



Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church

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

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Welcome To Worship

August 25, 2024
9:30 a.m.



Welcome to this time of being with God and each other.
"Accepting Difficult Teachings" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧Candle-lighting and Chimes

✧**Prelude:** *Tu Cuerpo y Sangre Señor*, by Eleazar Cortés

✧Welcome and community news

- **AUGUST is National Immunization Month**
With COVID rates on the rise, keep in mind that only 21% of Milwaukee County is boosted.
- **Our August Tippe Night Out** is scheduled for this coming Friday, **August 30th starting at 6 pm at South Shore Park** (2900 S Shore Dr, Milwaukee, WI 53207) Bring a chair or blanket.
- A reminder that **we won't be gathering for worship at Tippe next Sunday morning, September 1st** as we observe Labor Day weekend. Grace Presbyterian invites us to join them in their sanctuary for worship that day at 10 am. (2931 S Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207)
- **Save the dates:** Tippe will take part in an ecumenical worship service **at Humboldt Park on Sunday, September 8th at 10 am** in partnership with other Southeast Clergy Association congregations. Worship will take place at the bandshell – please bring a chair if you can. SECA is providing lunch afterward, so remain with us for fellowship!
- Our **Sunday, September 15th** worship service will include welcoming some folks into membership. Let us celebrate together!
- **Sunday, September 29th**, during worship we will **celebrate** the life of beloved Tippe member, **Barbara Wooldrage** through music, prayer, and reflection. Join us afterward for an extra special Tippe Café!

✧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**

“Blessing” ~ Jan Richardson

*Blessed be the ones
who dance
in the corridors of death,
who sing
in the hallways of terror,
who laugh
in the prisons of fear,
who shout
across the silencing walls,
who love
beyond the borders of hatred,
who live
to welcome home freedom,
who die
never turning their heads,
who return
as the rising of hope.*

(Accessed 8/19/24 from Jan Richardson’s blog: janrichardson.com)

From her *Women’s Christmas Retreat 2017*)

✧ **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** “Be Prepared”

Fun	Food
Friends	Family
Fellowship	Fresh Air
Faith	Fitness

✧ **Gathering as God’s People: ~ The Bread of Life**

Over the past few weeks, we’ve been exploring the lectionary readings from the Gospel of John and the “bread of life discourse” in chapter 6 of that text. In today’s reading we’ll hear Jesus describe the words he is speaking as both “spirit and life.” His teachings throughout this series have been a challenge – a challenge to absorb, to understand, and an ongoing challenge to embrace and live into.

Alongside this, we'll hear from the apostle, Paul to "take up the whole armor of God," tapping into the strength and power of God. We are reminded that we are not alone as we strive to understand and embrace these teachings. We are loved and accompanied by the Divine always. Let us explore together the invitation these Bible Wisdom teachings offer.

✧ **Gathering Hymn 301 *Let us Build a House***

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

One: How wonderful it is to be in a dwelling place for God!

ALL: The refreshing springs of God's love cleans and restore us.

One: There is a place here for everyone. No one is turned away.

ALL: The least and the lost; the homeless and hopeless are always welcome in God's house.

One: Praise to God who invites and shelters us all.

ALL: Praise to God who heals and sends us forth to serve. Amen.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

In the beauty of this place, we have come to pray, to worship, to receive healing and hope. We come from the struggles and triumphs of the week, needing to feel the soothing presence of God.

Loving God, be with us this day. Calm and soothe our souls. Cause us to rejoice that you have provided a special place where we may gather to talk of your presence and love; to sing your praises; and to be empowered to go forth to serve you. Amen.

✧ **Special Music**

✧ **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 Teaching**

Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

John 6:56-69

The bread of eternal life

“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. Just as the living Abba sent me and I live because of the Abba, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” [Jesus] said these things while he was teaching in a synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones who did not believe and who was the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Abba."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Sovereign, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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 “Accepting Difficult Teachings”** Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Reflection Questions**

- How do my needs for control and security interfere with my faith journey?
- Do I understand my life as a journey of faithfully seeking truth?
- In what do I root myself when I “stand firm”?
- What provides me protection and connection?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn 531 *Seed, Scattered and Sown***

✧ **Our gifts of support**

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

✧ **Hymn *Like No Other***



✧ **Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread** **Communion of the People**

Welcome

We come to this Table because we can't feed ourselves with the Bread of Heaven, but we know we need it. And Jesus knows we need it, too. Even though Jesus' teachings may sometimes be harsh – and if we're honest, sometimes we choose to ignore them – Jesus still invites us to gather and receive a meal that satisfies the soul and contains the promise of eternal life.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Jesus, the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, despite our lack of spiritual creativity, faith, and obedience, you once again renew the invitation to eat at your Table. When we are willing to accept it, you eliminate the hunger and thirst of our souls. You satisfy us in ways that we cannot understand but so desperately need. For your faithfulness, we give thanks.

God, in whom we believe, you graciously fed our ancestors in the wilderness despite their complaining. With the same graciousness, you provide the Bread of Heaven to feed your Church. You have invited us into relationship with you not only in this life, but in life eternal. For your generosity, we give thanks.

Holy Spirit, our Comforter and our Corrector, you gather us together so that we may know God's Word is true. You teach us how to see our sin and receive our Savior. For your intercession, we give you thanks.

Now as we prepare to enter into communion with you once again, we pray that you would transform this simple loaf and common cup into that which truly satisfies. May we receive with our earthly bodies your heavenly meal so that we may abide in you and in one another.

As those gathered in your name, we join our voices in prayer:

✧The Lord's Prayer

ALL: Eternal Spirit

**Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

(New Zealand Prayer Book)

Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread

This Table proclaims God's Word through all generations, "I am here." Let us gather together at the Table, in the presence of the Divine and in the presence of one another.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Faithful, generous, abiding God, we give you thanks for the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation. May the taste of this meal linger so that we will be strengthened along our faith journey. Give us courage to hear what may seem harsh so that we can find a deeper relationship with you. To your glory, Amen.

Communion liturgy adapted from Rev Michelle Henrich's text, *Come to the Table: Communion Liturgies of Invitation to Celebrate and Experience the Love of God* (2020) lifeinthelabyrinth.com

✧Benediction

God is always with you. Even when times get difficult and the way is not clear, God is truly by your side. Rest in God's strength and love. Serve God with joy. Go in peace.
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 *A Quién Iremos?* (Traditional melody)~Tippe Musicians