



Traditional Worship • April 29

Prayer Concerns: The family of Glenn Wood in his passing; The family of June McNatton in her passing; Jerry Kendall; Betty Schofield.

Today's Sanctuary flowers provided by Becky Black in honor of Leola Ahrens' 90th Birthday.

Today's choral selections are provided by the Temple Choir under the direction of Joan Nevill. Organist: Barbara Waite; Flautist: Lisa McCarty. Additional Music provided by Lydia Moesner.

Ushers April 29: Eric Eades, captain; Chuck Taylor, Ronnie Pursley, John Oberhelman, Thornton Patberg (balcony), Margo Borre (balcony)

Greeters April 29: Pat & Ken Haynie, Tom Harvey, Carla Bolin

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

piano

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" arr. by R. B. Farlee

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In every one of us, there is a longing for home.

People: **It's a longing for space where we are known and loved.**

Leader: In every one of us, there is a desperate need to belong.

People: **It's a need for companions on the road.**

Leader: God calls to us, "Come to Me. You belong in My presence. You belong with My people."

People: **Today our hearts will answer, "We are coming."**

CHORAL INTROIT

"Christians, We Have Come to Worship" by Douglas Wagner

*CHIMES & SERVICES OF LIGHT

*HYMN TFWS #2166

"Christ Beside Me"

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Christ is risen!

All: **Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Please turn to those around you and pass the peace of Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lydia Moesner

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Let us pray as one.

PASTORAL PRAYER

All: **Loving God, when we think we are nothing, remind us that we are Your treasure. When we feel empty, remind us that You can fill. When it seems no one can understand, give us the courage to reach out. And now, O God, hear us as we pray, each in our own hearts and our own ways...**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13 "Pray then like this: 'Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'"

GIVING TITHES & OFFERING

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" arr. by M. Sedio

*DOXOLOGY *The congregation stands as the Ushers return the offering to the Altar.*

#95 in Hymnal

ANTHEM

"Merciful God" by Getty, Getty, and Townend arr. Courtney

KIDZ MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 139:13-18

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written

all the days that were formed for me,

when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE UMH #162

"Alleluia, Alleluia"

MESSAGE by Pastor Andy Payton

"Romantic"

Good morning.

I admit that I am feeling a bit exposed up here this morning. We are continuing our arisen series using the Enneagram as a tool to learn about who God created us to be. And today we're going to be looking at Type 4 on the Enneagram. I am a Type 4, so essentially today I will be telling you a bit about, well, what it's like to be me. And that is a scary prospect, but it's worth it because the only way that we grow is to be vulnerable and real about who God created us to be.

Will you pray with me? Gracious God as I strive to deliver your message this morning, may you increase and we decrease. For it is written that only in giving up our lives will we find them. Amen.

Let's backtrack a little bit. I threw out a few terms there- that maybe it's your first time here and you're not familiar with them more you haven't been with us for a couple of weeks- so a bit of review. Our Risen series is based on the fact that it is the Easter season. Easter isn't just one day, it's an entire season in the Christian calendar. And our hope as Christians is that we would rise to new life with Christ in this season. The tool we're using to learn how to do that is an ancient spiritual tool used by Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists called the Enneagram. I'm radically oversimplifying here, but the Enneagram is basically a motivation test. It posits that there are nine basic human motivations and the one that you spend the most time in is your enneagram type. So let's take a little look at type fours. Depending on which author you're reading about the enneagram, type fours are called romantics, individualists, Steitz, and their dominant motivation- our dominant motivation- is to be unique, to be unlike anybody else. But really what fours long for more than anything else is to belong with everybody.

It seems paradoxical, right? We'll get there in just a minute. The reason why fours wants to be unique, but also just want to belong, is because, from a very young age, fours have felt that there is a missing piece inside of me. Everybody else is whole, complete but there is something essential that I'm missing. And so the easiest emotion for fours to access is shame. Shame being understood by psychologists as the deep fear that who I really am, my true self is unlovable and unable to connect with other human beings. However, I should mention that though that is the easiest emotion for fours to feel, it is far from the only emotion that they feel. Fours feel more in ten minutes than other types feel all day long. Type 2s- who Andy preached about a couple of weeks ago- they live for feelings. They love feelings. Fours are their feelings. So if fours already seem paradoxical, confusing, weird to you, that's because we are. We feel misunderstood because we are. Authors agree that fours are the most misunderstood type; it's why they struggle to belong. And thus the drive to be special... because if I can't belong, if that missing piece of me means that no one can ever love me as I am, then fine, I'll be the blackest black sheep ever. I will make an identity out of my loneliness and isolation. It will be how I understand myself.

Let's get into the nitty gritty a little bit. When fours are healthy, they are incredibly artistic. Vincent van Gogh. Bob Dylan. Georgia O'Keeffe. Sylvia Plath. All probably fours. Fours are able to give words and shape to the moments in life that are beyond words. And we are incredibly authentic when we're healthy. What you see is what you get. We won't pretend to be anything that we aren't. Healthy fours are motivated and by that I mean the fours are bursting with ideas and creative energy. And what I love most about being four is that in the darkest moment of your life, a four will sit with you and hold you and feel totally at ease doing it. Pathos and hardship don't scare us. Not that we enjoy them, but we recognize that the most sacred moments in life are the hard ones. And we want to be there with you in the midst of them. That's how we show our love.

However, when fours are unhealthy, we can be quite the elitists. Turn up our nose at anyone ordinary or normal. We can create drama because in order to be special you can't have ordinary feelings. You can't have an ordinary life; you have to have larger than life feelings. And if those don't just arise, then we will create drama to make the impossible possible. Unhealthy fours are insecure. Even more so, by the way, than ones if you can believe that. It comes from that sense of shame. That deep sense of being unlovable, unlikable, not belonging. And perhaps most problematically, fours are obsessed with the road not taken because fours are on a lifelong quest to find the missing piece. In a romantic relationship, in a dream job, in a place that they live. So if I haven't found my missing piece yet, maybe it was back there. Maybe I walked right by my only chance to be whole. If only I had chosen another path.

So fours have a hard time being grateful for the present because they're stuck thinking if only. Which brings us to our scripture for today Psalm 139. Fours are very good at seeing the beauty outside of themselves. Psalm 139 says how wonderful are your works, that I know very well. The Psalm writer can see that creation is bursting with the sacred. Fours fail to see that beauty within themselves. So the question becomes, does God think you're missing something? Because if God made you, would God make you incomplete? No Psalm 139 proclaims that you are fearfully and wonderfully made, that you are one of the amazing works of God. You are God's masterpiece. When God formed you in your mother's womb, God didn't forget something. God made you to reflect God's own glory. The missing piece is not out there somewhere. It was inside you all along and in the Christian tradition, we call it the image of God. The divine spark that God gave uniquely to you. It lives in each of us. But that specific reflection lives only in you.

The Psalm tells us I come to the end and you are still there. You don't have to quest through the world looking for a person or a place or a position that will finally give you that wholeness that you are longing for. It was already there. You just haven't seen it yet. And guess what? Since you are not missing anything. You can belong. You can belong exactly as you are in your weirdness, in your poetic soul, in the way that you are wonderfully made.

One of the things I love about this series is that, even if you're not a four, this message is probably one you still need to hear. And also that through this series we can learn not just about ourselves but about every single person we encounter including the person who drives us absolutely nuts. We can see that God's beauty, God's image dwells in them too, if we have eyes to see it. And we can begin to understand the struggles that they face that often aren't so different from our own.

I want to leave you with a spiritual practice to try this week. It is designed for fours, but it can be helpful for anyone. If you were here when I preached on ones you may remember snap. Well this is SNAP for fours. At some point in the coming week, you're going to stop what you're doing. And this will not be hard for a 4 because we are self reflective to a fault. Stop what you're doing, then notice. You're in order to do this, will not be hard for a 4 because step outside your feelings. Try to observe them from afar, and ask: what am I believing right now? That I'm incomplete? That I don't belong? That if only I had made a different choice everything would be right and perfect now? And then ask yourself: is that actually true? Yes or no. Are the assumptions you are making about yourself, your life, the world, are they true? And lastly you're going to pivot. Pivot away from that unhealthy behavior towards the behavior that honors the image of God inside you. You're going to stop dwelling on the past, on what could have been. Because guess what. You can't know. And then you're going to take one of those creative ideas that you come up with every two seconds. And for once you're actually going to put one into practice. You're going to take action for the future. To see what God might have put ahead of you for once, instead of what is behind you. Stop. Notice. Ask. Pivot. The whole thing will take you five minutes, but I think it will draw you closer to yourself, closer to God, and ultimately closer to your neighbor.

As a four I'm not the clearest communicator. I am much better at making myself known through art and metaphor. I was going to end the sermon today by explaining all the reasons that we should be grateful for fours and what they show us about God; but instead, I'm going to communicate the way that is most natural for me: through my favorite film in the whole world, The Dead Poets Society. It is the ultimate four movie. If you're not familiar, it takes place in a New England boarding school in the 1950s, and the late Robin Williams plays Mr. Keating who is the new English teacher; and he is the epitome of a four. So I'd like to share that with you now.

"Words and language- no matter what anybody tells you- words and ideas can change the world. I see that look in Mr Pitts, like 19th century literature has nothing to do with going to business school or medical school right. Maybe. Mr. Hopkins you may agree with them thinking yes we should simply study our Mr. Pritchard and Huddle Up. Huddle up! We don't read and write poetry because the business of achieving other ambitions. Little secret for you. Huddle Up. Huddle Up! We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race; and the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits necessary to sustain life, but poetry, beauty, romance, love, these what we stay alive for. To quote from Whitman 'Oh me. Oh life of the questions of these recurring. Of the endless strains of the faithless. Of cities filled with the foolish. What good amid these Oh me, oh life?' Answer that you are here; that life exists, and identity that the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse. That the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse. What will your verse be?"

What will your verse be? Amen.

*LAST HYMN TFWS #2051

"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry,"

*CHIMES & SERVICE OF LIGHT

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Gelobet Sei Gott" arr. by J. Leavitt