



Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church

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

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Welcome To Worship

March 9, 2025

9:30 a.m.



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

"Full to the Brim: Even in the Desert" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Candle-lighting and Chimes**

✧ **Prelude** *All Night, All Day (Angels Watching Over Me)* ~ Tippe Musicians

✧ **Welcome and community news**



The Southeast Clergy Association (SECA) will host the Community Lenten Luncheons and Worship Services each Wednesday from March 12 through April 9.

Luncheons begin at 11am with worship at 12pm at Christ Church UCC at 915 E Oklahoma Ave - Milwaukee.

Each week, a meal is served by the following churches:

**March 12 - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
March 19 - Christ Church UCC
March 26 - Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit
April 2 - Bay View United Methodist Church
April 9 - Tippecanoe and Grace Presbyterian**

Come and experience community together.

Lent Midweek Services for five Wednesdays March 12 through April 9, at Christ Church UCC 915 E Oklahoma Ave. Serving a simple lunch at 11 am and worship at Noon.

✧ **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

From Here in the Sand

You've been here before.

I squeeze that truth like an orange in my hands,
willing some form of comfort to run out,
roll down my wrists,
calm these aching nerves.

You've been here before—
in the wilderness, in the desert,
in the place where nothing is what it seems
and everything is sharp.

You've been here before
so surely you know how hard it is
to hold tight to what is real
in the middle of a storm.

But because you've been here before,
I will stand tall.
I will sing songs of the river,
from here in the sand.
I will sing songs of the river,
into the wind.

✧ **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** *Filled With God's Spirit*

✧ **Joint Worship Services Survey**

✧ **Gathering as God's People: Our Theme**

The scriptures for this Lenten season are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise —these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. Full to the Brim is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every

turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

We recognize that traditional approaches to Lent often emphasize restraint, confession, and piety. The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from the rat race, corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith. And so, Full to the Brim trusts the promise of our baptisms—God has already claimed us as God's own and nothing we can do will ever change or erase that.

Our "Full to the Brim" series doesn't ignore or deny sin and suffering. It doesn't absolve accountability for wrongdoing. Instead it contextualizes our faith. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? It reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, this Lent, 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 423 *Great is Your Faithfulness*** (*New Century Hymnal*)

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

Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

Jesus went into the city to heal.

Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.

Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

but Jesus also went to the wilderness.

There is nowhere we can go
that God does not walk with us.

We are in God's house.

Let us worship Holy God.

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Call to Confession

Friends, we worship a God who doesn't keep score and doesn't hold grudges. We worship a God who invites us into a richer faith, a deeper love, a more compassionate existence with a million chances to try again. So let us speak truth into our lives, asking for God's help where we need it. Let us pray the prayer of confession together.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power—

Teach us a new way.

Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth—

Teach us a new way.

Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control—

Teach us a new way.

Teach us to live as you live.

Teach us to love as you love.

Forgive us when we don't.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Siblings in Christ,

no matter how many times we mess up,

no matter how far we wander,

no matter how lost we feel,

God's grace is full to the brim.

It overflows in desert places.

It finds us where we are and it covers us in mercy.

Hear and believe this good news –

God's love is overflowing.

We are drenched in mercy.

Thanks be to God, amen.

✧ ***Special Music We Receive from Your Fullness***

We receive from Your fullness light upon light;

we receive from Your fullness truth upon truth;

we receive from Your fullness grace upon grace;

we receive from Your fullness O God.

We become from Your fullness light upon light;

we become from Your fullness truth upon truth;

we become from Your fullness grace upon grace;

we become from Your fullness O God.

Let us give from Your fullness light upon light;

let us give from Your fullness truth upon truth;

let us give from Your fullness grace upon grace;

let us give from Your fullness O God.

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✧ **Prayer of Intention**

God of the wilderness places in our lives,
it can be hard to hear you in the desert.

It can be hard to hear you in the city,
in the midst of our calendar reminders,
rush-hour traffic, and cell phone alerts.

It can be hard to hear you, so we ask:
make everything quiet.

Pause the chaos.
Still the rushing.
Ease our racing thoughts.
Give us ears to hear your Word for us today
which promises that even in the desert
you are full to the brim.
We are listening.
We ache for your good news.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

✧ Bible Wisdom Teaching

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

“When you have come into the land that the Sovereign your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that God will choose as a dwelling for God’s name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say, ‘Today I declare to God that I have come into the land that the Sovereign swore to our ancestors to give us.’ ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Sovereign, ⁵ you shall make this response before your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor who went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there they became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the Sovereign, the God of our ancestors; God heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ God brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Sovereign have given me.’ You shall set it down before God and bow down before God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Sovereign has given to you and to your house.”

Luke 4: 1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Jesus ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The tempter said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.’ ⁴ Jesus answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone.”’

⁵ Then the devil led Jesus up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world, ⁶ saying to Jesus, ‘To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’ ⁸ Jesus answered, ‘It is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God.”’

⁹ Then the tempter took Jesus to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, “God will command God’s angels concerning you, to protect you” ¹¹ and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’

¹² Jesus answered, ‘It is said, “Do not put God to the test.”’ ¹³ The tempter, having finished every test, departed until an opportune time.

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: Even in the Desert*”** Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Reflection Questions**

- Even in the desert—in spaces cracked dry of life and flourishing—and even when we have felt deserted—abandoned and alone—God promises to be with us.
 - What are the desert and deserted spaces you see in the life of Tippe or in other communities you are connected to?
 - How is God present in those spaces?
- In what ways does a scarcity mindset tempt you?
- In what ways do you experience God’s abundance, and how do you describe what that abundance looks and feels like?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe God is love.

We believe God’s love is overflowing.

We believe Jesus is a river.

We believe that river is running toward us.

We believe the Holy Spirit is a vessel.

We believe that vessel holds mercy for you and for me.

We believe the wilderness is real.

We believe the desert is lonely.

We believe that Jesus has been there.

We know that we do not walk alone.

Even in the desert,
we are loved.

Even in the desert,
God is with us.

Even in the desert,
this love overflows.

Thanks be to God,
amen.

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

✧ **Our gifts of support**

It is so tempting to believe that what we have is the result of our own work. But that kind of thinking is spiritually dangerous; it denies the role that others have played and that God has played. Let us practice generosity and give, to remember our interdependence and make it possible for others to thrive.

Offertory Hymn 712

Offertory Blessing

Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember your sustaining presence. In this period of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. May these offerings be signs of hope and acts of compassion that reflect the love you have shown us in Christ. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another on this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation.

May your reign be a reality here on earth.

May we become more interested in building your kin-dom here and now than in waiting for it to come down from above.

Let us share our bread with those who hunger.

Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness.

Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil.

For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth.

Amen.

~ J. Manny Santiago © 1999

✧ **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 Sent Forth by God's Blessing ~ Tippe Musicians**