



# Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church

*"We take the Bible seriously, but we don't take it literally."*

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## Welcome To Worship

*April 6, 2025*  
9:30 a.m.



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

*"Full to the Brim: Brazen Acts of Beauty"*

*Rev. Trish Eckert*

## ✧Candle-lighting and Chimes

✧**Prelude:** *You Feed Us* by Betsy Gonwa © 2024 ~Tippe Musicians

## ✧Welcome and community news

**Today - Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm in our Fellowship Hall –** Enjoy light refreshments as we share our DI space with the Tippe neighborhood, our partnering churches, and all of you! You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at our setup and learn about our outreach efforts and how you can be involved as we wrap up this season and prepare for the next.

## Midweek Lenten Services

**April 9<sup>th</sup> final Lenten lunch and worship** at Christ Church UCC (915 E Oklahoma Ave) Come for a **simple soup lunch** and a brief and refreshing **noontime worship** service in their fellowship hall.

## Holy Week

- Join us at **Tippe for Maundy Thursday services on April 17<sup>th</sup> at noon and 7 pm** – members of faith communities from the Southeast Clergy Association (SECA) will attend as well!
- **Good Friday** services will be held at Unity Lutheran Church at noon and 7 pm on April 18<sup>th</sup> 1025 E Oklahoma Ave ~ All are welcome!

## Community Book Discussion – **May 5, 12, and 19 at 6:30 pm**

“Unclobber: Rethinking our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality”  
*Purchase the book. Read it. Come ready to discuss. Sign up to join us!*  
*“UnClobber” reexamines what the Bible says (and does not say) about homosexuality in such a way that breathes fresh life into outdated and inaccurate assumptions and interpretations.* The first session on **May 5<sup>th</sup>** will be at **Prince of Peace – 4419 S Howell Ave**

## ✧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**

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

***Lessons from a Winter Rose***

I am dumbfounded  
by the sheer persistence  
of a winter rose  
that blooms  
on the coldest of days—  
when the rest of the world  
has turned dim and gray,  
when the rest of the world is sleeping.

The audacity  
to stand so tall,  
to decorate the world with color,  
to be the only one  
brave enough  
to bloom.  
I wonder what that's like.

Maybe it's similar  
to pouring perfume  
on the feet of Jesus—  
shocking and beautiful  
at the same time.

On winter morning walks  
I pass a bed of roses.  
I dare not pick one.  
Instead I say thank you.  
Thank you for the beauty.  
Thank you for the reminder.  
Thank you for the bloom.  
And I walk home and pray—  
God, if you can,  
make me that brave.

## ✧ **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

## ✧ **Gathering as God's People: Our Lenten Theme ~ *Full to the Brim***

The readings this season provide stories that touch on our theme, "Full to the Brim," which speaks to fullness and expansive grace. The texts we're exploring throughout Lent reveal a God who offers us grace – grace that is undeserved, unearned, illogical, and boundless. We're being challenged to face the deeply ingrained belief that so many of us carry about our unworthiness, and encouraged instead to be authentically who we are; recognizing that love is at the center of everything. As we move through Lent together, let us remember to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. This season, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

## ✧ **Gathering Hymn *River of Glory* by Dan Schutte (see songsheet)**

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

May we find courage here—

**courage to follow our call, courage to live out our faith.**

May we find hope here—

**hope for a better world, hope that refuses to let us go.**

May we find truth here—

**truth that lives in sacred community, truth that lives in ancient stories.**

May we find all that we seek.

**And in our seeking, may we know God. Amen.**

### ✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

#### ***Call to Confession***

There are very few things as powerful as a group of people that admits they are not perfect, and asks for grace as they grow. Imagine what our world might be like if every institution had such a weekly rhythm?

Friends, we can light the way. Let us be brave in our truth-telling and honest in our confession. For we will always be met by grace. Let us pray –

#### ***Prayer of Confession***

**Jesus of Nazareth,**

**we admit that often we tuck our faith into our pockets, hiding in a place of comfort rather than proudly declaring: yes we are Christian, yes we believe, yes this faith has changed me. We are so afraid of offending others or embarrassing ourselves that we have established rules: no faith at the dinner table, no faith in politics, no faith with strangers.**

**Forgive us for whispering when we could be singing. Forgive us for staying quiet when we could be part of rewriting the narrative. We want to be brave. We want to pour out perfume over your feet. These things we pray, amen.**

### ***Words of Forgiveness***

Family of faith, hear this good news:

Even in our silence, **God loves us.**

Even in our fear or shame, **God chooses us.**

Even when we sin, **God wraps us in grace.**

You are free—to be bold, to be brazen, to be exactly who God called you to be.

**Thanks be to God, amen.**

### ✧ **Special Music *Beauty for Ashes***

*adapted from Isaiah 61:3*

You give me beauty for ashes

The oil of joy for mourning

A garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness

I am a tree of righteousness

From a seed of the Divine

To grow and bear fruit in time.

### ✧ **Prayer for Illumination**

Holy God,

sometimes my waking is a prayer.

Sometimes the song I have stuck in my head,

rumbling around on repeat, is a prayer.

Sometimes the way I talk to the children

and the way I hug the dog is a prayer.

Sometimes the way I take my phone out to get a picture

of the sunset or of the people I love—that is a prayer.

Other times, prayer is moments like this—

heads bowed, eyes closed, hearts quiet for just a moment.

And in all of it, I trust you to hear me.

Help me to hear you in return.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

### ✧ **Bible Wisdom Teaching**

**Isaiah 43: 1-2, 18-21**

But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

18 Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.

19 I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

20 The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
21 the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

### **John 12: 1-8**

#### ***Mary Anoints Jesus***

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

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** "Full to the Brim: Brazen Acts of Beauty" Rev. Trish Eckert

#### ✧ **Reflection Questions**

- How do you define beauty? What is the role of beauty in your faith? What are some real-life examples of beauty as resistance, beauty as worship, or beauty as an act of love?
- Mary's actions could be defined as wasteful, sexual, shameful, or inappropriate, but Jesus praises what she does because it is an act of love. In fact, he will soon mirror Mary's actions on the night before his arrest when he washes his disciples' feet. When have you witnessed or received an act of love that could be dismissed as excessive or inappropriate?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn Holy Boldness, Move Our Spirits** (see songsheet)  
Melody Ode to Joy by Beethove, lyrics by Amanda Udis-Kessler

✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

**I believe in beauty—  
beauty pulled into being by our Creator,  
beauty that catches our breath,  
beauty that turns us toward awe.**

**I believe in courage—  
courage to believe,  
courage to stand up for the people we love,  
courage to love without hesitation.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit  
who prays for us when we cannot,  
who is brave for us when we are not.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ  
who stood up for Mary,  
who quieted the voice of critique,  
who welcomed every bid for relationship.**

**I believe in God.  
I believe in God who believes in us.  
Amen.**

✧ **Our gifts of support**

As Mary poured out her love for Jesus with costly perfume, so may we pour out our gifts before God. During this reflective Lenten period, may our offerings remind us of the abundance God has poured into our lives.

✧ **Offertory Hymn *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought*, verse 3**

✧ **Offertory Blessing**

Loving God, source of all joy, we come before you with full hearts. May we always give extravagantly, not out of duty, but from hearts filled with joy and gratitude. Bless these gifts and use them to bring your hope to the world. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

✧ **Prayers of the People**  
**Community Prayers**  
**Pastoral Prayer**

✧ ***Hymn You Feed Us*** by Betsy Gonwa © 2024

You feed us from Your very self

You fill us by pouring out Yourself

You love us, in Your presence, we are loved, we are loved.

You feed us from Your very self

You fill us by pouring out Yourself

And through us, Your love flows out through us,

We become Your love.

No, it's not by bread alone.

No, it's not by bread alone. You feed us.

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

### **Communion of the People**

#### Welcome

While we don't have the words of institution in John's Gospel, witnessing Jesus' anointing by Mary and his teaching about the deep love expressed in the text serve the same call to remember.

- We remember Jesus' call to faith, and we bring what faith we have.
- We remember Jesus' love and call to love, and we come to taste that love again.
- We remember Jesus' peace and his offer to let his peace rest upon us.

Whether we come with the true peace of Christ or the hope that this peace will soon rest upon us, we are welcome at this Table.

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, whose house is very large, we are thankful that you offer us a place. Not bound by limits of our faith, you continue to make your love known throughout the world.

Jesus, whose Table is abundant, we are thankful that you feed both our body and soul. Not bound by the limits of our love, you continue to bring peace to those who love you.

Spirit, whose presence is always with us, we are thankful that you continue to teach us and remind us of Jesus' words. Not bound by the limits of our peace, you continue to abide in us so that the peace of Christ may grow within us and in the world.

God, Jesus, Spirit, dwell in us as we dwell in you. We pray that you would dwell in our fellowship at this Table. May the cup and loaf embody your love and peace as we come to you in faith. May the presence of Christ surround us as we are joined in communion with you and one another.



## ✧**The Lord's Prayer**

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

**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.**

## Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread

As we hear in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel of John: *Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully.* (John 13:1)

## Communion of the People

### Prayer after Communion

Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, you truly are these things to us. Physically and spiritually, you have offered yourself to us in love. Thank you for settling your peace – a peace that is like no other on earth – over this Table and our communion today. Until the day we are with you in the Sovereign's house, we give you all praise and glory.

Amen.

## ✧**Benediction**

As you leave this place,  
may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.

May you laugh, and may it be contagious.

May you overflow with love for those around you.

May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.

And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,

may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,  
and may it change your life.

In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—  
go in peace, full to the brim. 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** *Rain Down* by Jaime Cortez~Tippe Musicians