First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

Thanksgiving Eve

November 25, 2026



PRELUDE Meditation — Betty Jackson King

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We look around and see how we have been blessed –
Blessed with community, with beauty, with friendship, with faith.
That goodness washes over us, and we receive these gifts with thanks.
In this time, we thank God for all that we have been given.
So let us worship God.
"Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission."

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON — Jeannette Claasens
Deuteronomy 8:7-18

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

TESTIMONIES OF GRATITUDE
Deb Castellano and Mike Kimmel

LITANY OF GRATITUDE (see last page)

*Please stand if you are able.

REFLECTING ON AND TESTIFYING TO GRATITUDE Rev. Karen Kinney

*HYMN #554
Let All Things Now Living ASH GROVE

OFFERINGS OF GRATITUDE AND GIFTS
Call to Give
Offertory It Is a Good Thing to Give Thanks Paul Bouman
Chancel Choir

*Offertory Response #414
As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought (verse 3 only) FORREST GREEN

*Prayer of Dedication

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER
Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right and our deep joy to give you all our gratitude, O God, because in love and with a creativity we cannot imagine you made the universe, and the planets, and our earth and seas and sky. You created life, and us. And you gave us free will, trusting that we would make mistakes and learn, trusting that we would do amazing things for you and for each other. And so with praise and gratitude in our hearts and on our lips, we join our voices in the song of the angels and saints, who forever sing to you, as we say these words:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

You gave us the gift of Jesus, your son, to come and live among us. He taught us how to live a life of Love and for that we are grateful. He gave us the gift of an Advocate who would continue teaching us to be Love in the world. So now, pour out your Spirit on these gifts and make this bread and this cup sustenance for our journey. By your grace, may we

experience anew the call of Jesus to serve one another, especially the least of these. As Jesus 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

Unison Prayer after Communion

We thank you, O God, that through your Holy Spirit you have gathered us together and fed us with Jesus Christ. Send us now into the world in peace and loving service, bearing Christ's love in ministry through our words and actions, knowing that there is nothing in heaven or earth that can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ. Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #555

Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Chorale Postlude on "Nun danket alle Gott" Op. 65, No. 9

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.