



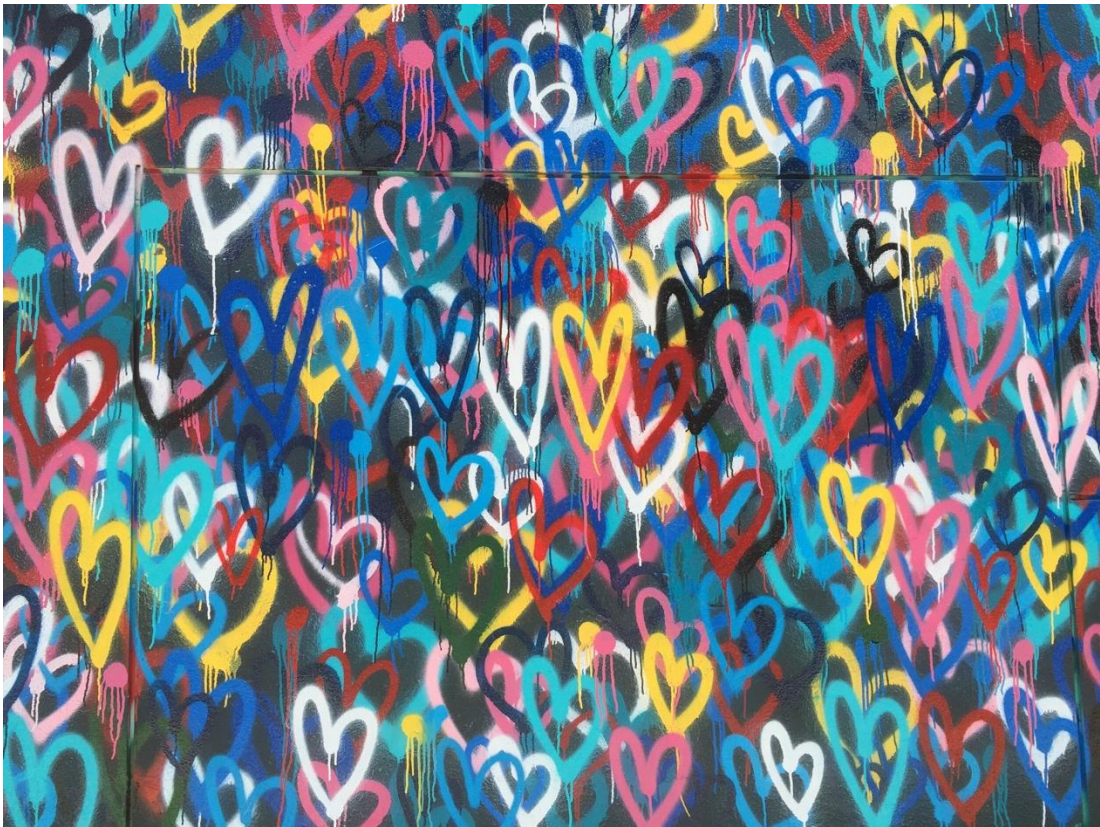
"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

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

November 26, 2023

9:30 a.m.



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

"Reign of Christ Sunday: The Hope God Has for Us"

Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude** *Choral Symphony Finale* ~ Beethoven

✧ **Welcome and community news**

- Join us in the “Hanging of the greens” immediately after worship this morning
- We will celebrate Advent at Tippe the first 3 Sundays of December: 12/3, 10, & 17
- We are invited to worship with Grace Presbyterian at Grace on December 24th at 10 am for their Christmas Eve morning service, and then Tippe invites everyone to join us for our Christmas Eve service that afternoon at 4 pm.
- Sanctuary Time of Belonging will not meet via Zoom this coming Monday, November 27th, but will resume in December and take place at 6:30 pm on Wednesday nights instead of Monday nights. Hope to see you there!

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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

✧ **A Blessing as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**

Blessing of Hope —Jan Richardson

So may we know
the hope
that is not just
for someday
but for this day—
here, now,
in this moment
that opens to us:

hope not made
of wishes
but of substance,

hope made of sinew
and muscle
and bone,

hope that has breath
and a beating heart,

hope that will not

keep quiet
and be polite,

hope that knows
how to holler
when it is called for,

hope that knows
how to sing
when there seems
little cause,

hope that raises us
from the dead—

not someday
but this day,
every day,
again and
again and
again.

✧ **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

✧ **Time for Young Hearts**

‘It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.’

Antoine de
Saint-Exupéry



✧ **Gathering as God’s People: Reign of Christ Sunday**

This Sunday is both the end and climax of the Christian year, which began in Advent last December. The festival of “Christ the King” or the “Reign of Christ” ends our marking of Ordinary Time after the Day of Pentecost, and moves us to the threshold of Advent, the season of hope for Christ’s coming again. So, this is a culmination of all that has gone before us, a reminder of the Christ we follow and our gratitude for all that we have done together amidst the challenges that arise throughout the year.

In all the familiar stories throughout the New Testament, paradoxes abound - when we hear the Christ being referred to as “king,” we hear of one who is the first child of a village woman, born in a stable; is a story teller among the common people, who welcomes children that gather around him, lays his hands on unclean lepers, makes disciples out of fishermen and tax collectors, dines with traitors and other dregs of society, washes the feet of his followers, tramps around the country on foot, and allows a woman to publicly wipe his feet with her hair.

May we embrace the paradoxes and celebrate the culmination of this year as we turn our sights toward Advent and the hope that springs eternal.

✧ **Gathering Hymn *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us* 187 (v 1, 2, 4)**

✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

Welcome and greeting:

Grace to you, and peace from the One who is and who was and who is to come. May this be a time and place of peace, that everyone who enters, enters in peace; and everyone who leaves, leaves in peace.

Prayer:

Gracious God, we long to know you better.
Open us to recognize your presence,
to receive you fully,
and to be ready to follow your leading.

✧Sharing our Innermost Lives with God

**ALL: Loving God, too often,
we overlook the needs of people around us
while we proclaim our devotion to you.
We could do so much more to feed the hungry,
clothe the naked, to welcome the stranger, and heal the sick.
We fail to see how our prison system diminishes the humanity of all of us,
how our medical system denies healing to the poor,
how poverty leaves children without coats,
how legal obstacles keep the strangers at a distance.
Open our eyes to see your presence in every person,
and to respond to their needs so that we may be rightly called by your
name. Amen.**

Though we wander, God searches us out.
Speaking through Ezekiel, God said,
"As shepherds seek out their flocks
when they are among their scattered sheep,
so I will seek out my sheep.
I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered
on a day of clouds and thick gloom."
God reaches out to us, longing to bring us ever closer.
Hear this good news: you are forgiven and free.

✧Special Music *Shepherd Me, O God* (chant)

Shepherd me, O God,
beyond my wants,
beyond my fears,
from death into life.

✧ **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**

Ezekiel 34: 11-16 11 For God says: “I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down,” says God. 16 “I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.”

20 Therefore, thus says God to them: “I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, your God, have spoken.”

Ephesians 1: 15-23 – (A Paraphrase)

15-16 Friends, I have heard of your deep trust in Jesus, the Beloved, the Anointed of God, and of your love for all the saints, so I never cease giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

1.17-23 I pray that God—
the God the Beloved, Jesus Christ, showed us,
God our beautiful Life-Giver—
may give you a spirit of mindfulness and wisdom
as you deepen your openness to God,
so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,
you will have the hope God has for you.
May you live in wonder and trust
of the gifts we all receive as God’s Beloved.

May you feel in your bones
the immeasurable greatness
of the power of love when we trust it.
This is God's power in us.
Love is the power that raised Christ from the dead,
the power that orders the universe,
the power above all human systems,
every rule and authority and dominion,
and above every seen or unseen power,
force or value you could imagine.
God subjects everything to love.
And we—we are the embodiment of that love,
which conquers everything, and fills everything,
and completes everything.
We are the body,
and Love is what makes us alive.

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** “Seeing Jesus in Our Neighbors”



✧ **Reflection Questions**

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

- What are you hoping for these days?
- Who helps you hope when it is hard to hope?
- How does your hope call you to see what is here and now?

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn *Help Us Accept Each Other* 754**

✧ **Our gifts of support**

Generosity may come as an impulse,
but it is cultivated by the practice of regular giving.
Let us today move from beliefs to actions that make a difference in the world.
We give in gratitude for God's gifts to us,
and we give because we need to live beyond ourselves.
Use this time of offering as an opportunity
to grow and to grow the realm of God.

✧ **Community Prayers**

✧ **Pastoral Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

Our heavenly Parent, may your name be kept
in reverence, honor, and awe.
Let your reign come, your will be done,
on earth, as in heaven, for all.

Feed us today with the food we need;
nourish and refresh us, we pray.
Forgive our wrong-doings as we forgive those
who have wronged us along the way.

And as we go through hard-testing times
deliver us from Evil's way.
For all power, dominion and glory are yours
Today, forever, and always. Amen.

(An Adaptation in Verse, by Rev John Maynard, 2014)

✧ **Benediction**

As the children of God,
let us bear fruit in the lives of those around us.
As the household of God,
let us be salt in our communities.
As the people of God,
let us be light to the world.

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** *Second Symphony, Finale* ~ Brahms

