



"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 5, 2023

9:30 a.m.



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

"Joyful Generosity: Share in Justice & Love" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude:** *Help Us Accept Each Other* ~ Tippe Musicians

✧ **Welcome and community news**

- Sunday, November 5 and November 19 - Divine Intervention Orientation 4-5:30 pm in Tippe's parlor
- Sunday, November 12 - Common Ground Fall Assembly 3-4:30 pm Mount Mary University
- Saturday, November 18 – Presbytery of Milwaukee Meeting, featuring the Vitality Fair at Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church 2366 N 80th St
- Sunday, November 19 - Congregational Meeting to vote on the proposed 2024 budget
- Sunday November 26 – Hanging of the Greens immediately after worship
- Wednesday, November 29 - Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogue 6 pm at Bay View United Methodist Church

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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

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

We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you
Whether in brush arbors or cathedrals,
Weathered wooden churches or crumbling cement meeting houses
Where your name was lifted and adored.

We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise:
Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil,
Strong hands and those gnarled with age
Holy hands
Used as *wave offerings across the land.

We thank you, God, for hardworking saints;
Whether hard-hatted or steel-booted,
Head ragged or aproned,
Blue-collared or three-piece-suited
They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come.

Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us.
Bless the memories of your saints, God.
May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.

*wave offerings: a portion of a sacrifice presented to God, then released by God for the use of those involved in the sacrifice

✧ **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 “God’s Dream”**

✧ **Gathering as God’s People: Joyful Generosity**

As we move more deeply into autumn and turn our sights toward the season of Advent, exploring together the many aspects of stewardship is proving to be a rich experience. We have reflected on our relationships with ourselves and also with the natural world.

This week we will contemplate our relationships with each other and how our attention to equality, justice, access, and acknowledgment enables us to come to understand others more fully and to share generously – these actions translate into love for one another. As we consider how to cultivate peace and justice, today we are also marking All Saints Day.

This is a time of remembrance, a way of celebrating, honoring, and grieving the beloved people we know personally as well as those whom we have never met, but we have come to know through their stories and learned the ways they have shone their light in the world.

We will engage in prayers together throughout this service – may our prayers speak to this moment - a moment of remembrance and grief, as well as a profound hope for the future – a future that encompasses justice and love.



✧ **Gathering Hymn *There is a Longing in Our Hearts* 470**

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

Pastor: We have come to affirm our faith.

ALL: To worship the God of our mothers and fathers.

Pastor: We have come to remember God's benefits to us the living.

ALL: To respond in thanksgiving to the mighty works of God in our lives.

Pastor: We have come to affirm our trust in the God of all futures,

**ALL: To whose name be blessing and honor and glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Pastor: God, you send us saints ...

ALL: And we imprison them or nail them on crosses. Have mercy.

Pastor: God, you send us saints ...

ALL: And we persuade ourselves that they are fools, or meddlers or incompetents. Have mercy.

Pastor: God, you send us saints ...

ALL: And we hate them for reminding us that our comfort requires the poverty of others. Have mercy.

Pastor: God, you send us saints ...

ALL: And we ignore them. Have mercy.

Pastor: God's Word to us is a word of forgiveness, a word of assurance, a word of grace. We are loved and accepted because we are we and God is God and nothing can finally separate us from our Creator, our Parent, our Sustainer. Amen.

✧ **Special Music *Rain Down* ~ By Jaime Cortez (song sheets)**

✧ **Prayer of Intention**

Holy Spirit, may we hear your precious 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**

Revelation 21: 1-4

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be God's peoples, and God will be with them; 4 God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

Matthew 25: 31-46

³¹ When the Human One comes in glory, with all the angels, then that one will sit on a glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before the Human One, who will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ placing the sheep on the right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the Monarch will say to those on the right, "Come, O blessed of God my Father and Mother, inherit the realm prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer, "O Sovereign, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" ⁴⁰ And the Monarch will answer them, "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my sisters and brothers, you did it to me." ⁴¹ Then the Monarch will say to those on the left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and the devil's angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, "O Sovereign, did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?" ⁴⁵ Then the Monarch will answer them, "Truly I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me." ⁴⁶ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

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** “Joyful Generosity: Share in Justice & Love” Rev. Trish Eckert



✧ **Reflection Questions**

- During conflict, do I adhere to the discipline of speaking truth with love?
- Am I willing to accept and endure hurt both without passing it on and without letting it degrade me?
- Do I look for and recognize that of God in all people?
- Who has walked with me in a way that has inspired me and made the path that I travel possible?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn *Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We are the Body of Christ* 768**

✧ **Our gifts of support**

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

✧ Prayers and Bells for All Saints



Opening prayer

Ever present God, you are the God of the living.
No one born of the spirit shall know death,
for your love is everlasting.
We pray now for the souls of those who have died,
that they may be as gold in the furnace of your graces.
Welcome them home as saints,
resplendent in your light. Amen.

Naming of the Saints

This morning we lift up the names of those who have died this year and ring a bell in memory of each of those who are named and remembered – the ringing of the bells provides a sound that represents the Spirit as well as the spirits of those who are still a part of us in the mystery that is eternity. We also honor those who we didn't know personally, but whose stories we've heard about or witnessed in some way, recognizing that the world is hurting with the loss of each precious being.

Let us also remember the countless lives lost this year to war, hunger, violence, and suicide. May we as a congregation pray fervently for the many people who have died and who at this very moment are in harm's way in the midst of the humanitarian crisis in the Holy Land.

Pastor: O God of All Creation,

You are the Creator of all that is seen and unseen. You are our refuge and our strength. We come to you this day because we are seeking comfort in the midst of our grief. Death is part of the human experience. We have all lost someone we cared about.

ALL: To be human is to die a little bit every day. Tomorrow is promised to no one, and every sunset is a funeral.

Pastor: But we have a resurrection hope. We know that death is not the end, and we rejoice that the grave has lost its sting.

ALL: When we have faith in you, every sunrise is an Easter morning. Each day we can taste the sweetness of abundant life.

Pastor: God, help us to feel the comforting presence of the great cloud of witnesses. Remind us that nothing—not even death itself—can separate us from your love.

ALL: We miss those who have gone before us. The holidays are painful without them here. There are empty seats at the table and we long to feel close to them and to you, O God.

Pastor: Grant us comfort. Give us peace. Have mercy on all those who have gone home to be with you. Welcome them home into your house where there are many rooms.

ALL: And help us, O God, because there are many days when we don't feel like Saints. We confess that there are many times when we don't have the strength to act "saintly."

Pastor: Yet we take comfort in the knowledge that, through the power of your love, all things are possible. Please give us the strength to do your work here on earth and to spread your love until it is time for us to return home to be with you.

All: We yearn for the day when you will come once more to make a new creation. Help us to live our lives in such a manner that, when our time on earth is done, we may be welcomed into your presence with those precious words, "Well done, Good and Faithful Servant, welcome home." Amen.

✧ **Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread ~**

Communion of the People



Welcome

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be God’s peoples, and God will be with them; God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” (Revelation 21: 1-4)

Today is a day that we remember the fullness of our Sacraments. In the waters of Baptism, we celebrate the spiritual rebirth we have in Christ in this lifetime as well as the new life we have in Christ in the one to come. In these waters, we grasp hands with every person who has been a member of the Church.

In the communion of the Table, we celebrate that the meal we share today nourishes us in this life as we look forward to the day when we sit down at Table with Jesus and the Church Triumphant. As we eat this meal in this place, we eat it with every person who is, has been, or will be a member of the Church. In these Sacraments, we are reminded that God transcends life and death.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, in life and death we belong to you. We give thanks for the breath of life you breathed into us, this part of you which you put into us. We give thanks for the beauty of creation that you share so freely.

Faithful Jesus, in life and death we belong to you. We are thankful that you didn’t hide your grief over Lazarus’ death. We know that you share our grief in the death of our loved ones. We give thanks for your promises that you are with us until the end of the age and that when our time on earth comes to an end, you have already prepared a place for us.

Life-giving Spirit, in life and death we belong to you. We give thanks that you are always as close as the breath in our lungs. How thankful we are that you come alongside us – binding us together as the Body of Christ, encouraging our faith, calling us to correction, reminding us that our God transcends time, place, and the limits of our humanity.

Holy Spirit, ever-moving, ever-present, ever-living, we ask that you move through this place right now. May the loaf and the cup we share be more than cut up bread and grape juice. May they bring us into communion with loved ones who have died, who now eat at the heavenly Table. May they bring us into communion with Christ, in whom we have our being. May they bring us into communion with one another.

With boldness, we join our voices now in this prayer to you, saying:

✧**The Lord's Prayer**
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.

Latin American paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer

Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread

The table is not simply a memorial, a testament to what was. This Table represents the living presence of Jesus in our lives today and in all our days yet to come.

While we remember a death, we also proclaim life everlasting.

We come to the Table with both joy and grief, knowing the pain of this life as well as the glory of Heaven.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Saint and sinner, we come before you, Lord, in deep gratefulness for your promises. We offer you both the joys and pains of our life, knowing how tenderly you hold both. May we take with us the communion we have shared as we leave this place. Let it continue to nourish us as we go about our lives. May it be received joyfully as we extend it to those who could not be with us here today. To you be the glory, today and forever. Amen.

Communion liturgy written by Rev. Michelle Henrichs, excerpted from her book: *Come to the Table: Communion Liturgies of Invitation to Celebrate and Experience the Love of God*

✧ **Benediction**

As we go out to be God's people:
Go in strength to be the saints of God
for you will hunger and thirst no more.
Live the way of God with confidence,
seeking to build the kingdom here on earth –
a place guided by justice and brimming over with love.

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** *God of Grace and God of Glory* ~ Tippe Musicians



Justice is love
& love is justice.

