

WHERE ARE YOU ROOTED?

ROOT TO RISE

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP



SEPTEMBER 19TH 9:30AM
GREAT HALL AND ONLINE

WELCOME, FRIENDS

Together we are seeking a way of living faith that speaks to the real of our lives and those of the world around us. This means we gather around deep themes of the Christian faith, aiming to integrate them into the rest of our lives and being: from popular music that speaks to the human experience, to current events and politics, to your life and relationships.

And we do this because we believe that God is already speaking in all those places...if we're ready to listen.

Together we seek to live into the new thing while following in the rhythms of the God of love.

7 Those who trust in YHWH--who hope in YHWH--
they know what it is to be rooted.

8 For they will be like a tree planted by water,
spreading its roots out toward the stream.

They don't fear when the heat comes for their leaves will stay green so that even in drought they aren't anxious and they trust they will bear fruit.

JEREMIAH 17:7-8

MORNING INVITATIONS

SETTING THE STAGE - PSALM 1 - PRAYER | SARA WG

SONG: "HEAVY" (BIRDTALKER) | BAND

"Do your fingers move, do your lungs inflate, are you tired, are you weary of the hidden hate you've been holding?"

From Haley: "Everyone can relate to the questions in this song...we can have "hidden hate" toward our perceived enemy or the "other," potentially God or even ourselves...that creates a barrier, preventing us from experiencing and living out the love of God in freedom to love one another."

Wonder: What are carrying today? What's heavy?

BREATHE IN | ANDREW

What brought you here today? Why church?

What is heavy? What pains you? What are you carrying?

SONG: "AFTER THE STORM" (MUMFORD) | BAND

"But there will come a time, you'll see, with no more tears
And love will not break your heart, but dismiss your fears."

From Sara: "Who hasn't lived through storms? Who hasn't lost hope? Who hasn't felt uprooted and unmoored? This song invites us to trust that love will heal, and one day we might "release our fears." Is this not what Jesus is all about? A healing love that we come to know after each storm."

Wonder: What does/might it feel like for love to dismiss your fear?

KIDS TO GOD'S GARDEN | JANE & BAND & US

"ROOT TO RISE" | SARA WG

A Reflection on Psalm 1 & Jer. 17:7-8

BREATHE OUT | ANDREW

"My Sequoia Prayer" by Rev. D. Monteen Lucas

Wonder: What does it feel like, what does it look like to live rooted?

SONG: "WILD WORLD" (DREW HOLCOMB) | BAND

"Try a little tenderness maybe some benefit of the doubt...show a little mercy and hold onto love real tight."

From Leah: "What does it look like for us to walk forward in love and goodness out of knowing where we are rooted? We must do our own work of learning where we are grounded in order to have hard conversations, listen, and not to shout. We can't ultimately love our neighbors well if we haven't found roots and grounding of our own."

Wonder: What might it look like if truly love is all we gave away?

ANNOUNCEMENTS & FINAL THOUGHTS | SARA WG

Band Members: Leah Appleton, Haley Larson, Sesay, & Damon Kalar

Audio/Visual: Matthew Hayes, Tony Lehr, Patrick Smalley, & Andy Garbers

Other Humans: Jane Steinke, Barb Seaberg, Andrea Rossman, Andrew Zhao, Sara Wilhelm Garbers, Trev Erickson, Michele Steinke....and YOU!

A FEW NOTES

ON OUR ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP EXPRESSION

Our aim in holding space for this service comes from three places:

- 1) For those who have already found Christian faith to be meaningful, we are seeking to deepen into a faith that is integrative and responsible to the complexity of being human and Christian in our world.
- 2) For those who grew up in church but over time Christian spirituality has not connected to the life you live and/or has been harmful...we want to hold space to wrestle together with what it might like to live a faith that is truly rooted in the love of God, self, and neighbor.
- 3) For those who care about spirituality and being human together with others but are less sure that Christianity offers anything helpful to these endeavors, we seek to connect with those deep human questions and wrestlings in view of the central tenant of what it means to be Christian: the invitation to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Together we want to explore what it means that God and faith is about the whole of our lives and everything we do--that spirituality isn't relegated to the church but an invitation into a way of being human in every breath and moment of our lives.

Together we seek to live responsibly in view of reality--the struggle, suffering, beauty and pain of our world-- to be good grownups, living out faith that helps to truly heal our world and to be "good news" in it.

Together we bring ourselves, showing up with the expectation that Christian faith at its heart is the invitation to become...to live differently than we did before: to become people who live love in our world as love itself opens, heals, and changes us.

So we will together seek to embody the values of this church, to...

Welcome. Risk. Wrestle. Immerse. Do Good.