



"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

October 29, 2023

9:30 a.m.



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

"Joyful Generosity: Cherish & Tend Respectfully"

Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude** *In the Garden* ~ by Charles Austin Miles, played by the Tippe musicians

✧ **Welcome and community news**

- Save the date: Sunday, November 19 Our worship service will include our Congregational Meeting to vote on the proposed 2024 budget.
- Divine Intervention presentation ~ Judy Berdan

✧ **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**

White Owl Flies Into and Out of the Field ~ Mary Oliver

Coming down
out of the freezing sky
with its depths of light,
like an angel,
or a buddha with wings,
it was beautiful
and accurate,
striking the snow and whatever was
there
with a force that left the imprint
of the tips of its wings —
five feet apart — and the grabbing
thrust of its feet,
and the indentation of what had been
running
through the white valleys
of the snow —

and then it rose, gracefully,
and flew back to the frozen marshes,
to lurk there,
like a little lighthouse,
in the blue shadows —
so I thought:
maybe death
isn't darkness, after all,
but so much light

wrapping itself around us —
as soft as feathers —
that we are instantly weary
of looking, and looking, and shut our
eyes,

not without amazement,
and let ourselves be carried,
as through the translucence of mica,
to the river
that is without the least dapple or
shadow —
that is nothing but light — scalding,
aortal light —
in which we are washed and washed
out of our bones.



✧ **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** *Creation Story*

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

At this point in the year, as we prepare for the earth to take time for rest and lie dormant, we are invited to look back at all that we've explored together as a community: we started with our "star" words at Epiphany, we talked about light and contemplated the challenges of the inner wilderness, we sought joy and turned our attention to love, we considered the difference between DOING and *being*. We sought to deepen our bonds through our "I've Been Meaning to Ask" series, and throughout the entire year, the thread of discernment has been woven through as we reflect on where we are being led and how we are called. It seems that this readily culminates into exploring concepts of stewardship.

As we think about and talk about stewardship, our focus will be on interpersonal connections, interdependence, how to live into the spiritual leadings we experience and pay attention to the ways we bring our gifts to bear in the world. We will reflect on relationship to self, to other, and to God and creation.

Last week we began this exploration by turning attention on ourselves and the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. This week we inquire about our relationship and connection with the natural world. May we come to find way forward in healing that connection and engage in thoughts and actions that empower us to cherish and tend all of creation.



✧ **Gathering Hymn *Spirit, Open My Heart* #692**

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

God said, "Let there be light."

God saw that the light was good.

God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear."

God called the dry land Earth and saw that it was good.

God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation."

God saw that it was good.

God created every living creature.

God saw that it was good.

God said "Let us make humankind in our image."

God saw everything that had been made and it was very good.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

ALL: Redeeming God, though we are created in your image we do not live in that image.

You have made us caretakers of creation, yet we exploit that creation for our own purposes.

We pollute the air.

We foul the rivers and streams.

We poison the earth.

In our attempts to make our lives more comfortable we make creation unsustainable.

Forgive us, O Creator.

Call us back to your holy mandate to have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing.

Call us back to our role as co-creators, to join in the holy work of redeeming and restoring creation to you. Amen.

Pastor Trish: God creates and loves creation and God creates and loves us also. Just as surely as God makes creation new each morning God offers us a new beginning each new day. Sisters and brothers we are a forgiven people.

✧ **Special Music *The Garden Song*~ by David Mallett**

✧ **Prayer of Intention**

✧Bible Wisdom Teachings

Genesis 2: 8-9, 15-17

8 And God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there God put the human that God had formed. 9 Out of the ground God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15 God put the human in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And God commanded, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

1 Thessalonians 2: 5-8

5 As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; 6 nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, 7 though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. 8 So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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: Cherish & Tend Respectfully”



✧Reflection Questions

- Do I look for and see the face of God in all creation?
- Do I spend time in wild places listening for what I might learn?
- How is my faith community embodying and revealing God's presence in the world?
- When has my community helped carry me through a difficult time? Whom am I now helping to carry?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**



✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn *Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us* #44**

✧ **Our gifts of support**

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator, you are all around us and within us.
We praise you with many different names.
Help us live as we understand we should
from knowing you in harmony and connectedness
with each other,
with all creatures of the earth,
and with the earth and the universe itself.
Help us to use your resources wisely
so that we might be sustained.
Help us take responsibility when we fail to live harmoniously,
and help us understand and forgive when others let us down.
Let us know you well enough that we are not
tempted to live outside of your love.
Deliver us from evil and empower us
to work together to overcome evil.
We believe that you created the world
and that you will be all around us and within us forever.
Amen.

~(A Traditional prayer in a different voice ~ Lyn Seils Robertson)

✧ **Benediction**

It is from God that all blessings flow.

May those blessings flow upon us as clean rain

that nourishes the earth and produces wondrous abundance.

May we, in turn, bless others till all creation exists in God's grace,

that God will forever look at it and call it good. 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.

✧ **Postlude** *Love One Another* ~ by Bob Dufford, SJ., played by the Tippe musicians



Give

Serve



Attend

Grow

Stewardship

