to leave room enough for the astonishment that will come should we be given a glimpse of what the Holy One sees in seeing us, | desired discerned beheld entirely all our days. |
| We will need to die a little to what we have always thought, what we have allowed ourselves to see of ourselves, | | |

✧ **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

✧ **Time for Young Hearts**

✧ **Gathering as God's People: Our Theme – *Knowing and Being Known***

What does it truly mean to be *known*? We all want people to notice us, to really understand us. We all want to be known for who we truly are and still loved. We all want to know others in the same way.

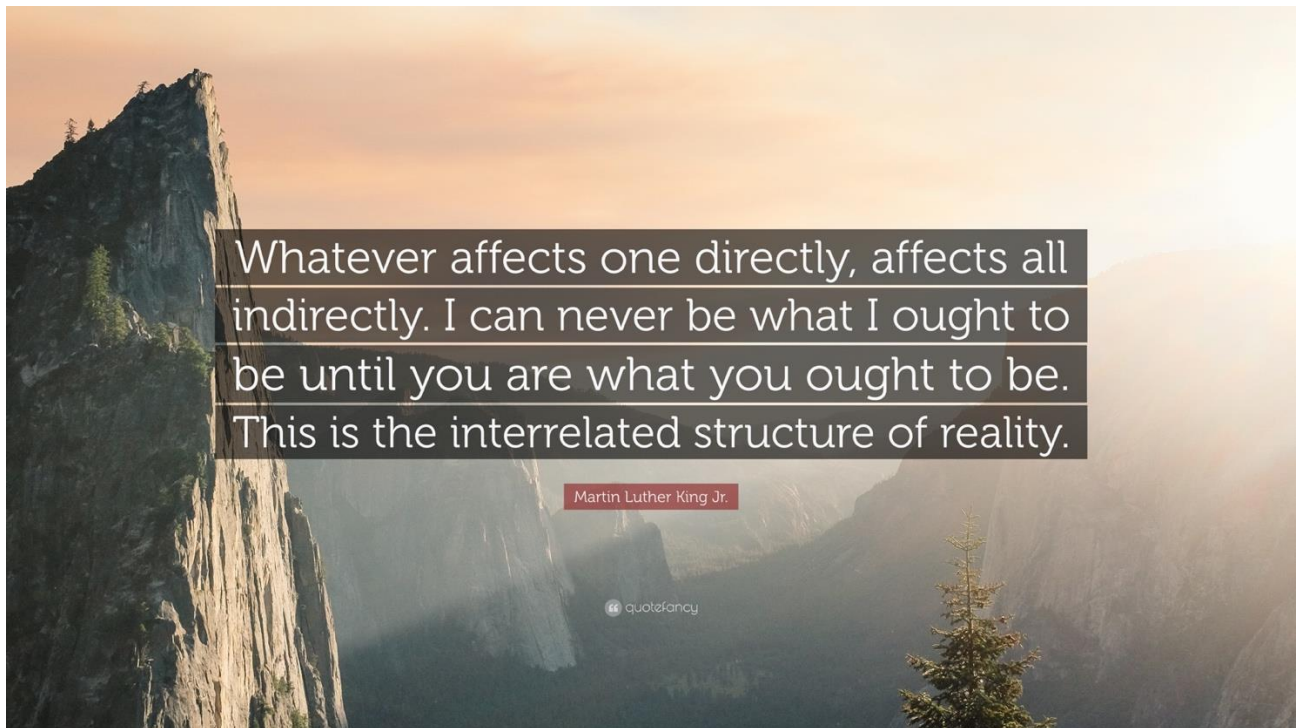
To know and be known is a relationship. It's what we all desire, whether it is from friends, parents, a romantic partner, or a close-knit community. But something gets in the way. In many of our relationships, we are not known or understood in the way we wish. Most of the time our relationships are not as strong as we'd like. We begin to wonder if it is even possible to be known.

Tomorrow, we honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As we do so, we attempt to recognize what we have in common with one another while also celebrating the range of differences among us. We consider how to live among one another and recognize our

humanity and advocate for equity and access for all. Martin Luther King spoke, at every opportunity, about love, and inviting us to be in relationship with one another. While speaking to a group of students at Cornell College in 1962, he said, *“I am convinced that men hate each other because they fear each other. They fear each other because they don't know each other, and they don't know each other because they don't communicate with each other, and they don't communicate with each other because they are separated from each other.”*

This morning we'll hear the psalmist say, “Oh God, you have searched me and known me!” God knows every part of us – every gift and every flaw. And yet God still loves us. To be fully known and fully loved? That is what we all desire.

On this second Sunday after Epiphany, we will explore texts that have to do with being known. We will contemplate being in relationship with God while reflecting on the challenge, the comfort, and the call of knowing and being known.



✧Gathering Hymn 754 *Help Us Accept Each Other*

✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

All: Holy One, dwell within us.

Whisper in our ears,

Glimmer in our vision;

Write upon our hearts;

Join us in this place.

We wait

with open ears, open eyes, open hearts. Amen

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God** ~ *Prayer by Roddy Hamilton*

Loving God

may we be found
and may we find
a place called home
a place where faith holds us
and grace renews us
where forgiveness longs for us
to be who you will us to be

may we find a place called home
where we are accepted as we are
where we are taken in
and loved unconditionally

a place called home
where we belong
and our souls fit
and our questions are allowed
and our anger is heard
and our needs are recognized
and our pain is held
and our names are known

and may this be that place, O God,
this community
this group of travelers and doubters
and companions on the way

this home
where your place is our place
and place isn't a building
but a way of being together
in relationship
held together by love

Loving God

Homecoming God

may we make this a home
to all who still yet seek
a place of grace-filled sanctuary
and gracious welcome

So be it
Amen

✧ **Special Music** *Swimming to the Other Side* ~ Tippe Musicians

✧ **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**

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to Yahweh under Eli. The word of the Sovereign was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Sovereign, where the ark of God was. Then Yahweh called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. Yahweh called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know Adonai, and the word of Yahweh had not yet been revealed to him. The Sovereign called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that Yahweh was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if God calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Adonai, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Sovereign came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then Adonai said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Sovereign. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that God told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Sovereign; let Yahweh do what seems good to Yahweh."

As Samuel grew up, God was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Sovereign.

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

139:1 O God, you have searched me and known me. 139:2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. 139:3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. 139:4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O God, you know it completely. 139:5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

139:13 For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. 139:15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 139:16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. 139:17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 139:18 I try to count them - they are more than the sand; I come to the end -- I am still with you.

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 Knowing and Being Known*, Rev. Trish Eckert



✧ Reflection Questions

Adapted from Catherine Whitmire's text, "Plain Living: A Quaker Path to Simplicity."

- When I listen within to my place of deepest spiritual knowing, what is it that I most long for?
- How do I nurture my relationships and endeavor to know myself and others more fully?
- What promotes and what hinders my connection to others?
- How might I open myself to others and share more authentically?
- When I feel discouraged about the state of the world, what helps me keep going?

✧ Short period of silent reflection



✧ Sharing Our Wisdom

✧ Hymn 359 *Freedom is Coming*

✧ Our gifts of support

Gracious God, we pause as we recognize that you are the creator and caretaker of all things. We pause in reverence, acknowledging that everything we possess ultimately belongs to you. We open our hearts to the profound reality that we are only temporary stewards of your eternal treasures. Help us to embrace the responsibility and privilege of managing your blessings with diligence and integrity.

May this prayer be a gentle reminder of the sacred trust you have placed in our hands, encouraging us to use your resources faithfully for the expansion of your realm here on earth.

✧ Community Prayers

✧ Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer ~ *(Latin American paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer)*

All: Our Father and Mother
who is in us here on earth,
holy is your name
in the hungry
who share their bread and their song.

Your Kingdom come,
which is a generous land
flowing with milk and honey.

Let us do your will,
standing up when all are sitting down,
and raising our voice
when all are silent.

You are giving us our daily bread
in the song of the bird and the miracle of the corn.

Forgive us
for keeping silent in the face of injustice,
and for burying our dreams;
for not sharing bread and wine,
love and the land,
among us, now.

Don't let us fall into the temptation
of shutting the door through fear,
of resigning ourselves to hunger and injustice,
of taking up the same arms as the enemy.
But deliver us from evil.

Give us the perseverance and the solidarity
to look for love,
even if the path has not yet been trodden,
even if we fail;
so we shall have known your Kingdom
which is being built forever and ever. Amen.

✧ **Benediction**

The grace of the Word of life rest upon you;
the love of the Source of life embrace you;
and the transforming power of the Breath of life
help, strengthen and surprise you,
this day and all your days. 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** *We Shall Overcome* ~ Tippe Musicians

