First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Thanksgiving Eve

November 23, 2022



PRELUDE *Andante Religioso* from Sonata No. 4 Felix Mendelssohn

*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 #552
Give Thanks, O Christian People ES FLOG EIN KLEINS

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.

*Please stand if you are able.

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 Phil Fair

Leader: The word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

TESTIMONIES OF GRATITUDE
Ginny Shunk, Chips Arend, and Kady Hazlett

LITANY OF GRATITUDE (see insert)

REFLECTIONS OF GRATITUDE

*HYMN #554
Let All Things Now Living ASH GROVE

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

Thanks be to Thee, O Lord our God.
Thou hast thy flock guided in peace,
In safety to another year.

Like a good shepherd thou dost restore us.
Lord, thy right hand leadeth us in the paths of righteousness.

Thanks be to Thee, O Lord our God.
Thou hast thy flock guided in peace,
In safety to another year.

*Offertory 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
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

Communion Music Variation "Praise and Thanksgiving" setting Daryl Hollinger

Closing Prayer

*CLOSING HYMN #555

Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Verses 1 and 3

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 Sigfrid 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.

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