



"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

July 23, 2023

9:30 a.m.



~ Chana Helen

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

"Becoming Who We Are Through Relationship" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧Prelude Zo Trembley

✧Welcome and community news

- **Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogue** Wednesday, July 26th 6-9 pm Islamic Society of Milwaukee. (You can catch a ride with Pastor Trish from the church at 5:30 pm). **Be sure to register!**

People of all faiths and no faith, all spiritualities and theologies gather in small groups to share a meal and participate in a moderated discussion using a proven model, evoking deep exchanges about lived experiences and the role of faith and/or spirituality in their lives. Through exploration and dialogue, participants learn about the beliefs and traditions of others within an atmosphere of respect and understanding and are empowered to stand as witnesses for tolerance and inclusion.

These dinner dialogues will take place on the last Wednesday of the month from 6-9pm

Registration for July 26 at the Islamic Society of Milwaukee is now

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

- **Sunday, August 20th** 9:30 am we will worship together at **Plymouth UCC** Pastor Trish will preach and the Tippe community will have a chance to reconnect with one of our DI partner churches. Folks can meet at Tippe and drive over together: 2717 E Hampshire St in Milwaukee
- **Forward Scholars** – volunteer to be a tutor with Common Ground
INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS FOR NEW POTENTIAL TUTORS via Zoom:

Monday, July 24th, 2023 10:30-11:45 am

PLEASE RSVP: Click [HERE](#) or go to <https://forms.gle/1vkqhhvWjPwRstAz8> Join Zoom Meeting ID: 849 3232 4669 Passcode: 639954

OR

Tuesday, August 8th, 2023 1:30-2:45 pm

PLEASE RSVP: Click [HERE](#) or go to <https://forms.gle/37pKk4GoDH8cXUGn8> Join Zoom Meeting ID: 825 5726 7993 Passcode: 272108

Contact Dr. Carrie Streiff-Stuessy, Executive Director, with questions at carriess@forwardscholars.org

✧Readying Ourselves for Worship

Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!

Surely God is in this place,

Holy Ground!

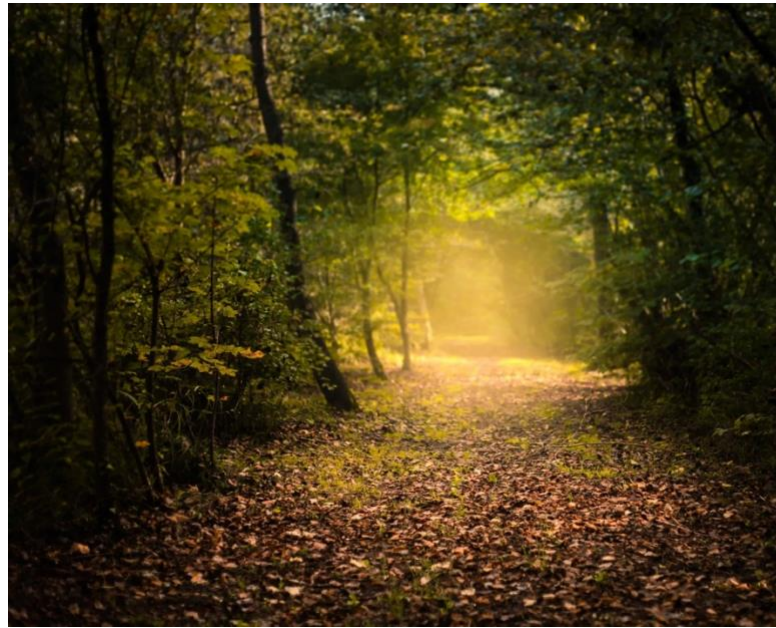
✧A Reading as we Center Ourselves in this Moment

The Seed Is the Light of the Earth ~ Christian Pacosz in *Looking for Home: Women Writing about Exile*

In the absence of light
we maintain our eyes cannot see.
We believe our pupils dilate
to a maximum degree and no more.
We are certain our bodies do not glow
with the cold phosphorescence of the
bog,

of water, unfathomed, under pressure,
our own, or beyond our making. We
assure
ourselves we are exonerated because
we cannot float through the night
graceful with inherent sonar. We think
anatomy keeps us from the dark forest.

I tell you here, in this dark, this indistinct country, comes our shaped and fleshed evolution. That step on the unlit path stretches us, and those who may come after. With each hesitant journey we open, blazing beacon fires, flashing lanterns from high, distant hills. Dark surrounds us. We are paradox. We carry our own light and move in love through the dark, as the seed loves the earth enclosing it.



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

~ **The Joy of Passing the Peace** ~

✧ **Time for Young Hearts**

✧ **Gathering as God's People: *Women in the Bible***

This summer we are mining the stories of women in the bible. We seek the wisdom of ancient stories that still speak to us today as we witness how women navigated their world, lived into their faith, and pursued their spirituality. In June, when we began this journey in the Book of Genesis, we heard the story of Hagar and how, despite all of her suffering, she remained awake and aware to what was being revealed to her. We gleaned from her story how we might see the gifts and grace offered up to us, as well.

A couple of weeks ago, we turned to the women in the Book of Exodus, and focused primarily on Miriam, the sister of Moses. By looking closely, we came to realize the pivotal roles Miriam filled that enabled Moses to be Moses and ultimately, for the Israelites to become a nation.

When we refer to the “historical” women of the Bible, we do not mean that all the details of their stories are historically accurate. The ancients’ concept of history was very different from ours. They were focused on expressing theological convictions rather than reporting events. Today we are aware of the impossibility of total objectivity in reporting any occurrence. What is told and what is left out can powerfully affect the way the event is understood. It’s important to remember that the stories in scripture are shaped by various political, social, and theological agendas – some more obvious to us than others. These stories continue to be used for a variety of purposes and agendas – ultimately, my hope is that by tapping into the wisdom of these women, our self-awareness will deepen, and our spiritual paths will be further illuminated.

This week we turn our attention to the story of Ruth and Naomi. We will witness the grace of God when it seems there is nothing left to lose, the deep love between two very different people in the midst of devastating loss, and come to see how their covenant shaped a people.

✧ **Gathering Hymn 201 *A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar***

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

~ From *Birthing the Holy* ~ Christine Valters Painter

Blessed Mother you are the Greenest
Branch
the power of God's greening
in the world flows through you freely.
Spirit breathes and you become fertile
and lush,
a source of life.
With your yes you opened a channel of
verdant grace.
St. Hildegard celebrated you in song and
poetry,
saw your radiant greenness as a path of
life for all.
Green Madonna, blow your viriditas
over us;
help us clear the way of anything that
drains us of life.
Help us release the dryness that depletes
us
and leaves us with despair.
Shower us with energy, with joy,
with hope and possibility.
Let our souls deepen their greening,
nurturing and nourishing the dreams
we tend; help them to grow strong and
vibrant,
ready to become of service to the world.



Abbey of the Arts

<https://abbeyofthearts.com/blog/2023/06/11/where-love-lives-poem-day-5-mary-prayer-cycle/>

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

ONE: Holy Mary, Protectress of us all,
gather us under your wide mantle
and guard us from harm
when the storms of the world gather.

**ALL: Provide us with a shelter and sanctuary,
protect us with your fierce boundaries
and teach us to say no
to all that drains life away.**

ONE: Offer your boundless care
to those most vulnerable,
to all those who dwell on the edges.
Shield them from violence and hunger,
from trauma and harm.

**ONE: Keep us all safe
from those who wish us ill
as we draw your holy cloak
around us - a circle of protection.**

~ From *Birthing the Holy* ~ Christine Valters Painter

✧ **Special Music** Zo Trembley

✧ **Prayer of Intention**

✧ **Bible Wisdom Teaching**

Ruth 1: 1-18

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. 2 The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. 3 But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, 5 both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

6 Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. 7 So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. 8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. 10 They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." 11 But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with

me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, 13 would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” 14 Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

15 So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” 16 But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you,
to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people
and your God my God.
17 Where you die, I will die,
and there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

18 When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Ruth 3: 1-5

3 Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. 2 Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 3 Now wash and anoint yourself and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.” 5 She said to her, “All that you say I will do.”

Ruth 4:13-17

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin, and may his name be renowned in Israel! 15 He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom and became his nurse. 17 The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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.



~Story of Ruth by John August Swanson

✧ **Message** “Becoming Who We Are Through Relationship” Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Reflection Questions**

- What encounters have enabled you to know the possibilities in God?
- What suffering, sadness, repentance, and love have you known?
- How have honesty and vulnerability shaped your relationships?
- How might you build deeper connections with people who are different from you?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**



~Dina Cormick

✧Sharing Our Wisdom

✧Hymn 324 *For All the Faithful Women*

✧Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

ALL: Our Mother
 Who are in all the earth
 Holy is your truth
 May your wisdom come
 Your circle be one
 uniting heaven and earth
 Give us today a nurturing spirit
 Heal through us
 as we as we ourselves are healed
 Lead us into Fullness of life
 And liberate all that is good
 For the Wisdom,
 the power, the Presence
 and the Goodness are Yours
 Now and forever Amen.

~from Dominican Sisters Retreat, March 1992, Great Bend, Kansas

✧ **Benediction**

May the blessing of God go before you.
May Her grace and peace abound.
May Her spirit live within you.
May Her love wrap you 'round.
May Her blessing remain with you always.
May you walk on holy ground. 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** Zo Trembley



~Kelly Latimore