



# Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church

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

Pastor Trish Eckert

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## Welcome To Worship

*July 28, 2024*

9:30 a.m.



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

*"The Ripple Effect" Rev. Trish Eckert*

## ✧Candle-lighting and Chimes

✧**Prelude** *God Hears Me When I Pray*, by Cynthia Gowens ~Tippe Musicians

## ✧Welcome and community news

Our next (and final) Wednesday outdoor worship service with Prince of Peace will be on **August 21<sup>st</sup>** here at Tippe on the labyrinth, starting at 5:30 pm for a potluck and fellowship, and a short worship service beginning at 6:30 pm

**Save the date:** Tippe will take part in an ecumenical worship service at Humboldt Park on **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** at 10 am in partnership with at least 8 congregations within the Southeast Clergy Association.

## ✧Reading Ourselves for Worship

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

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## ✧A Poem/Reading/Blessing as we Center Ourselves in this Moment

### **Reflecting on Prayer as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**

*To pray means to open your hands before God. It means slowly relaxing the tension which squeezes your hands together and accepting your existence with an increasing readiness, not as a possession to defend, but as a gift to receive. Above all, prayer is a way of life which allows you to find a stillness in the midst of the world where you open your hands to God's promises and find hope for yourself, your neighbor, and your world. In prayer, you encounter God not only in the small voice and the soft breeze, but also in the midst of the turmoil of the world, in the distress and joy of your neighbor, and in the loneliness of your own heart. ~ Henri J.M. Nouwen*

## ✧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 *Praise Deepens our Joy*

## ✧Gathering as God's People: Our Theme *Psalms as Living Prayers*

Although the Psalms are ancient, their vibrancy and immediacy inspire us to continue to peel back the layers of meaning in the Psalms and reflect on what these texts have to say to us today.

The theologian Walter Brueggemann encourages us to "let experience touch the Psalter." He writes, "The Psalms, with a few exceptions, are not the voice of God addressing us. They are rather the voice of our own common humanity – gathered over

a long period of time, but a voice that continues to have amazing authenticity... It speaks about life the way it really is... in those deeply human dimensions the same issues and possibilities persist...when we turn to the Psalms it means we enter into the midst of that voice of humanity and decide to take our stand with that voice. We are prepared to speak among them and with them and for them, to express our solidarity in this anguished, joyous human pilgrimage. We add a voice to the common elation, shared grief, and communal rage that besets us all.”

The Bible Wisdom teachings speak to us most powerfully when we tune our ears to hear the words anew and consider them through the lens of our own lives. Then, the words of the text influence our self-understanding while at the same time our experience brings vitality and relevance to the Scripture.

Brueggemann observes that all of the Psalms fall within three categories that align with the seasons of our lives: orientation, disorientation, and new orientation. Today we'll explore a Psalm of praise and gratitude, which he would describe as an orientation Psalm. The text emphasizes equilibrium, celebrating the abiding love woven into the foundation of all creation. Let's turn our attention to praise!

### ✧ **Gathering Hymn Hymn 9 *As the Deer***

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

**All: O God,**

**Awaken us to your presence in our lives...**

**to your continuous pouring of grace upon grace,**

**molding us and shaping us...**

**past, present, and future...**

**into the children of God you have called us to be,**

**that we may reflect that light upon others, through grace upon grace:**

**welcoming,**

**embracing,**

**declaring,**

**proclaiming,**

**LOVING in all we say and do. Amen.**

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

Holy One, we come this morning seeking wisdom and guidance for our lives. Open us to your words of life and love and truth. Reveal to us how best to show up for others.

May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds as we walk your path. Amen

#### ✧ **Special Music *Ripple*, by Ahlay Blakely**

1) What if what we are doing right now ripples out beyond what the eye can see?

2) What is this step a part of that's bigger than me? Bigger than me, bigger than me.

3) What is happening through me? Happening. happening, happening through me?

## ✧ **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**

### **Psalm 146**

#### ***Praise for God's Help***

1 Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

3 Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.

5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

6 who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith for ever;

7 who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

10 The Lord will reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

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 “The Ripple Effect”** Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Reflection Questions**

- What awakens praise within you? How do you acknowledge your gratitude?
- When do you tend to put your trust in humans who wield influence?
- Do you ask God to change your heart or the heart of another? Have you experienced a change of heart or witnessed it in another person?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**

✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn *We Receive from Your Fullness***, by the Colledgeville Composers Group

✧ **Our gifts of support**

God of Compassion,  
May these offerings be instruments of your healing,  
your justice, and your good news,  
in this community and around the world. Amen.

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**ALL: Our Mother**

**Who are in all the earth**

**Holy is your truth**

**May your wisdom come**

**Your circle be one**

**uniting heaven and earth**

**Give us today a nurturing spirit**

**Heal through us as we ourselves are healed**

**Lead us into Fullness of life**

**And liberate all that is good**

**For the Wisdom, Presence and the Goodness are Yours.**

**Amen**

*(from Dominican Sisters Retreat, March 1993 Great Bend, Kansas)*

✧ **Benediction**

Go forth with an open heart

Stay awake to joy

Speak your gratitude

Root into the goodness surrounding you

*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** *May the God of Hope Go with Us* ~ Tippe Musicians