



"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 17, 2024

9:30 a.m.



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

"Teach Me" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧Prelude

✧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

- Next Sunday, March 24th Tippe will be providing the meal for our Divine Intervention guests. We're in our final weeks of the warming season – we hope you'll participate and be present for dinner as we put together a baked potato bar! The signup sheet will be available after worship this morning.
- 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**

Teach Me

Teach me about the ways of the wind,
about the ways of the world,
about the ways of the heart.

Teach me about the soft crook of my lover's arm,
and the way two souls can hold each other close.

Teach me about forgiveness, about the language of *I'm sorry*
and the softness of sincerity.

Teach me about abundance, about *seventy-times-seven*
and *all the days of my life*.

Teach me about joy, about its contagious weaving
and its soul-healing.

Teach me about mercy, about open hands and deep breaths.

Teach me about the dawn of time and the stars in the sky.

Teach me what matters most.

Teach me what is mine to do.

Teach this achingly curious heart
until I run out of questions
or I run out of days.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
and I will have a life well-lived.

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 are witnessing a flawed follower of Jesus. In Peter, we see ourselves, and by following Peter's journey, we can watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a human trying, just like us, to figure it all out.

The Bible Wisdom teachings this season have been showing us how faith is a constant journey that ebbs and flows. This week we'll hear a tender conversation about forgiveness. Since last week's text, Jesus has been transfigured high on a mountain, has cured a little boy, and continues to speak of his death and resurrection. The disciples

are now in Capernaum, where Jesus is teaching about sin and forgiveness, emphasizing again protection for those who are vulnerable.

May we hear deeply the challenging invitation to forgive and consider how this practice transforms and lightens us, even as we struggle mightily.



✧Time for Young Hearts

✧Gathering Hymn *Waterlife* 145 (“Worship and Praise”)

✧Opening Ourselves to God’s Grace

Why are you here?

**I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.**

I see it! You’re in the right place!

This is God’s house. The door is open to you.

Why are *you* here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.

**We see that in you! You’re in the right place.
This is God’s house. The door is open to you.**

Let us worship God.

Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

ALL: Holy God,

We long to be lifelong learners.

We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.

Instead, we often live as if we know best.

We forget that the disciples called you “Rabbi, Teacher.”

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.

Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.

Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask,

“How many times should we forgive?”—make us brave.

Spark a desire in us to learn,

and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.

With hope and humility, we pray, amen.



✧ **Prayer for Illumination**

Teaching God,

We want to learn your ways.

We want to learn the ways of forgiveness.

We want to learn the ways of grace.

We want to learn your ways of love.

That is part of why we return to your text week after week,
because we are hungry to be more like you.

So as we prepare to listen to your good Word,
calm the noise in our minds.

Center our spirits to focus on you

so that we might learn and hear what we have missed in this story before.

God, we want to learn your ways.

Meet us here.

Speak your truth.

Help us listen.

Amen.

✧ **Special Music**

***Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* 95 (“Worship and Praise” v 1, 2, 4)**

✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

“How many times should I forgive?”

“Jesus, where are you going?”

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

“Where does it hurt?”

“What do you need?”

“How can I help?”

We believe that God is a teacher.

“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”

“Here I am.”

“Send me.”

We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,

with all our heart,

with all our mind,

with all our strength.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ’s name we pray, 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**

Psalm 119: 9-16

9 How can young people keep their way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

10 With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.

11 I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O Sovereign;

teach me your statutes.

13 With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.

14 I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.

16 I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

Matthew 18: 18-22

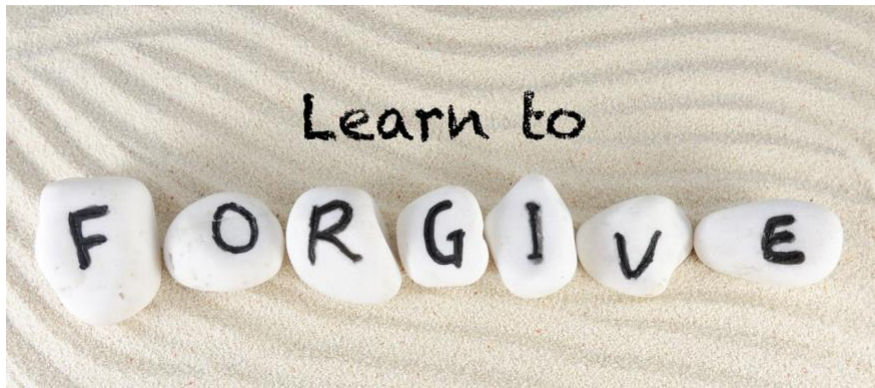
18 'Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Parent in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

21 Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' 22 Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

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 *Wandering Heart: Teach Me*, Rev. Trish Eckert**

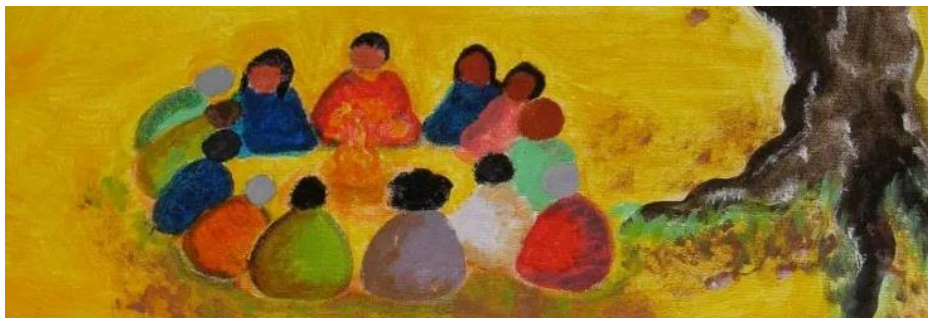


✧ **Reflection Questions**

- ◇ What do I cherish about myself? What do I believe God and others cherish about me? Are they the same?
- ◇ In what ways have my imperfections been stepping stones to God? To others?
- ◇ How well have I been able to forgive myself for my past behavior? Is my inability to forgive myself interfering with my ability to forgive others?
- ◇ Do I ask God to forgive those whom I am unable to forgive?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**



✧ **Hymn *All That We Have* 5** (“Worship and Praise”)

✧ **Our gifts of support**

✧ **Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer**

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**

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**

