Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church

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

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Welcome To Worship

October 25, 2026
9:30 a.m.

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

"Commanding Love" Rev. Trish Eckert

*Please stand as you are able

Welcoming music

Candle-lighting and Chimes

Prelude *Speak Lord*

Welcome & Announcements
Today is our Congregational Meeting – thank you for joining us!

Today is also a Divine Intervention laundry day. We have two laundry days in November on the 8th and the 22nd – please talk with Pastor Trish if you are interested in participating. We still need volunteers!

Next Sunday, November 1st is All Saints Day, and we will celebrate our loved ones who are with us in spirit and reflect on the many members of this beloved community who have passed on and have contributed so much to Tippecanoe. Come ready to ring bells, light candles, and thank our cloud of witnesses.

November 15th Tippe worships at Grace at 10 am. Pastor Ted will preach.

Readying Ourselves for Worship
Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!
Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!

Call to Worship
From the corners of the world,
from the confusion of life,
from the loneliness of our hearts,
Gather us, O God

To feed our minds,
to fire our imagination,
to free our hearts,
Gather us, O God

Centering Words *Notions* ~ poem by Paula Gordon Lepp, excerpted from *How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude & Hope*
Look at the silver lining, they say.
But what if, instead,
I pluck it off
and use that tensile strand to bind
myself to those things I do not
want to lose sight of.

Families knit together by evening walks,
board games, laughter.
The filament fixing us to friends
no matter the distance apart.
A braid of gratitude for small kindnesses.
The thin gauge wire of loss.

Let me twist that lining
around my finger,
it's silvery glint a reminder
of just how quickly life can change.
I will remember to love more.
I will remember to give more.

I will remember to be still.

I will knot the string tightly.
So it won't slip away.
So I won't forget.

Gathering Hymn 754 *Help Us Accept Each Other

Prayer of Confession
When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

(Silent Reflection)

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.
We love with condition.
We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.
We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.

Forgive us, we pray, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Words of Assurance
Friends in Christ, know this:
the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

***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

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 22: 34-46
When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet?"'
"If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?"
No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

<u>One:</u> May we hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our tradition.
<u>All:</u> Thanks be to our God.

Special Music *I Will Delight*

Homily "Commanding Love"

Prayer: *God of Our Journeying* ~ Jan Berry, excerpted from *Friends and Enemies: A book of short prayers & some ways to write your own*
God of all our journeying,
inviting us to travel with you,
forgive us when we cling to outworn security,
afraid to let go of what is safe and familiar.

Give us courage
to take the risk
of answering your call
into joyous adventure. Amen.

Congregational Meeting

Hymn 693 *Though I May Speak*

Offering Invitation
This is our opportunity to make a difference. You are invited to bring what you have and share it. Don't worry that the gift you bring is too small. Great changes can arise from the smallest gift—even from a cup of cold water. The gifts that we fear are too small do make a difference—whether to one person or to the whole world. Let us present our offering.

Offertory Hymn 712 *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought*

Prayer of Dedication
Gracious and loving God, we offer these gifts as expressions of your love. May they be living water that quenches deep thirst. And in our pouring out, may we also receive. Amen.

Prayers of the People
After each petition:
One: *"God, in your mercy,"* **All: "Hear our prayer."**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer
Loving God, in whom is heaven,
may Your name be honored everywhere.
May Your kin-dom come.
May the desire of Your heart for the world be done,
in us, by us and through us.

Give us the bread we need for each day.
Forgive us.
Enable us to forgive others.
Keep us from all anxiety and fear.
For You reign in the power that comes from love
which is Your glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Charge & Benediction
May the Source of life hold you in the faith;
the Word of life speak clearly in truth around you;
and Breath of life, of grace, of wisdom,
sing in your inmost being this day and all your days.

Now that the worship has ended, may the service truly begin.

Postlude *I Shall Not be Moved*