



Bel Air United Methodist Church

Thanksgiving – November 19, 2023 – 9:15 AM

Prelude

Organist, Jeff Beyers

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive; Psalm 67: 6)

Rev. Lynn Boyd

The earth has brought forth its increase; may God, our God, bless us.

Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Amen.

Hymn*

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

UMH 694

Opening Prayer* (Unison; UM Book of Worship)

Most gracious God, you crown the year with your goodness. We praise you that you have ever fulfilled your promise that, while earth remains, seedtime and harvest shall not cease. We bless you for the order and constancy of nature, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea, and for the providence that year by year supplies our need. We thank you for your blessing on the work of those who plowed the soil and sowed the seed, and have now gathered in the fruits of the earth. And with our thanksgiving for these blessings, accept our praise, O God, for the eternal riches of your grace in Christ our Lord; to whom, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor and worship, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn*

For the Beauty of the Earth

UMH 92

Baptism

Isabella Grace Coulson
Daughter of Brooke and Alex Coulson

Moment for Ministry

Adopt-a-Child

Jeanne Arseneau

Psalter Reading

Psalm 65

UMH 789

Anthem

Celtic Praise
Directed by Dave Tramontana

Chancel Choir

Prayer of Confession

Janet Newberry

O God, Source of All that Makes Life Possible, Giver of All that Makes Life Good: We gather to give you our thanks, yet we confess that we have often failed to live our thankfulness. What we have we take for granted, and we grumble about what we lack. We have squandered your bounty, with little thought of those who will come after us. We are more troubled by the few who have more than by the many who have less. Forgive us, O God. In this time of worship, accept our thanksgiving, and teach us to make gratitude and sharing our way of life; Through the grace of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance (Psalm 121: 7-8)

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life –

Your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Peace

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you; amen.**

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 8: 11-20

Colossians 3: 12-17

Hymn*

Now Thank We All Our God

UMH 102

Sermon

“The Death of Thanksgiving”

Rev. Byron E. Brought

Offering Our Gifts

This moment of reflection is an opportunity to consider your response to God. How will you demonstrate your love for God? How will you give of your time, your talents, and your treasures? Please consider giving electronically; ask us how. Thank you.



Doxology*

Prayer of Dedication*

Receive these offerings as gifts of our love, O God. Bless them with your grace, so that those who receive them may be covered in compassion and led by hope. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Communion & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Byron E. Brought & Rev. Lynn Boyd

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn*

We Gather Together

UMH 131

Benediction & Organ Postlude*



Communion Is Open to All – Pre-packaged Gluten-Free communion elements are available upon request. Please ask an usher and they will provide it for you.

Food & Fellowship Thank You! Thank you to our Hospitality Team led by Alice Archer. Join us in Room 202 and the Welcome Center every Sunday from 10:00 -11:00 am.

Advent Time – TODAY at 4 pm in Rooms 101 & 103 – The whole church family is invited to make Advent wreaths and have devotional time over pizza. Please come!

College Boxes – Please help support our college students as they prepare for finals! We will be collecting donations of packaged snacks and treats, now through Thanksgiving, in a bin next to the information desk. To remind our college students that they are loved, we will be making care packages to send to them in time for final exams.

Toy Workshop – Tomorrow is the last day for toy drop-off. If you would like to help fix up the toys, please come at the times that work best for you: November 24 & 25 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and the week of November 27 – December 1st from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm. Questions? Email: elainezig1@yahoo.com.

Furniture Ministry Update – Our furniture ministry partners with Fresh Start (Formerly Found in Faith). The storage facility is located at 1050 Hardees Drive, Unit B, Aberdeen, MD 21001. Furniture donations are always welcome. Go to <FreshStartMD.org> for details. Evelyn McSorley is our congregational liaison.

The Homestead Update – The Homestead house and property is SOLD as of October 31. BAUMC still owns the properties for sale in the back of The Homestead, but the old house is now sold. Thank you to the Board of Trustees in facilitating this sale. Special thanks to Doug McCorkle, John Caspero, Dominic Corson, Diane Sengstacke, and Alice Archer, for their vital roles.

Christmas Cards - This holiday season send a Christmas card to your church family with a message of goodwill. Just drop it off in the office or in the box at the Welcome Desk and we will display it in Room 202.

Bel Air United Methodist Church, 21 Linwood Ave., Bel Air, MD 21014
410-838-5181 • <belairumc.org>

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God's own temple come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield; wheat and tares together sown are to joy or sorrow grown; first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear; Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home; from the field shall in that day all offenses purge away, giving angels charge at last, in the fires the tares to cast; but the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring thy final harvest home; gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin, there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide; come, with all thine angels come, raise the glorious harvest home.

For the Beauty of the Earth

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

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight; 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; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thy church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above, offering upon every shore her pure sacrifice of love; Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given, for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Psalter Reading

Psalm 65

Leader: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;

All: and to you shall vows be performed.

Leader: To you who hear prayer all flesh shall come because of their sins.

All: When our transgressions prevail over us, you forgive them.

Leader: Blessed are those whom you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!

All: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple!

Leader: By dread deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation,

All: who is the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of the farthest seas; who by your strength established the mountains, being girded with might;

Leader: who stills the roaring seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples; so that those who dwell at earth's farthest bounds are afraid at your signs;

All: you make the morning and the evening resound with joy.

Leader: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it;

All: the river of God is full of water; you provide its grain, for so you have prepared it.

Leader: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

All: You crown the year with your bounty; the tracks of your chariot drip with fatness.

Leader: The pastures of the wilderness drip, the hills gird themselves with joy,

All: the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed and free us from all ills, 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 heaven adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known. The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we are winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine.

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!