

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

[Pre-Service music](#)

[WELCOME/OPENING BLESSING](#)

[OPENING SONG "This is My Father's World"](#)

**This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears
All nature sings, and round me rings, the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of....skies and seas; His hand the wonders.....wrought.**

**This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; He shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; He speaks to me ev'rywhere.**

**This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
That, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let the heavens ring; God reigns, let the earth be...glad!**

[PRAYER](#)

[SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 26: 1-11](#)

"When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.' Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. "And you shall make response before the LORD your God, 'A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the

LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.' And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING "Praise and Thanksgiving"

**Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
For all things living, created good:
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

**Bless, Lord, the labor, we bring to serve you,
That with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
Harvesting, milling for daily bread.**

**Father, providing food for your children,
By your wise guiding teach us to share.
One with another, so that, rejoicing
With us, all others may know your care.**

**Then will your blessing reach ev-ry people,
Freely confessing Your gracious hand.
Where all obey you, no one will hunger;
In your love's sway you nourish the land.**

PRAYER

P: Gracious God, you know our hearts, our desire to serve you with our lives,

C: but you also know how human we are, Lord.....how we are tempted to put our own desires first, to put our selfish wants before the needs of others. We admit our selfishness at times, our distraction with material things over loving relationships.....and our failure to thank you for all those blessings we do enjoy day by day. Forgive us for these our failures, O God, free us by your grace to live in joyful gratitude for all our blessings in our lives.

P: And God we thank you for your gracious forgiveness, which does indeed give us the freedom to live as your blessed children. Thanks and praise to you for your forgiving love, O God, through Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SONG "For the Beauty of the Earth"

**For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies;
Refrain: Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light.
Refrain: Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Refrain: Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

PRAYER

C: Almighty God, You crown the fields with Your blessing and permit us to gather in the fruits of the earth. As managers of Your creation, may we receive Your gifts in humble thankfulness and share Your bounty with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 12: 13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

A REFLECTION

SONG "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"

1. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son

(repeat)

2. And now, let the weak say "I am strong"

Let the poor say "I am rich",

Because of what the Lord has done for us,

Repeat 1

Repeat 2

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son,

Give thanks.....give thanks.....give thanks.

PRAYER OF THANKS

P: For all good gifts from your gracious hand,

C: We give you thanks, good Lord!

P: For the daily food we receive so abundantly,

C: We give you thanks, good Lord!

P: For health and strength, and joy in living,

C: We give you thanks, good Lord!

P: For those who toil to raise our food,

C: We give you thanks, good Lord!

P: For those who practice the healing arts to nurture our lives,

C: We give you thanks, good Lord!

P: For family and friends, for employment and income,

C: We give you thanks, good Lord!

P: For those who care for us in our ups and downs,

C: We give you thanks, good Lord!

P: For those support systems in our times of need and crisis,

C: We give you thanks, good Lord!

P: And for all those blessings we cannot even remember and name,

C: We give you thanks, good Lord!

P: And most of all for your Son, our Savior,

C: We give you thanks and praise, good Lord. Amen!

ROVING MIKE "I'm thankful for....."

CLOSING PRAYER

CLOSING SONG OF THANKS "Now Thank We All Our God"

**Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**Oh, may this bounteous God, through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts, and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm, In this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God, the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns, with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

We are glad that you joined us for worship this Thanksgiving Eve. God's blessings be with you as you travel, enjoy family and give thanks. Next Wednesday, December 3rd at 7 pm, we will begin our Mid-week Advent worship series. Advent services will also be held on December 10th and 17th. May the Lord bless our journey together to the manger!