



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

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Welcome To Worship

September 15, 2024

9:30 a.m.



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

"Being Blessings of Salt and Light" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧Candle-lighting and Chimes

✧**Prelude:** *Spirit of Gentleness* ~ Tippe Musicians

✧Welcome and community news

Sunday, September 29th during worship we will celebrate the life of beloved Tippe member, Barbara Wooldrage. Please join us as we share stories, pray, sing, and fellowship together in honor of Barbara.

Sunday, October 6th we are being joined by members of Crossroads Presbyterian Church during their “Faith in Action Sunday,” which is an annual project for them. They will send two crews to support Tippe’s ministries – we’ll have an outdoor crew wrapping up the garden season and an indoor crew making preparations for the Divine Intervention season. Tippe will hold a shorter worship that morning beginning at our usual 9:30 am time, including celebrating communion, and wrap up by 10:15. Crossroads’ folks will arrive by about 10:30 am and we’re encouraging our own Tippe community to remain with us after worship to serve alongside – this is a wonderful opportunity to be intentional about our ministries while collaborating and building relationships.

✧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

Blessing for the Light ~ David Whyte from “The Bell and the Blackbird”

I thank you, light, again,
for helping me to find
the outline of my daughter’s face,
I thank you light,
for the subtle way
your merest touch gives shape
to such things I could
only learn to love
through your delicate instruction,
and I thank you, this morning
waking again,
most intimately and secretly

for your visible invisibility,
the way you make me look
at the face of the world
so that everything becomes
an eye to everything else
and so that strangely,
I also see myself being seen,
so that I can be born again
in that sight, so that
I can have this one other way
along with every other way,
to know that I am here.

✧ **Becoming Present to God and Each Other - Our Check-in**

✧ **Gathering as God's People: Membership and Discipleship**

We are gathered again as we enter the fall season together and turn our attention to what it means to be part of a community, what it looks like to support one another in discerning our gifts and sharing the abundance that comes out of that discernment.

Today we celebrate welcoming two more people into membership here at Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church, and this celebration invites each of us to consider what membership means, what discipleship looks like, and how we as a community engage in the ministries into which we are called.

Let us continue to welcome each other warmly into this space, to name and nurture the gifts that we see in one another, and remain intentional in building the kingdom together here on earth.

✧ **Gathering Hymn *Dios Está Aquí/God is Here Today***

Refrain:

Dios está aquí, tan cierto como el aire que respiras
Tan cierto como la mañana se levanta
Tan cierto como que te canto y me puedes oír
Tan cierto como que te canto y me puedes oír

God is here today, as certain as the air I breathe
As certain as the morning sun that rises,
As certain as when I sing you'll hear my song
As certain as when I sing you'll hear my song

(v1) You can find God, just look at the person who's next to you.
You can find God, abiding in your own heart. (repeat entire verse)

(v2) You can see God, just spend a moment in nature.
You can feel God, when you breathe in the scent of a rose.
You can hear God in the current that flows in the river.
You can feel God, abiding in your own heart.

(v3) You can love God in each individual gathered here.
You can love God in each woman, each man and each child.
You can love God in each person you meet when you walk outside
You can feel God, abiding in your own heart.

Music and Lyrics: Anonymous, verses translated by Betsy Gonwa
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✧ **Opening Ourselves to God's Grace**

If the human body, body of blood and muscle,
is to live, it needs salt.

**If the body of Christ, body of peace and justice,
is to live, it needs us!**

If the earthly creation, bustling and blooming,
is to flourish, it needs the sun's light.

**If the new creation we are in Christ is to flourish,
it needs the Spirit's light!**

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

**Our faith, our love, our hope —
essential as salt and light.**

But if salt isn't salty?

It isn't what it's meant to be.

And if a light doesn't shine?

It isn't what it's meant to be.

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

Briny and bright, we are God's faithful people.

**We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ:
a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community,
a justice-making people, giving glory to God!**

✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

God of mystery and of judgment,
who has made us to be salt and light
in a tasteless, shadowed world,
guide us in this time of worship.

Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment
so that others may see your good works through us,
give you the glory,
and be moved to serve you. Amen

✧ **Special Music** *Blessed Are They Who Hear God's Word*

✧ **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

Matthew 5: 1-16

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

13 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Abba in heaven.

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 “Being Blessings of Salt and Light” Rev. Trish Eckert

✧Reflection Questions

- How do the Beatitudes land on my heart today?
 - Am I open to God's grace?
 - What am I mourning right now?
 - Am I building relationships with God, other, myself, and the rest of creation?
- Who has served as salt and light in my life?
- What does it look like for me to be salt and light in the world?
- What areas of my life have lost their saltiness? Where might I shine my light more brightly?

✧Short period of silent reflection

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn 761 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service***

✧ **Welcoming into Membership** ~ Public Profession of Faith

Welcoming Willie and Betsy Gonwa into the Tippe community of faith

- ~ Presentation
- ~ Profession of faith
- ~ Laying on of hands
- ~ Welcome
- ~ The Peace

~ **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

✧ **Our gifts of support**

Offertory Hymn 5 *All That We Have*

Offertory Blessing

✧ **Prayers of the People**

Community Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

✧ **Hymn *Like No Other*** (by G. Wendorf)



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

Welcome

Walking down the Mount of Beatitudes in Israel offers a unique opportunity to reflect on being the light in the world. The first thing God created was light. Like salt, it is essential to life. Light has a purpose – to guide us, to keep us from being afraid, to illuminate what is hidden, to provide warmth.

As we abide in Christ, we become the light of the world. In God’s plan of redemption, we are as essential as salt and light.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, you created the world and all who live in it. As your first act of creation, you said, “Let there be light.” There was light, and it was good. You make the sun rise on the good and evil alike, for your love has no prejudice. It is not dependent on who we are but is steadfast and true because that is who you are.

Jesus, Light of the World, you came into the world so we may have life. In the mystery of God, you call us to be light in the world because life is something to be shared. With your compassion for the sick, the poor, and the outcast, you taught us what love is. In the glory of your resurrection you demonstrated how far love will go. Love, life, light – you have given us a purpose in the world.

Holy Spirit, light within us, you enable us to be the fragrance of life and the salt of the earth. You lead our hearts so that we may season the world with grace. In the same way, you gather us at this Table to sustain us so that we may be salt and light in the world.

Ever thankful, we pray that you would sprinkle salt on this meal we share today. May we renew our communion in Christ and with one another. With joy, we celebrate that this meal is not limited to this time and place. And so, as you bind us together with the cup and the loaf, we give thanks that this Table extends to every cathedral, sanctuary, home, and group where two or three gather in your name. Amen.

✧**The Lord’s Prayer**

ALL: 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 realm 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.

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

✧ **Benediction**

Remember we are the salt of the earth:

May God sprinkle each of us across our town and around our world, bringing the flavor of God's realm wherever we go.

Remember we are the light of the world:

May God uncover the radiance that is within each of us, to shine the truth of God's love wherever we go.

God calls us to let our light shine before others:

that everyone we meet may see our lives as a reflection of God's love. 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 *This Little Light of Mine* ~Tippe Musicians**