



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
November 19, 2023

Thanksgiving Sunday

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

Many and Great (Hymn 271)

Native American

We Plow the Fields and Scatter (Hymn 560)

Nyland

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

We Gather Together (Hymn 559)

arr. Holler

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. God has made us and we are the Lord's.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise.

Give thanks unto the Lord, bless the name of God.

For the Lord is good and the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

The Lord is faithful to all generations.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN 551 (V. 1-4)

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we look forward with anticipation to the harvest home that is represented by Thanksgiving Day and we praise you that we may gather together in joyful thanksgiving. Yet Lord, we admit that we do not always give thanks on the other days of our lives. We push by others without thanking them for their courtesy or kindness. We take for granted the blessing of those significant people in our lives and do not pause to thank them for their presence. And we routinely forget to thank you for your love, mercy and grace. Lord, send your Spirit to make us mindful that each and every day is a day of Thanksgiving. In Jesus' name we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Despite our forgetfulness and our inability to consistently follow God's will for our lives, God accepts our humanness and forgives the waywardness of our nature. Thus, in the eyes of God, we are truly redeemed people through the grace of Jesus Christ. Praise be to God.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:27-28, 31

Luke 17:11-19

SERMON

Remembering to Say "Thank You"

Rev. Larry Van Hise

ANTHEM

I Believe

Mark A. Miller
The Chancel Choir

I believe in the sun,
I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining.

I believe in love,
I believe in love, even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God.
I believe in God, even when God is silent.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

*Please leave your offering in the boxes at the front and rear of the sanctuary
or make your gifts online or via mail.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

A THANKSGIVING LITANY

Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

God gave us starry nights and sunsets that take our breath away.

God gave us summer rainstorms and the crunch of fall leaves.

God gave us grocery store clerks that carry bags to our cars
and somehow memorize the prices of tangerines and avocados.

God gave us the sound of music – choirs singing in harmony,
the sweet sounds of the flute and the swell of the organ.

Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

God gave us blueberry pancakes, Vermont-style maple syrup and coffee –
that holy bean water that wakes our bones.

God gave us feather down blankets, fall-scented candles and old, worn cozy slippers.

God gave us grandmothers that slip candy into our hands
and grandfathers that smell of peppermint and books.

God gave us toddlers that bounce up and down to music
and smash food into their small mouths like baby birds – with palms flat.

Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

God gave us new years of life, marked by embarrassing renditions of “Happy Birthday” in restaurants
and blowing out a candle on a cupcake.

God gave us nurses and doctors who cover shots with colorful band-aids
and who keep lollipops in their scrubs.

God gave us welcome mats and name tags
and all manner of things that help us feel at home no matter where we are.

God gave us cats that curl up next to us and lend their warmth
and dogs that run and slide to the door to welcome us home.

Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

And God gave us church – this imperfect gathering of humanity that comes together week after week,
striving to fulfill God's will for our lives.

God gave and God gives – continuously.

And we give thanks to the Lord who is good.

Amen.

*HYMN 555 (V.1-3)

Now Thank We All Our God

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God (Hymn 559)

arr. Callahan

Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Donna Van Norman, Liturgist

“Let’s Do Lunch” Teammates: Pat Koefoed, Nancy Udut, Candy Gulotta, Shirley Heinsohn, Ruthann Arras

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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