

# First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

## Thanksgiving Eve

November 25, 2020



PRELUDE Prelude to "Te Deum"

Marc-Antione Charpentier

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

#### OPENING HYMN

We Gather Together

#559

KREMSER

1 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.

2 Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!

3 We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,  
And pray that Thou still our defender will be.  
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Philippians 4:4-9

Leader: The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

## TESTIMONIES OF GRATITUDE

JoAnne Turcotte, Matt Miller Brown

## SPECIAL MUSIC

“My Joy, My Life, My Crown”

Bruce Montgomery

Chancel Choir “Virtual Anthem”

My joy, my life, my crown!  
My heart was meaning all the day,  
Somewhat it fain would say:  
And still it runneth mutt’ring up and down  
With onely this, My joy, my life, my crown.

Yet slight not these few words:  
If truly said, they may take part  
Among the best in art.  
The finenesse which a hymne or psalme affords,  
Is, when the soul unto the lines accords.

He who craves all the minde,  
And all the soul, and strength, and time,  
If the words onely ryme,  
Justly complains, that somewhat is behinde  
To make his verse, or write a hymne in kinde.  
Whereas if th’ heart be moved,  
Although the verse be somewhat scant,  
God doth supplie the want.  
As when th’ heart sayes (sighing to be approved)  
O, could I love! And stops: God writeth, Loved.

## PRAYER AND REFLECTION ON GRATITUDE (breakout rooms)

## LITANY OF GRATITUDE (see insert)

## REFLECTIONS OF GRATITUDE

1. What is something that you are particularly thankful for in your life during this season?
2. What is something you feel the need to pray for in this season? What does it mean to you to do that “with thanksgiving” (Philippians 4:6)?

HYMN

#554

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
To God our Creator triumphantly raise,  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
By guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, Pure light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
Til shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,  
As forward we travel from light into light.

2 By law God enforces. The stars in their courses,  
The sun in its orbit, obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine,  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,  
With glad adoration a song let us raise,  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving  
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS

Call to Give

Offertory Interlude on "Forest Green"

arr. Carl Schalk

\*Response

#414

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

Forest Green

Verse 3

3 With gratitude and humble trust  
We bring our best to You,  
Not just to serve Your cause,  
but share Your love with neighbors too.  
O God who gave Yourself to us  
In Jesus Christ Your Son,  
Help us to give ourselves each day  
Until life's work is done.

\*Prayer of Dedication

## WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Words of Institution

Gathering Around Christ's Table (breakout rooms)

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving (**see insert**)

The Lord's Prayer (see insert)

Sharing the Bread and Cup (**see insert**)

"Gratitude"

Ben Hastings

Rebecca Ripley, Contemporary Lead Singer

Verse 1

All my words fall short  
I got nothing new  
How could I express  
All my gratitude

Verse 2

I could sing these songs  
As I often do  
But every song must end  
And You never do

Chorus

So I throw up my hands  
And praise You again and again  
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah hallelujah  
And I know it's not much  
But I've nothing else fit for a king  
Except for a heart singing hallelujah  
Hallelujah

Verse 3

I've got one response  
I've got just one move  
With my arms stretched wide

I will worship You

Bridge

Come on my soul

Oh don't you get shy on me

Lift up your song

'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs

Get up and praise the Lord

Closing Prayer (**see insert**)

## CLOSING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

Verses 1 & 3

#555

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

1 Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mothers' arms  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

3 All praise and thanks to God,  
Who reigns in highest heaven,  
To Father and to Son  
And Spirit now be given.  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heaven adore,  
The God who was, and is,  
And shall be evermore.

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation on "Nun danke alle Gott"

setting S. Karg-Elert

## **Litany of Gratitude**

### **Worshipper 1:**

We praise and thank our God for all that we have been given!

### **Worshipper 2:**

We praise and thank our God for earth and oceans, rain and sun; for air, food, and water.

### **Worshipper 3:**

We praise and thank our God for hands that nurture and hands that comfort, for hands that protect and hands that heal.

### **Worshipper 1:**

We praise and thank our God for the gift of family, whether by birth or by choice.

### **Worshipper 2:**

We praise and thank our God for neighbors and friends, for communities in which to live out our lives in harmony.

### **Worshipper 3:**

We praise and thank our God for the blessings of faith, hope, and love; for justice, mercy, and peace.

### **Worshipper 1:**

We praise and thank our God for this church, for a group of different kinds of people united in Christ's love and grace.

### **Worshipper 2:**

We praise and thank our God for all blessings which inspire us to reach out to those with less, to be of service to any in need, to keep company with the unwanted and marginalized.

### **Worshipper 3:**

We praise and thank our God for blessings which inspire us to make friends of enemies, and to work for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

## **PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **Worshipper 1:**

Dear Lord, we thank you for the wonder of life itself, and for the beauty and bounty of the world we live in. We are grateful for the covenants of grace you have made with your people. We thank you that in ages past you sent prophets to call us back to your ways and guide our paths of faith.

### **Worshipper 2:**

When the time was right, you sent your Son Jesus among us to demonstrate the fullness of your love through his birth, his life, his ministry, his death on a cross, and his resurrection. As we gather together to share this meal, we remember the full extent of his selfless love and give you all our thanks.

### **Worshipper 3:**

Obedient to Christ's command, we take this bread and this wine to remember his faithful life, to give thanks for his saving death, to experience his life-giving presence in us now, even as we await the day of his coming to make all things new.

### **Worshipper 1:**

Pour out your Spirit upon your church, here and across the earth; unite us and empower us to bear your loving presence into the world.

Pour out you Spirit upon the nations of the world, their people and their leaders; give them a hunger for justice and a thirst for peace, that they may reflect your ways and your will for all peoples of this earth.

### **Worshipper 2:**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon all those who are in special need, especially those who are poor or hungry, homeless or refugees; all those who suffer violence, oppression, or abuse. Give healing to those who are ill; give comfort to those who mourn.

For this Thanksgiving weekend, pour out your Spirit especially upon all those for whom the holiday is a time of trial more than a time of celebration: those whose families are divided or conflicted; those who are estranged from or rejected by their families; all those grieving the loss of a loved one, whether that grief is a fresh wound or a long and lingering pain.

### **Worshipper 3:**

All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught his disciples to pray by saying:

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.

### **SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP**

*Instructions:*

*Worshipper 1 holds up their bread to the camera and says to Worshipper 2, "The Body of Christ, given for you." Then Worshipper 1 holds up their cup to the camera and says to Worshipper 2, "The Blood of Christ, shed for you." Worshipper 2 replies, "Thanks be to God," and communes. Worshipper 2 then repeats this for Worshipper 3; Worshipper 3 then repeats for Worshipper 1.*