



"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

March 10, 2024

9:30 a.m.



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

*"A Reflection on 'Peter, Get Behind Me'" Rev. Jerry Cho
Worship Leader: Zo Trembley*

✧ **Prelude** ~ played by Zo Trembly

✧ **Introit *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*** (v1 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**

- Save the dates - Holy Week worship opportunities in Bay View:
 - **Palm Sunday** service March 24 at Tippe 9:30 am – together we'll imagine Peter's experience as Jesus enters Jerusalem
 - **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**
- Siena Retreat Center's Annual Spring Benefit Concert with Carrie Newcomer
Sunday, April 7 at 2 pm at 5637 Erie Street in Racine (Tickets \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door)
If you're interested but the price is steep for you, there is support to buy a ticket – just reach out to Pastor Trish. Also, carpooling is available.



✧ **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

Open Hands

We are born with the ability
to wrap our fingers around another,
to hold tight to what we know.
Maybe that's where the instinct comes from— this clinging,
this sinking,
this holding on.
Maybe that's why Peter cries, "Never!"
when Jesus must leave.
From the very beginning
we've known how to hold tight.
So I pray:
open up my hands.
Uncurl my fingers
one by one.
Loosen the grip
that I hold unyielding.
Remind me that birds must fly
and children must grow
and leaves must fall.
And even though
we are born with the ability
to hold tight,
we can learn how to love
with open hands.

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.

The Bible Wisdom teachings this season reveal how faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. This week we'll hear another story involving a conversation between Peter and Jesus. As Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, Peter protests. Peter is fixed upon the way he thinks things should go; he resists the pain of what will come. But Jesus is fixed upon his calling and calls Peter out.

When your world unravels and your beliefs are tested, you may cling to what you know. For everyone, there comes a time when your faith is tested and you will have to face difficult and inconvenient truths. We may want to take the easier path, the path with less pain. We may want to cling to easy or simplistic answers. Instead, what does it look like to welcome complexity? Can you stay fixed upon your convictions while also expanding your perspective?

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 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

~ played by Zo Trembly

LYRICS

Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.

Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
You we would be be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.

Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;
Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;
Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

-- words by Charles Wesley

✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

On our worst days,

God is good.

On our best days,

God is good.

When life is consistent,

God is good.

And when life turns on its head,

God is good.

Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

God is good. God is here. God is love.

Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

ALL: Holy God, we often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, “This should not happen!” We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.



✧ **Prayer for Illumination**

Listening God,
If we could attach ourselves to you, we would.
We would scribble your scripture onto our tender hearts.
We would weave your good news into the fiber of our being.
We would bind ourselves to you,
but instead,
we wander.
Instead of attaching ourselves to you,
we find ourselves swept up in the business of the day.
Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth, up and down,
constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all.
So speak clearly to us now.
Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your good news.
We are listening.
We are hungry.
We are hopeful.
Amen.

✧ **Special Music *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* ~ played by Zo Trembley**

Je-sus, lov-er of my soul, let me to your bos-om fly,
While the near-er wa-ters roll, while the tem-pest still is high;
Hide me, O my Sav-ior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
Safe in-to the ha-ven guide, O re-ceive my soul at last!

Oth-er re-uge have I none: in your hands, my des-ti-ny;
Leave, O leave me not a-lone, still sup-port and com-fort me.
All my trust on you is stayed, all my help from you I bring;
Cov-er my de-fense-less head with the shad-ow of your wing.

Plen-teous grace in you is found, grace to cov-er all my sin;
Let the heal-ing streams a-bound, make and keep me pure with-in.
Fount of life, your love im-part, fill my cup a-bun-dant-ly;
Spring up now with-in my heart, rise to all e-ter-ni-ty.

-- words by Charles Wesley

✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in a God of second chances,
**a God who sees through my stubbornness
and holds my fear with tenderness.**

I believe that this God of second chances
uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.

Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible.

I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.

This change is holy and important work, although challenging.

When fear and scarcity plague me,

or when the impossible feels out of reach,

I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. **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**

Matthew 16: 21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in

return for their life? ²⁷‘For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

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** *A Reflection on “Peter, Get Behind Me”* ~ Rev. Jerry Cho



✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* ~ played by Zo Trembley
O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
The glories ever ech-o-ing the tri-umphs of God's grace!

My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
To spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.

Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease
Is music to our yearn-ing ears, is life, and health, and peace!

Glo-ry to God, and love and praise be ev-er, ev-er given
By all the saints in ev-ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

-- words by Charles Wesley

✧ **Our gifts of support**

God of all creation, we look at our humble offerings
and we think they might not change the world today.
But we know that just as you have provided us the opportunities and the skills to garner
these resources, you will take our possessions to do your work in the world.
Thank you for working in us to create good in the world,
letting your kingdom come on earth.
Bless all of these gifts. Amen.

✧ **Community Prayers**

✧ **Pastoral Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

**And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. 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** ~ played by Zo Trembley

