



Thanksgiving Worship

November 25, 2021

10 a.m.

[CONNECT TO WORSHIP at 10 a.m.](#)

Prelude

Pastoral Dance on Simple Gifts
Now Dance and Sing, Ye Christians BWV 734

arr. A. Clarke
J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

One: Twentieth century Kentucky mystic Thomas Merton says, “to be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything.”

All: And so, we begin our Thanksgiving Day turning toward the love of God embedded in all things.

One: First century Rabbi Akiva says, “Before you taste anything, recite a blessing.”

All: And so, we begin our Thanksgiving Day in a posture of blessing as we approach this feast day.

One: John Pattison says, “If ‘lack’ is the root of injustice, then gratitude is at the root of justice.”

All: And so we begin our Thanksgiving Day humbled.

One: The Seneca Nation of Indians, historically occupying the Finger Lakes in New York, greet one another saying, “Thank you for being.”

All: And so, we begin our Thanksgiving Day in tune with the heartbeat and breath of neighbor, friend, and fellow creature. Our own wellbeing is tied up in the wellbeing of every other being.

One: Thirteenth century German theologian Meister Eckhart says, “If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is Thank You, that will be enough.”

All: And so, we begin our Thanksgiving Day pouring over our lives in the sacred simplicity of “Thank You.”

One: Let us worship the Lord.

All: Let us worship the Lord in gratitude and thanksgiving.

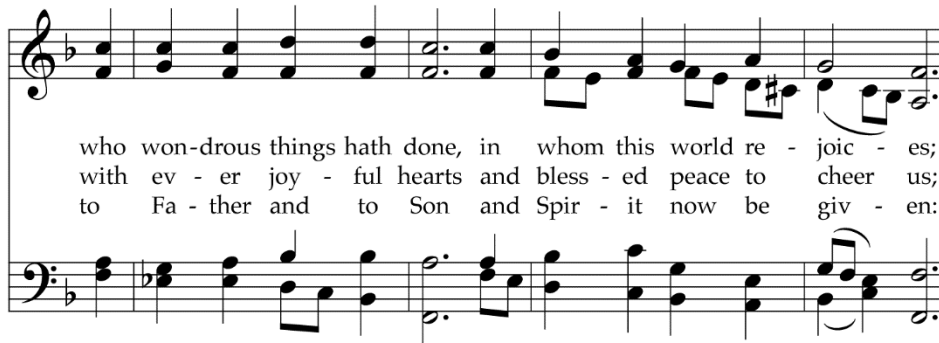
Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice,
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,



who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:



who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Scripture and Reflection in a Season of Thanksgiving

Gratitude in the Ancient Prophets

Joel 2:21-23, 27

One: Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!

**All: Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.**

One: O children, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for the Lord has given the early rain because of God's faithfulness,
and has poured down for you abundant rain,
the spring and the autumn rain, as before.

**All: You shall know that I am in the midst of [you all],
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.**

Reflection: *We Can't Wait*

Gratitude in the Letter to the Philippians

Philippians 4:4–8, 12–13

One: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

All: Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

One: Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

All: And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

One: Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

All: I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty.

One: In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need.

All: I can do all things through the One who strengthens me.

Reflection: *Look into the Palm of Your Hand*

Gratitude in the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 6:25–29, 34

One: Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

All: Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

One: And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing?

All: Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even our lavishly appointed King Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these flowers.

One: But strive first for the kingdom of God, and all these things will be given to you as well.

All: So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Reflection: *My Russian Grandmother*

Ministry of Music

Sing to the Lord of the Harvest

Healey Willan

Sing to the Lord of harvest,
Sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices
Your alleluias raise!
By him the rolling seasons
In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest
A song of happy love.

By him the clouds drop fatness,
The deserts bloom and spring,
The hills leap up in gladness,
The valleys laugh and sing.
He filleth with his fullness,
All things with large increase;
He crowns the year with goodness,
With plenty, and with peace.

Heap on his sacred altar
The gifts his goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest,

The souls he died to save.
Your hearts lay down before him
When at his feet ye fall,
And with your lives adore him
Who gave his life for all.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Invitation

Prayer over Communion

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Closing Prayer

One: From Christ's table of thanksgiving to today's Thanksgiving feast,
may divine blessing rest upon us, gathered and fed.

**All: May the One in whom we place our trust continue to
gather us in, draw us close and embrace us.**

One: May Christ's tender welcome be upon us at every table
through the miracle of wine and water, bread and story, rest and renewal.

**All: May the spirit enfold us as we receive the glad company of the saints of light
with whom we share every table of love.**

One: And may we bless one another on this day with wisdom and laughter,
kind gentleness and wide belonging.

All: Bless us, O God. Amen.

Closing Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

st. 1, 2, and 4

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
5 For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;

for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Benediction

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

S. Karg-Elert

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Worship Note:

The reflections for today come from the book "Attitudes of Gratitude: How to Give and Receive Joy Every Day of Your Life" by M.J. Ryan and Mark Nepo, (Plum Island Press), 2018.

Photo credit by Rob Lancaster.

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Participants:

Lisa Bond, Minister of Music

Peter Conkey, Usher

Chancel Choir

Dalhart/Tzur Family, Liturgist

Joel Fox, Audio and Video

Jim Fritz, Usher

Iserloth Family, Liturgist

Eun Joo Ju, Organist

Kevin Kemp, Audio and Video

Katie Snipes Lancaster, Associate Minister, Preacher

Nahrwold Family, Liturgist

Justin Rothman, Audio and Video

Eric Tran-Ton, Audio and Video