



"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

September 17, 2023

9:30 a.m.

I've been
meaning
to ask...
where does it hurt?

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

"I've been meaning to ask...where does it hurt?"

Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude** Zo Trembley

✧ **Welcome and community news**

- As we engage our 4-week worship series, “I’ve Been Meaning to Ask,” an Adult Education discussion group is being offered after worship each of the following Sundays, including today: September 17, as well as September 24 and October 1. Join us after the worship service today as we explore this theme more deeply.
- “Cherished Memories” grief support group is being offered again this fall on Sundays for 6 consecutive weeks from October 15 through November 19 from 11:15 am – 12:45 pm. Diane Wirhanowicz and Carol Meverden will co-facilitate.
- **Save the Date!** Friday, September 22nd join us at 6 pm for a Tippe Night Out – location TBD.

✧ **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 ~ *When it Hurts* ~**

Prayer by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

I can tell that you’re hurting.
It’s the way your eyes cast down,
the way you shuffle through the house,
distractedly bumping into things.
It’s the restless sleep and
the quiet space between us which
turns us into icebergs.
We float by, silent in the night,
most everything existing
under the surface.

I can tell that you’re hurting.
It’s the way your prayers were quick
at first, and then—none at all;

your silence challenging God,
daring God to say something to the void.
I can tell that you’re hurting,
but I don’t know what that feels like.

Tell me—
where does it hurt?
I’m not offering to fix the pain,
I’m not that powerful.
However, I am offering to see it.
Show me your scars,
and I’ll show you that
you’re not alone.

✧ **Becoming Present to God and Each Other - Our “one word” 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

✧Gathering as God's People: Our Theme ~ *I've been meaning to ask...*



This theme encourages us to consider, “How can we listen to one another? How do we find connection despite difference? How do we create space for compassionate dialogue and for seeking the holy in one another?” These questions are especially relevant as we discern way forward together as a community, as we seek to understand our call in our current context – what missions and ministries are we led to engage in? How might we assess our capacity for the work we feel led to do? This journey is only possible if we come to know one another more fully and enter into discernment with intention.

Last week, we began our 4-week series with the initial question, “where are you from?” This week our question is, “where does it hurt?” This question implies that all of us have known pain and suffering. In order to cultivate connection, we must first get curious about the pain others carry and the pain we carry ourselves. Before we can act, we must first acknowledge and believe the pain is real, for bearing witness to each other’s pain helps us cultivate compassion.

In our Bible Wisdom teachings today, we will be exploring the stories of people whose pain is ignored, diminished, and mocked. But we’ll see the vulnerable and courageous actions of the women at the center of these stories. We will witness those who suffer chronically and in isolation. By telling these women’s stories, we hope to bear witness to the particular and very common struggles related to fertility and reproductive health. And in the midst of this, we must confess the harm done in neglecting the emotional, physical, individual, historical, and systemic wounds that exist among us.

✧Gathering Hymn *Speak Lord, I'm Listening* (handout)

✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

One: Here in this space,
we wear our hearts on our sleeves.

ALL: There is no use in filters or walls.

This space is an authentic space.

One: This space is a brave space.

**ALL: For when it comes to God,
we are always invited to bring our full selves into the room.**

One: So come into this space with your hurt and your joy,
your prayers and your dreams.

ALL: All of God's children are welcome here.

One: Let us worship the Holy One.

✧**Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Prayer of Confession/Truth Telling

R1 I've been meaning to ask...

R2: How are you?

What has your year been like?

Did you know that I have been thinking of you?

R1: I have been meaning to ask...

R2: Is your mom okay?

Did your sister find a job?

Did you ever think we'd still be here?

R1: I've been meaning to ask...

R2: Did it get easier?

Did the grief subside?

Were you ever able to sleep at night?

R1: I've been meaning to ask but I haven't—

R2: Because it's hard.

Because I want to say the right thing.

Because I'm not sure what you need.

R1: I've been meaning to ask, so I'm sorry for my silence.

R2: Forgive me. Show me where it hurts.

R1: Let's start again.

R2: Family of faith, we could all use some practice in asking where it hurts. Take a moment of silent prayer to think of the people in your world, in your lives, who may need you to reach out and ask. Give their names to God.

R1: Trusting that God hears all things, we say together: Amen.

✧**Words of Forgiveness**

One: Family of faith, in the journey to love and care for one another, we are bound to make mistakes. Fortunately for us, we worship a God who showed us how to love, and who extends grace to us when we fail to do so for others.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

ALL: We are seen. We are heard. We are loved. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God for this endless grace. Amen.

✧ **Special Music 763 *The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor*** (Betsy sings verses and congregation sings refrain)

✧ **Prayer for Illumination**

Ever-present God,
Today we will read stories of those who have known hurt—
people who have carried shame,
who have lived with grief and chronic illness,
who have felt alone and ignored,
who have seen the depths of suffering.

As we listen, we will be reminded of
the hurt we have carried during these fragile days—
memories and regrets co-mingling in our chests.

And as we listen, we will be reminded
that our neighbors, our siblings in faith,
also come to this space carrying burdens.

So dust off our ears and stretch open the
canvases of our hearts so that in our pain,
we might lean into one another as we lean into you.
Pull us close.
We are listening. Amen.



✧ **Bible Wisdom Teachings**

1 Samuel 1: 1-18

1 There was a certain man of Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham son of Elihu son of Tohu son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives; the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

3 Now this man used to go up year by year from his town to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord. 4 On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; 5 but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. 6 Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. 7 So it went on year after year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore, Hannah wept and would not eat. 8 Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?'

9 After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. 11 She made this vow: 'O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.'

12 As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore, Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her, 'How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.' 15 But Hannah answered, 'No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. 16 Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.' 17 Then Eli answered, 'Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.' 18 And she said, 'Let your servant find favor in your sight.' Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

Mark 5: 21-43

21 When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. 22 Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet 23 and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' 24 So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. 25 Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. 26 She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. 27 She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' 29 Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. 30 Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus

turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' 31 And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' 32 He looked all round to see who had done it. 33 But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease.'

35 While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' 36 But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' 37 He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. 38 When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. 39 When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' 40 And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' 42 And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. 43 He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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** "I've been meaning to ask...where does it hurt?" Rev. Trish Eckert

"Seen," by artist Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity



✧ **Reflection Questions**

- When you look at this image, consider – When have you been Penninah - whose pain have you mocked?
- When have you been Elkanah – whose pain have you questioned?
- When have you been Eli – whose pain have you dismissed?
- When have you been Hannah – when have you looked for who is screaming in our own midst?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection for writing**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom with a partner**

✧ **Hymn *God Hears Me When I Pray*** (Betsy leads us in American sign language)

LYRICS

God hears me when I pray.

God hears me when I pray.

Out of all the people in this great big world,

God hears me, God knows my voice

and God hears me when I pray.

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✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

ALL: On my best days,

**I believe that God is there—standing in the sun with me,
laughing a contagious laugh and cheering me on.**

On my hardest days,

**I believe that God is there—standing in the rain with me,
holding me up and sharing in my grief.**

No matter where I go—

in joy or in loss,

in pain or in love,

in heartache or in gratitude—

I believe that God is there,

leaning in, noticing where it hurts,

and carrying me through it.

And so, I believe we are called

to care for each other

as God cares for us.

On your best days in the sun

and on your worst days in the rain,

I will do my best

to be there for you too. Amen.

✧ **Our gifts of support**

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

Where does it hurt? Let us pray for all of the people and places that we know are hurting.

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.**

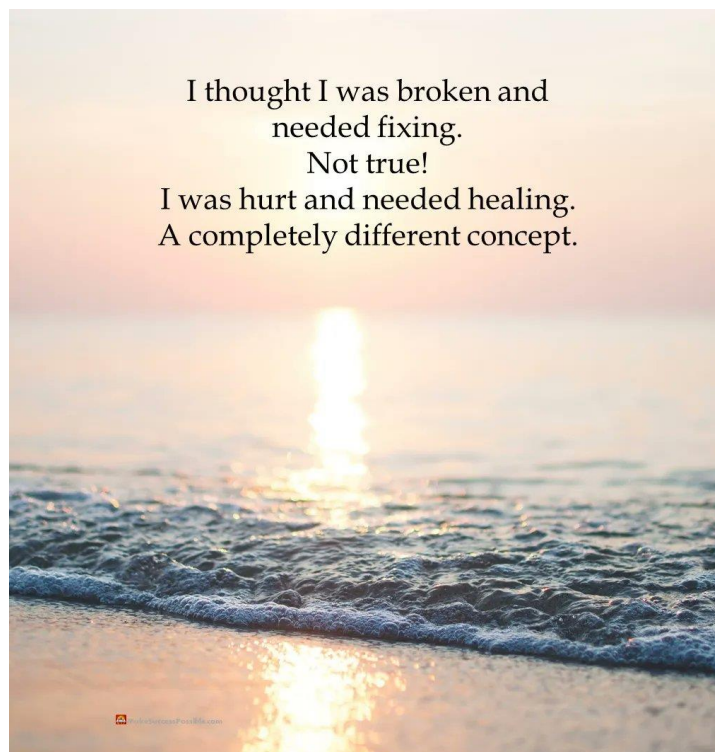
**Forgive us
for keeping silent in the face of
injustice,
and for burying our dreams;**

**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.**

*~ Latin American paraphrase of the Lord's
Prayer*



✧ **Benediction**

Family of faith, as you leave this place, may God grant you
the curiosity to counter assumptions,
the vulnerability to befriend,
the bravery to speak your truth,
the wisdom to listen,
the strength to ask for help,
the resiliency to choose love, even when it's hard,
and the awareness of the Holy Spirit always beside you.
In the name of the Great Connector—Love itself, go in peace.

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

“I’ve been meaning to ask” series and liturgical resources created by | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org