



"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

Ascension Sunday

May 21, 2023

9:30 a.m.



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

**A "Parallel Polis" of Hope ~ Betty Salamun**

## ✧ **Prelude: Zo Trembley**

### ✧ **Welcome and community news**

Pastor Trish is still on vacation ☺

We're looking forward to a summer that will be rich in community and connection as we develop opportunities for fellowship on Friday evenings and Saturday gatherings in the Tippe gardens for far-ranging conversations and spiritual practices. Stay tuned!

***Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice believes every day is Earth Day!***  
*We are invited to join with other faith communities on **June 11 at 2:00 at St. Catherine's Catholic Church** to be part of Milwaukee's city-wide Big Clean. Let's keep Milwaukee beautiful and be part of an effort to build an interfaith network for social justice!*

*Please email Pastor Trish directly, if you are interested in participating:*

[\*pastortrishtippechurch@gmail.com\*](mailto:pastortrishtippechurch@gmail.com)

*Pastor Trish will RSVP on your behalf (please let her know by June 5th).*

### ✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

***Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!***  
***Surely God is in this place,***  
***Holy Ground!***

### ✧ **Let this Reading be our Prayer**

**as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**

“I’m really not an optimist because I don’t believe everything’s going to turn out well. And I’m really not a pessimist because I don’t believe everything’s going to turn out horribly, but I do cultivate hope in my heart, because it’s the only antidote to cynicism, fear, apathy, and malaise.”

Václav Havel (1936-2011)  
Author, poet, playwright, and former “dissident”:  
served as last Czechoslovakian president (1989-1992):  
then as first president of Czech Republic (1993-2003).

“Since ACTIVE HOPE doesn’t require our optimism, we can apply it even in areas where we feel hopeless. The guiding impetus is intention; we *choose* what we aim to bring about, act for, or express. Rather than weighing our chances and proceeding only when we feel hopeful, we focus on our intention and let it be our guide.”

**Joanna Macy**, PhD  
scholar of Buddhism, general systems theory, and deep ecology  
respected voice in movements for peace, justice and the environment  
an ecophilosopher, interweaving scholarship with six decades of activism  
and, **Chris Johnstone**, physician and coach  
specialist in psychology of resilience, sustainable happiness & positive change.

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

### ~ The Joy of Passing the Peace ~

#### ✧ Kid's Time

#### ✧ Gathering Hymn:

### UP, UP AND AWAY: The 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension

(song sheet)

*from* DanceCircus production  
**MONARCHS MOUNDS**  
**MIGRATIONS**, glacial patterns &  
climate change altering migration

Photo: Gary Oleksyn



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

ONE: "Passive Hope is waiting for someone else or some other agency to bring about what we desire.

**ALL: Active Hope is a practice, like tai chi or gardening, or writing, or exercising, or practicing an instrument or a sport...**

ONE: Active Hope is a PROCESS which works in any situation: FIRST—we start from where we are...

**ALL: ... we take in a clear view of reality – including acknowledging what we see and how we feel about it.**

ONE: SECOND—we identify what we hope for...

**ALL: ...like the direction we'd like things to move in... or, the values we'd like to see expressed.**

ONE: And, THIRD, (and this is the really hard part)...

**ALL: We take steps to move ourselves or our situation in that direction.**

ONE: It's not just the ecological, political, global problems we face, or the solutions we need, or simply wringing our hands in 'hopelessness.'

**ALL: We need to focus on how to strengthen our commitment and capacity to act...**

ONE: So that we can best play our part – whatever that may be –

**ALL: ...in the healing of our world.”**

Edited and adapted from ACTIVE HOPE: How to Face the Mess We're in with Unexpected Resilience & Creative Power

Revised Edition (2022) by Joanna Macy & Chris Johnstone

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Buddhist walking meditation by Thich Nat Han (with BELL)

**step by step**

**slowly, slowly**

**each step a gift**

**each step a prayer”**

✧ **Sung Prayer: There is a Longing in Our Hearts, #470**

✧ **Prayer of Intention**

Holy One, Calm me into a silence that heals – listens – molds my passions, longings, wounds and wonderings into a more (w)holy human shape. Amen

✧ **Bible Wisdom Teaching: Acts 1:1-11 Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven**

<sup>1</sup>In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup>He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



<sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

<sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

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 “Parallel Polis” of Hope**



✧ **Reflection Questions**

What would your journey to the “*ends of the earth*” be? And, who would you want with you on this journey?”

In conversations about the “state-of-things,” does ‘truth’ or, ‘justice’ or, the ‘Jesus-way’ come-up?

How many ‘parallel polis’ spaces to you move through in a week?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn: Hymn: The Lord Now Sends Us Forth #747 (red hymnal)**

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**All: O God, you love us like a good parent, and are present in every aspect of our existence.**

**May your nature become known and respected by all. May your joy, peace, wholeness and justice be the reality for everyone as we live by the Jesus Way.**

**Give us all that we really need to live every day for you. And forgive us our failures as we forgive others for their failures.**

**Keep us from doing those things which are not of you and cause us always to be centered on your love.**

**For you are the true reality in this, our now, and in all our future.**

**In the Jesus Way we pray. Amen.**

(David Sorril)

✧ **Benediction**

Awaken us

to the Oneness of all things

to the beauty and truth of Unity

May we

become aware of the interdependence of all living things

and come to know You in everything and all things in You

As we

attune to your Presence within us, we know not separation,

and joy becomes our dwelling place.

Nan Merrill, *Psalms for Praying*, excerpt from Psalm 106

~ **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**