

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Thanksgiving Eve

November 24, 2021



PRELUDE Prelude on "Forrest Green"

arr. Richard Purvis

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

People: God's steadfast love endures forever!

Leader: Give thanks to the One who made the heavens,

People: and who spread out the earth upon the waters!

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

People: Come, let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN

#551

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

1 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.

2 All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto God's praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto 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.

3 For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take the harvest home;
From each field shall in that day
All offenses purge away;
Give the angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In God's garner evermore.

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
To 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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Philippians 4:4-9

JoAnne Turcotte

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

TESTIMONIES OF GRATITUDE

Kristen Benway, Jeanette Claessens

LITANY OF GRATITUDE (see insert)

REFLECTIONS OF GRATITUDE

HYMN

#559

We Gather Together

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!

OFFERINGS OF GRATITUDE AND GIFTS

Call to Give

Offertory It Is a Good Thing to Give Thanks

Paul Bouman

Chancel Choir

Text Based on Psalm 92:1-5

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord: and to sing praises unto thy Name,
O most Highest;
To tell of thy loving-kindness early in the morning: and of thy truth in the night-
season;
Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the lute: upon a loud instrument,
and upon the harp.

For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy works: and I will rejoice in giving praise for the operations of thy hands.

O Lord, how glorious are thy works: thy thoughts are very deep.

***Response**

#414

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

FORREST GREEN

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...

As our Savior Christ has taught us, so now we pray:

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.

Words of Institution

Gathering Around Christ's Table

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Gratitude

Ben Hastings

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

Closing Prayer**CLOSING HYMN**

Now Thank We All Our God

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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation on "Nun danke alle Gott"

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

#555

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

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.

setting S. Karg-Elert

Litany of Gratitude

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

People: 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.

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