



"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 21, 2024

9:30 a.m.



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

"Pursuing Love and Following Leadings" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude** *As a Deer* ~ Tippe Musicians

✧ **Welcome and community news**

Thank you for your contributions to **dinner for Divine Intervention!** We always appreciate additional items that supplement the meals and stock our cupboards, which provide breakfast, snacks, and takeaway foods.

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

Feeling drawn toward something new, yet reluctant to make a change? Rather than making an enemy of your resistance, you can choose to befriend it. Come learn how to move into the unknown with gentleness and grace.

✧ **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: *For Longing*** ~ John O'Donohue

Blessed be the longing that brought you here
and quickens your soul with wonder.

May you have the courage to listen to the voice of desire
that disturbs you when you have settled for something safe.

May you have the wisdom to enter generously into your own unease
to discover the new direction your longing wants you to take.

May the forms of your belonging – in love, creativity, and friendship –
be equal to the grandeur and the call of your soul.

May the one you long for long for you.

May your dreams gradually reveal the destination of your desire.

May a secret Providence guide your thought and nurture your feeling.

May your mind inhabit your life with the sureness with which your body inhabits the
world.

May your heart never be haunted by ghost-structures of old damage.

May you come to accept your longing as divine urgency.
May you know the urgency with which God longs for you.

✧ **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 ~ *Connection and Call***

In this time between Epiphany and Lent, the lectionary readings in this season invite us to pay attention to our relationships with ourselves, with God, and with one another. Last week we considered, what does it mean to be *known*, and in turn, to know others? This week, the Bible Wisdom teachings articulate longing for connection with the Divine and illustrate how some people respond to powerful invitations and callings. Many of us readily imagine ourselves in these stories and sometimes see how our own lives align with the experiences of those described in these ancient texts.

✧ **Gathering Hymn 721 *Lord, You have come to the Lakeshore***

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

As we gather this day, each of us brings something to worship –

We bring the burdens of the week.

We bring prayers of hope, and prayers of anguish.

We bring our voices, and our offerings, and our questions.

We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be.

We bring all this to each other and to God, whom we worship today.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Holy One, creator of a new reality just now coming into view,
we have come today to see and touch and know your presence here among us.

Be with us as we listen for your call.

Help us hear afresh the good news: that power and steadfast love
arise from you, our rock and our salvation. Amen.

✧ **Special Music *We Will Go, God* by Shannon Cerneka and Orin Johnson**

Lyrics

(I) We will go, God, where You would have us go,
and we will do what You would have us do.

(II) Christ Jesus, we will follow you.

(III) We will be strong. We will be strong.

✧ **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**

Psalm 62:5-12

62:5 For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from God. 62:6 God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. 62:7 On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. 62:8 Trust in God at all times, O people; pour out your heart before God, who is a refuge for us. *Selah*

62:9 Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. 62:10 Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them. 62:11 Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, 62:12 and steadfast love belongs to you, O Sovereign. For you repay to all according to their work.

Mark 1:14-20

1:14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

1:16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen. 1:17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." 1:18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

1:19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 1:20 Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

One: May we hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our tradition.

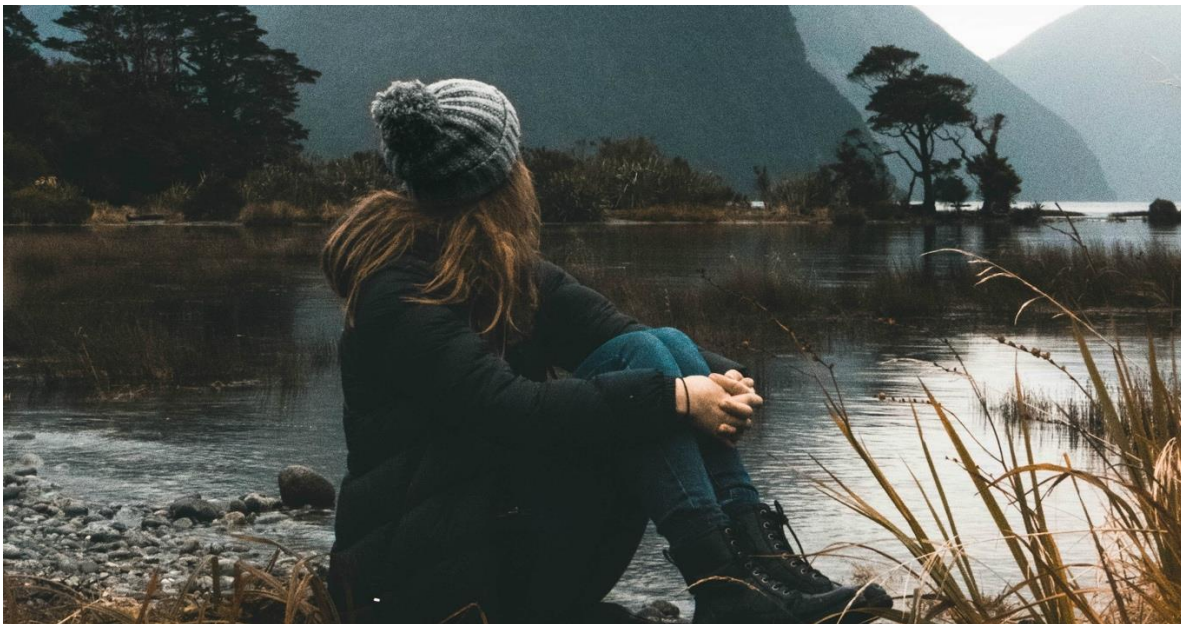
All: **Thanks be to our God.**



✧ **Reflection Questions**

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

- What do my spiritual longings reveal about God's hopes for me?
- 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 open am I to being led by the Spirit in my daily life?



✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn *Freeing Jesus*** (song sheets)

✧ **Our gifts of support**

God of new realities close at hand,
open our ears to hear your call.

Give us the insight to know that it is you who calls us.

Grant us the courage to go where you send us
as we journey with the risen Christ.

Our nets are full enough to share God's bounty. Our hearts are open wide to the needs of others. Let us reach out and share what we've been given. Amen.

✧ **Community Prayers**

✧ **Pastoral Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

All: God, lover of us all, most holy one. Help us to respond to you. To create what you want for us here on earth. Give us today enough for our needs. Forgive our weak and deliberate offences, just as we must forgive others when they hurt us. Help us to resist evil and to do what is good. For we are yours, endowed with your power to make your world whole. Amen.

✧ **Benediction**

May the love of God embrace us

May the grace of Jesus challenge us

The power of the Holy Spirit renew us. 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 *Lord, My Strength* ~ Tippe Musicians**