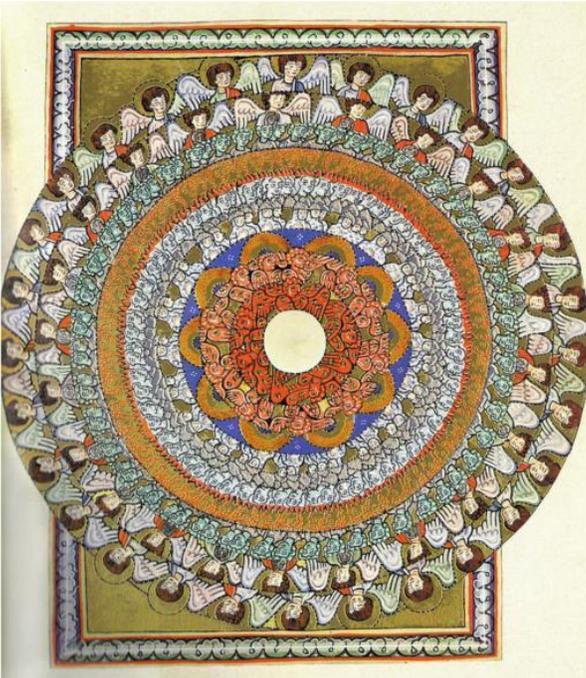


*McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church*

*10:30 AM September 19, 2021*

**Speaking the Truth**

**A Celebration of Hildegard of Bingen and John Shelby Spong**



WELCOME

A PRAYER OF AWARENESS

*Hildegard of Bingen*

God is the foundation for everything  
This God undertakes, God gives.  
Such that nothing that is  
    necessary for life is lacking.  
Now humankind needs a body that at all  
    times honors and praises God.  
This body is supported in every way  
    through the earth.  
Thus the earth glorifies the power of God.

*Wisdom from John Shelby Spong*

I experience God as the power of life, the power of love, and the ground of being. I don't say that's what God is, I say that's my experience of God.

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-5, 9-14

NRSV

In the beginning was the Word,  
**and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God.

**All things came into being through the Word,  
and without him not one thing came into being.**

What has come into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;  
**yet the world did not know him.**

He came to what was his own,  
**and his own people did not accept him.**

But to all who received him, who believed in his name,  
**he gave power to become children of God, who were born,  
not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man,  
but of God.**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
**and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a parents' only child, full of grace and truth.**

*Wisdom from John Shelby Spong*

I call myself "A Believer in Exile." Both words are important. I am a believer. God is infinitely real to me even though I cannot define that reality. I am also in exile from the traditional understanding of my religious past. I will never abandon my Christian roots, but I do see Christianity as an evolving force and I want to be part of the evolution.

READING      O Sapientia      *Hildegard of Bingen*

O strength of Wisdom  
who, circling, circled,  
enclosing all  
in one lifegiving path,  
three wings you have:  
one soars to the heights,  
one distils its essence upon the earth,  
and the third is everywhere.  
Praise to you, as is fitting,  
O Wisdom.



ANTHEM

O Sapientia

*Text and music by Hildegard of Bingen*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

From John Shelby Spong:

Prayer is what I am doing when I love  
wastefully, passionately and wondrously and invite others to do so.  
The God understood as a father figure, who guided ultimate personal  
decisions, answered our prayers, and promised rewards  
and punishment based upon our behavior  
was not designed to call anyone into maturity.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY      Holy Spirit Comforting Fire

Hildegard of Bingen

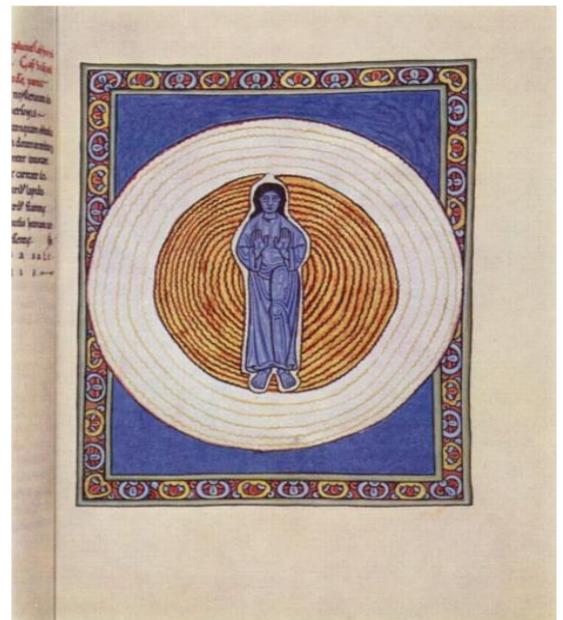
Holy Spirit,  
Comforting fire,  
Life of all creation.  
Anointing the sick, cleansing body and soul,  
**Fill this body!**

Holy Spirit,  
Sacred breath, Fire of love,  
Sweetest taste, Beautiful aroma,  
**Fill this heart!**

Holy Spirit,  
Filling the world,  
from the heights to the deep,  
Raining from clouds, filling rivers and sea,  
**Fill this mind!**

Holy Spirit,  
Forgiving and giving,  
uniting strangers, reconciling enemies,  
Seeking the lost, and enfolding us together,  
**Fill these gathered here!**

Holy Spirit,  
Bringing light into dark places, igniting praise,  
Greatest gift, our Hope and Encourager,



Holy Spirit of Christ,  
**I praise you! Amen.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH / PLEDGE TO ACTION**

*From John Shelby Spong*

If God is the source of life,

**I worship God by living.**

If God is the source of love,

**I worship God by loving.**

If God is the ground of being,

**I worship God by having the courage to be more fully human;  
the embodiment of the Divine.**

**READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

**Ephesians 4:1-7, 14-16**

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.

But speaking the truth in love,  
we must grow up in every way  
into him who is the head, into Christ,  
from whom the whole body,  
joined and knit together by every  
ligament with which it is equipped,  
as each part is working properly,  
promotes the body's growth  
in building itself up in love.

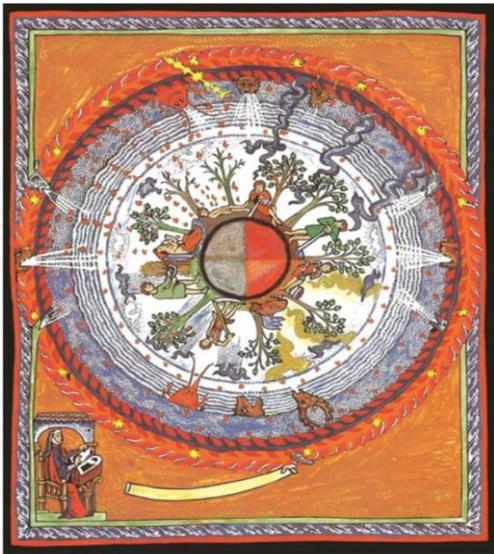
INCLUDEPICTURE

"[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/69/Hildegard\\_of\\_bingen\\_and\\_nuns.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/69/Hildegard_of_bingen_and_nuns.jpg)" \\* MERGEFORMATINET

ANTHEM **Though I May Speak (the Gift of Love)** TUNE: O WALY WALY arr. Hal Hopson

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain; as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

## A CALL TO PRAYER Hildegard of Bingen



The earth is at the same time mother,  
**She is mother of all that is natural,**  
**mother of all that is human.**  
 She is the mother of all,  
 for contained in her are the seeds of all.  
**The earth of humankind contains**  
**all moistness, all verdancy,**  
**all germinating power.**  
 It is in so many ways fruitful.  
**All creation comes from it.**  
 Yet it forms not only the basic raw  
 material for humankind,  
**but also the substance**  
**of the incarnation of God's son.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Terri Ott McDowell, Presbyterian Outlook*

Persistent and present God, deliver us from doubts that keep us from turning to you more often in prayer. Deliver us from catastrophizing thoughts, from assuming the worst, from failing to recognize the power you have given us to help and heal. Deliver us from the shame of past failures that keep us from risking vulnerability. Deliver us from cynicism that keeps us from embracing

each day as a new opportunity, a precious gift, another chance to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you.

God of peace, be with those who are fleeing violence, tyranny and war. Accompany those seeking safety and shelter. Rescue the asylum-seekers and the unaccompanied children. By the gift of your Holy Spirit, embolden us to cross borders of our own making – overcoming bias, seeking justice, offering welcome.

Creator God, in the midst of hurricanes, floods and devastating wildfires, empower us to care for our earth and one another. Give comfort and courage to those who are suffering. Guide world leaders toward smart and sustainable action that will care for your creation and not cause further harm. Quench our warming globe's thirst for justice.

Finally, God, we pray for the sick in need of healing: friends, neighbors and loved ones suffering from COVID-19 or other diseases. Sit with those waiting for a diagnosis. Comfort those living with pain. Sustain those filled with worry. Restore those living without hope.

Almighty God, we praise you for your grace that has sustained us, your discipline that has corrected us, your patience that has borne with us, and your love that has redeemed us.

Finally, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying,

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Maori, from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer)*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,**

now and forever. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

## PASSING THE PEACE

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
OF COUNTRY / FIRST  
PEOPLES**  
*(An act towards  
reconciliation)*

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land, in their own country. Their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives.

We recognize and acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations, past, present, emerging.

We are grateful for their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

### Assisting in Today's Service

Liturgists

Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Christian Education

Director of Music

Worship Tech

McKinley Congregation

Rev. Heidi Weatherford

Rev. Keith Harris

Sara McHenry

Dr. Yohei Endo

Lara Hebert and Asami Endo

**How to Contact the Church Staff** All church staff can be contacted through the McKinley Website:  
[www.mckinleycu.org](http://www.mckinleycu.org).

John Shelby Spong

June 13, 1931 - September 12, 2021

#### IMAGE CREDITS

All the artwork in this bulletin, *except where indicated*, is by Hildegard of Bingen, 1098-1179

The Choirs of Angels.

The Mystical Body

The True Trinity in True Unity

Hildegard of Bingen and her nuns (*artist unknown*)

The Cycle of the Seasons

"The church is like a swimming pool. Most of the noise comes from the shallow end."

Bp John Shelby Spong

**McKinley Foundation Tables Available!** As part of the McKinley Foundation's renovations, the much-loved study tables from the living room will no longer be used. If you would like to purchase one please contact Jennifer Wetzal ([jennifer@mckinleycu.org](mailto:jennifer@mckinleycu.org)) at the foundation by September 13.

**Church and Foundation Create New Website** Did you know that McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church and McKinley Foundation have united their websites? Please go to [www.mckinleycu.org](http://www.mckinleycu.org) to see the new site and get all the info you need about either organization!

Why did we change from two sites to one? Although the church and foundation are separate entities, their relationship is confusing and our face to the public is simply "McKinley." It made sense, then, to unite the websites under a single banner which the new site accomplishes. The site includes a calendar (under "Engage > McKinley Life") with both church and foundation events.

**Don't Miss These Upcoming Events at the McKinley Foundation!** McKinley Foundation and the Artists' Alley committee are incredibly proud to bring you the exhibit "To Survive on This Shore" and related events happening this week.

**CAS Special Presentation** Monday, September 20 | 4 p.m. Special guests: Jess T. Dugan, Vanessa Fabbre, Gloria Allen, Mary Statzer. Knight Auditorium, Spurlock Museum: 600 South Gregory, Urbana  
Zoom link also available at <https://cas.illinois.edu/index.php/node/2535>

**Book Signing and Breakfast Reception** Tuesday, September 21 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Special guests: Jess T. Dugan, Vanessa Fabbre, Gloria Allen, Mary Statzer  
Artists' Alley, McKinley Foundation: 809 S 5th St, Champaign

All events are co-hosted with the Center for Advanced Study at the University of Illinois, with co-sponsorship from the Department of Gender & Women's Studies and the Uniting Pride Center.

### **September 26: Annual Meeting of McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church**

The congregation of McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church is scheduled to meet on Sunday, September 26 at 12:30 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting (the link may be found in the church e-newsletter and on the church website).

Join us as we receive the annual reports of church committees and staff and well as celebrate this past year in the life of McKinley. By order of Session, Heidi Weatherford, Moderator

Note: This meeting is scheduled at 12:30 to allow 10:30 worshipers time to get home.

Because we are meeting during lunchtime, everyone is invited to bring their lunch to the meeting!

### **Pride Fest is on September 25! Sign Up to Help and/or March**

On Saturday, September 25 McKinley will host a table from 12-6 p.m. and march in the Pride parade from 3-4 p.m. Fabulous activities are sponsored by McKinley Foundation earlier in the week (see below).

Sign up to help host the table for an hour or so and/or march in the parade by visiting the McKinley Facebook page. All Pride Fest attendees are required to wear masks.

The Saturday festival will be in Urbana this year. Details about parking and location will be in next week's newsletter.

### **Coming this Week:**

Sunday, September 19:	5:00PM	<b>McKinley Sunday Worship broadcast</b> via Facebook,
Monday, September 20	11:30AM	<b>Staff Meeting</b>
	5:30PM	<b>Giving Garden Harvest</b>
	5:45PM	<b>Compassion Peace and Justice - PrideFest planning</b>
Tuesday, September 21	9:00 -12:00	<b>Breakfast and Book Signing</b>
Wednesday, September 22	5:15PM	<b>Live Prayer and Prose</b> with Heidi Weatherford, Facebook
	7:00PM	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
Thursday, September 23		<b>Green Team meeting</b>
Saturday September 25:	12-6PM	<b>Pride Fest!</b>
Sunday, September 26:	10:30AM,	<b>Worship outside - PrideFest celebration continues</b>
	12:30AM	<b>Annual Meeting (via Zoom)</b>

**McKinley Presbyterian Church is a community of faith**

**Offering genuine welcome,  
Working for reconciliation, and  
Daring to speak words of abundant hope to a world in pain.**

McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church  
809 South Fifth Street, Champaign, IL 61820 217.344.0297 [www.mckinleycu.org](http://www.mckinleycu.org)