



# Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church

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

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## Welcome To Worship

*March 23, 2025*

9:30 a.m.



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

*"Full to the Brim: You are Worthy" Rev. Trish Eckert*

## ✧Candle-lighting and Chimes

✧**Prelude** *Holy Ground* by Christopher Beatty ~ Tippe Musicians

## ✧Welcome and community news

**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.*

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/29452445-unclobber>

*“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reexamines what the Bible says (and does not say) about homosexuality in such a way that breathes fresh life into outdated and inaccurate assumptions and interpretations.* The first session on **May 5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**

## **Midweek Lenten Services**

We have been gathering at Christ Church UCC (915 E Oklahoma Ave) on

**Wednesdays throughout Lent** at 11 am for a **simple soup lunch** and a brief and refreshing **noontime worship** service in their fellowship hall. The remaining dates are: **March 26, April 2, and April 9** – Tippe is partnering with Grace to provide the soup lunch that final time, and we need 3 Tippe folks to help with set up, serving, and clean up – please let Pastor Trish know if you’re available.

## **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!

## ✧**Readying Ourselves for Worship**

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

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✧ **A Poem as we Center Ourselves in this Moment** Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org ***What I Forgot***

Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree.  
No fruit here, just soaking up the sun,  
growing roots, turning green,  
stretching out my branches until  
I can hug the horizon.  
Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree,  
because she doesn't produce,  
and she's not exhausted,  
and she probably gets eight hours  
of sleep at night.  
And her branches,  
unlike my shoulders,  
are not heavy with work—  
pulled toward the ground,  
threatening to break.  
And her trunk,  
unlike my spine,  
is not fighting to stand tall  
while holding it all together.  
Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree  
because she knows  
what I forgot  
many years ago.  
You are still worthy  
even if  
you don't produce.

✧ **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 *Finding Sweetness***

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

The Bible Wisdom teachings that we're exploring this season reveal a God who offers us grace—grace that is undeserved, unearned, illogical, and boundless. Likely, along the way, we'll trip over the deeply ingrained beliefs of unworthiness that are in so many of us. These beliefs are often rooted in harmful theology that impacts us negatively, and acts of abuse and injustice are often rooted in shame and scarcity. We tend to wrestle

with the role of grace and find it difficult to receive it. We are invited into a very different type of Lenten journey this year.

Professor and theologian, Mark Douglas, notes that many traditional iterations of Lent do not seem to align with Reformed theology – because there is so much emphasis on depriving and punishing ourselves, it’s as though we don’t trust God’s redemption. He writes: “...resurrection is the deepest, most mysterious expression of God’s grace, I simply can’t make theological sense of the claim that any of us can do anything to prepare ourselves for the arrival of such grace on Easter Sunday.... Easter is a shock of divine goodness that reveals not the evidence of our worth or the magnitude of our efforts, but God’s astounding power, to which we can but whisper ‘Thank you,’ not ‘Okay: now I’m ready.’ Whatever work we do at learning to discipline our bodies and our lives, we do in response to God’s grace, not in preparation for it. But there, again this response—this disciplining—isn’t a seasonal exercise; it’s a lifelong one.”

So, let’s consider Lent through a new lens—one that highlights the deep mysteries of Easter even as we journey toward the cross. This Lenten theme appears to be very resurrection-inspired. We can’t prepare for the surprising grace of Easter, but perhaps during this season, we can try to unearth the areas of unworthiness and scarcity in our lives. Perhaps we can practice receiving and extending God’s grace. Perhaps we can strive for a life that is full—full of hope, courage, joy, honesty, and grace. Isn’t that what the resurrection is really about, anyway?

✧ **Gathering Hymn 471 *What a Covenant/Leaning on the Everlasting Arms***  
(*New Century* hymnal)

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

Come, all who are thirsty.

**Come, all who are seeking.**

Come, all who are waiting.

**Come, all who labor.**

Come, all who need rest.

**Come, all who dream dreams.**

Come—

whether you’re young or old,

confident or curious,

lonely or hopeful.

**This is God’s house. All are welcome here.**

**Let us worship holy God.**

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

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

There is something so healing, so life-giving, about telling our stories.  
In the prayer of confession, that is what we get to do.  
The mask comes off. Any pretense of perfection is removed.  
We let the pressure to perform slip away and we sit here,  
face to face with God,  
sharing honestly who we long to be.  
Friends, there is healing here.  
There is life to be gained here.  
So join me in this moment of honesty.  
Join me in the prayer of confession.

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

**Holy One, we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store;  
but you know this even better than we do.  
Instead of trusting that we are made good,  
instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are,  
we stockpile our value in earthly things—  
in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power.  
Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick.  
Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow down.  
We won't be forgotten if we rest. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

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

Friends, take a deep breath.  
Release the tension in your jaw.  
There is good news here.

For even when we stumble,  
even when we take the easy way out,  
even when we forget our own self-worth,  
even when we lose our way—we belong to God.

Say it with me—  
**We are loved. We are claimed. We are  
under God's wing. We are worthy of grace.  
We belong to God. Amen.**

✧ **Special Music *The Seed of Me***, Words and music by Betsy Gonwa © 2011

(v1) In your hand, You hold the seed of me, a seed of the vine.

and say, “You are my precious one. Beloved, you are mine.”

CHORUS:

The seed of me is who I am;

You plant me in your womb.

You’ll till the earth, let water fall,  
the sun will shine, and I will grow.

(v2) The seed is who I can become; it’s whom I can be.

My part is to believe You dwell in me.

CHORUS

(v3) In the earth, I fall and there I rest, deep in the dark.

I don’t sprout, I don’t blossom, I’m a seed taking root.

CHORUS

(v4) I’ve opened up. I feel the sprout break forth. We’re both heading toward the light!

What cracked me open? Was it your love for me? Or was it my trust in You?

CHORUS

(v5) The seed produces holy fruit in my heart and my mind  
that flows through me out to the world, the Spirit’s love divine.

CHORUS

*Repeat* (v1) In your hand, You hold the seed of me, a seed of the vine.

and say, “You are my precious one. Beloved, you are mine.”

### ✧ **Prayer for Illumination**

God of fig trees and foxes,

of today and tomorrow,

we would like to ask that you scoop us up.

Pick us up like a great gust of wind.

Startle us awake like a first love.

Light a fire in us like tomorrow depends on today.

Do all of this to get our attention and then turn us toward you.

We are a scattered people, God.

The world is moving faster than we can keep up.

So we pray—scoop us up.

Catch our eye.

Open our ears.

Capture our attention.

We are here. We long to be close to you.

Amen.

## ✧ Bible Wisdom Teaching

### Isaiah 55: 1-9

#### *An Invitation to Abundant Life*

55 Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

3 Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Sovereign your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for God has glorified you.

6 Seek the Sovereign while God may be found,  
call upon God while God is near;

7 let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Sovereign, that God may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for God will abundantly pardon.

8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways,” says the Sovereign.

9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

### Luke 13: 1-9

13 At that very time there were some present who told him [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

### *The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree*

6 Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” 8 He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’

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: You are Worthy”* Rev. Trish Eckert

### ✧ **Reflection Questions**

- How do I monitor the status of my body, mind, and soul so that I know when it is time to rest and renew myself?
- In her poem, “What I Forgot,” Rev. Sarah Speed writes: “Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree / because she knows/ what I forgot / many years ago. / You are still worthy / even if / you don’t produce.” What practices help me disentangle my worth from my productivity? What practices remind me of my inherent worth?
- During times of despair, do I stay present to the feeling of emptiness and wait for God to fill it with new life?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn 250** *In the Bulb, There is a Flower*

### ✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe**

**that the God of the cosmos is at work here.**

**We believe that God is fertilizing the soil.**

**We believe that God is planting roots.**

**We believe that God is growing fruit that is yet to be tasted.**

**But until that promised day when the fig tree stands tall and swords are beaten into plowshares,**

**we believe:**

**when our work does not bear fruit, God still loves us.**

**When our soil grows dry and cracked,**

**God still longs for us.**

**When all seems hopeless here on earth,**

**God holds hope for us.**

**The God of the cosmos is at work here.**

**We believe. Help our unbelief.**

**In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**



✧ **Our gifts of support**

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

**Offertory Hymn 712 *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought*** (verse 2)

**Offertory Blessing**

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community

**We dedicate these gifts.**

For the ways it'll help us nurture caring relationships with our neighbors

**We dedicate these gifts.**

**Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, be good fruit in the world.**

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**God, lover of us all, most holy one ~**

**Help us to respond to you.**

**To create what you want for us here on earth.**

**Give us today enough for our needs.**

**Forgive our weak and deliberate offences, just as we must forgive others when they hurt us.**

**Help us to resist evil and to do what is good.**

**For we are yours,**

**endowed with your power to make your world whole. 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 *Freeing Jesus*** by Betsy Gonwa (song sheet)