



"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 28, 2024

9:30 a.m.



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

"Unity in the Spirit" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude** *We are Called to Serve*, by Julie and Tim Smith ~ Tippe Musicians

✧ **Welcome and community news**

Adult Education winter series begins today - *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

Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogue

<https://www.interfaithconference.org/amazing-faiths-project>

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!
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✧ **A Poem as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**

For Light by John O'Donohue from his book, "To Bless the Space Between Us"

Light cannot see inside things.
That is what the dark is for:
Minding the interior,
Nurturing the draw of growth
Through places where death
In its own way turns into life.

In the glare of neon times,
Let our eyes not be worn
By surfaces that shine
With hunger made attractive.

That our thoughts may be true light,
Finding their way into words
Which have the weight of shadow
To hold the layers of truth.
That we never place our trust
In minds claimed by empty light,
Where one-sided certainties
Are driven by false desire.

When we look into the heart,
May our eyes have the kindness
And reverence of candlelight.

That the searching of our minds
Be equal to the oblique

Crevices and corners where
The mystery continues to dwell,
Glimmering in fugitive light.

When we are confined inside
The dark house of suffering
That moonlight might find a window.

When we become false and lost
That the severe noon-light
Would cast our shadow clear.

When we love, that dawn-light
Would lighten our feet
Upon the waters.

As we grow old, that twilight
Would illuminate treasure
In the fields of memory.

And when we come to search for God,
Let us first be robed in night,
Put on the mind of morning
To feel the rush of light
Spread slowly inside
The color and stillness
Of a found word.

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

✧ **Time for Young Hearts**

✧ **Gathering as God's People: Our Theme** - In this season beyond Epiphany and leading up to Lent, we've been exploring what it means to know and be known through our relationships, through self-awareness and through connection with the divine. We've reflected on our experiences of call and how important it is to seek the support of our community as we enter discernment. This week we are focusing on community, discipleship, and how we live into our roles, our gifts, and our leadings.

This aligns beautifully with a special aspect of our service today, in which we will be welcoming a new member into the Tippe faith community! This gives us an opportunity not only to hear someone else's profession of faith, but to remember our own baptism and our individual faith journey. May we each recall the deep connections and leadings that shape the path each of us walk as we continue to build community together.

✧ **Gathering Hymn 301 *Let Us Build a House***

✧ **Opening Ourselves to God's Grace** – by Carol Penner

One: God of the open road,
God of the twisting path,

**Many: God of the narrow and upward way,
your people are gathered for worship!**

One: In this gathered time, give us provision for the journey,
courage and faith and compassion,
and endurance to face any hardship.

**Many: Open our eyes to see you walking beside us,
protecting us, encouraging us, loving us.**

One: We pray this in the name of Jesus,
who moves us. Amen.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

During these many years, this church has witnessed to your presence and grace in this community. Speak to us as you spoke to those who have gone before us. Fill us with your grace that sustained them. Give us the zeal to build upon the foundations they laid and to fulfill the promises they strove to obey.

Keep us open to new friendships and equip us to offer hospitality and support as we continue to build and deepen our community. May we share in an ever-expanding circle the riches of your never-ending love. Amen.

✧ **Special Music *We are Many Parts*, by Marty Haugen ~ 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**

Psalm 133

The Blessedness of Unity

A Song of Ascents.

- 1 How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-27

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Sovereign; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

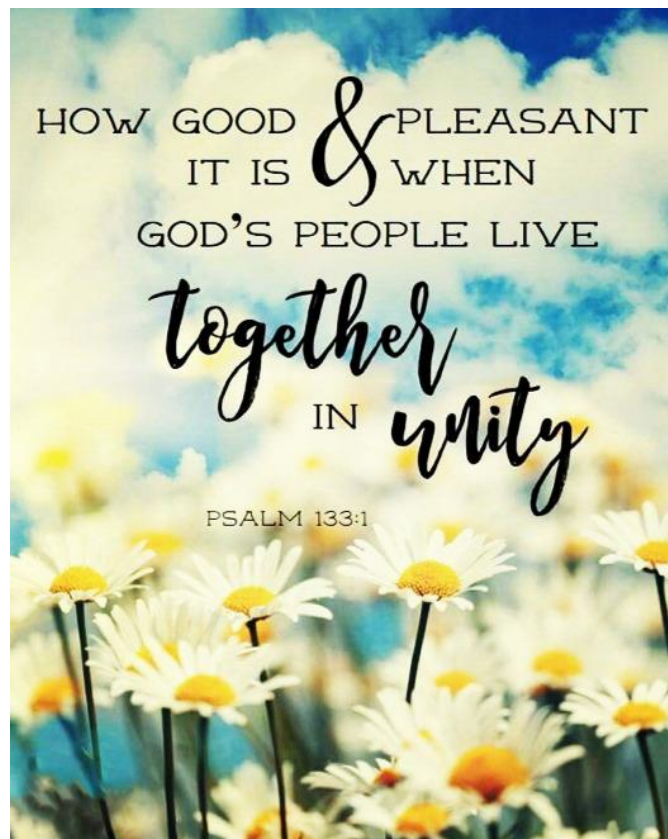
14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as God chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the

hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

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.**

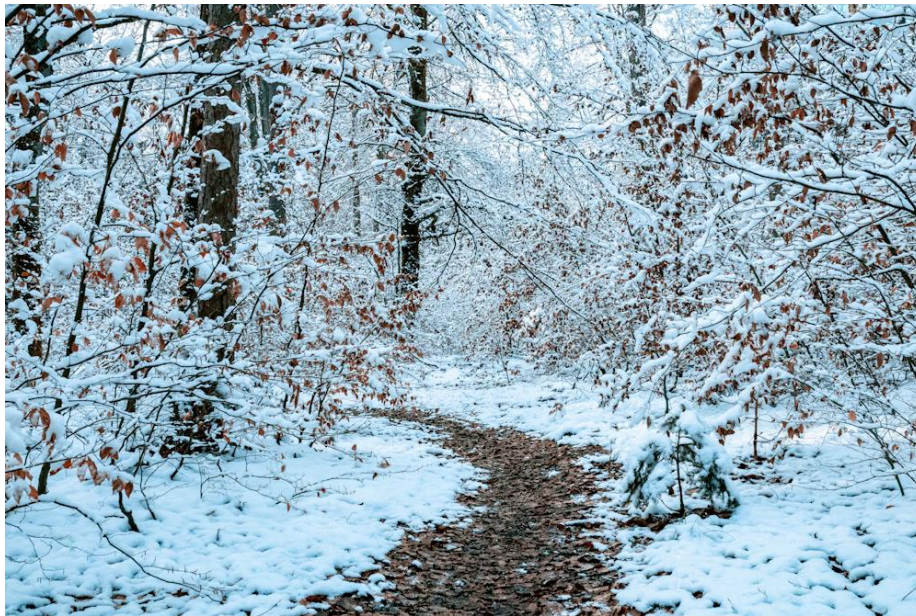
✧ **Message *Unity in the Spirit***, Rev. Trish Eckert



✧ **Reflection Questions** Adapted and Excerpted from Catherine Whitmire's text, "Practicing Peace"

- How is my faith community embodying and revealing God's presence in the world?
- What are the activities I am involved in that are helping to create a more equitable and hopeful world?
- In my daily life, how am I balancing my need to both save and savor the world? In what ways does savoring the world help renew both my soul and my practice of peace?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**



✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn** *Dios Está Aquí – God is Here Today* (song sheets)

✧ **Welcoming into Membership** ~ Public Profession of Faith
Welcoming Lauren Pham into the Tippe community of faith



- ~ Presentation
- ~ Profession of faith
- ~ Laying on of hands
- ~ Welcome
- ~ The Peace

~ **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

✧ **Hymn 761 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service***

✧ **Our gifts of support**

As we have received,
So free us to give.
As we have been granted,
So may we give. Amen.

✧ **Prayers of the People**

- ◇ **Community Prayers**
- ◇ **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.**

(Author, Alex Jensen)

✧ **Hymn 291 *Spirit of Gentleness***

✧ **Benediction** (from Colossians 3: 12-14)

As God's own,
clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness and patience,
forgiving each other
as God as forgiven you,
and crown all things with love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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** *Hinei Mah Tov (Behold How Good), Psalm 133 ~ Tippe Musicians*

