

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of MASON CITY, IOWA

November 22, 2020

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

God blesses us with gifts of love:

With food and clothing, home and family.

God blesses us with daily work:

And all we need from day to day.

God protects us in time of danger:

And guards us from every evil.

God calls us into relationship:

Therefore we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

HYMN "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 in thankful 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.

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 OF CONFESSION

God our Creator, from you comes every good gift:

from the land, the sea, and from the air itself;

good gifts from the hearts and minds of neighbors

and from friends and strangers we have never met.

We confess that all too often we receive these gifts without even noticing;

we forget to return thanks to you for your love and beauty and mercy.

Forgive our ingratitude. Renew within us glad and generous hearts. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In Jesus Christ, all is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

PSALTER “We Give Thanks Unto You” (Psalm 136)

We give thanks unto you, O God of might, for your love is never ending;
We give thanks unto you, the God of gods, for your love is never ending.
In your wisdom and love you shaped the skies, for your love is never ending;
You spread out the earth upon the sea, for your love is never ending.
From of old you have led your people in faith, for your love is never ending;
You have shown your compassion, strength, and love, for your love is never ending.
You delivered the ones who called unto you, for your love is never ending;
From bondage to freedom, you brought them forth, for your love is never ending.
You have opened the sea and brought your people through, for your love is never ending;
Brought them into a land that flows with life, for your love is never ending.
You give food and life to all living things, for your love is never ending;
We give thanks unto you, the God of all, for your love is never ending.

SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

SERMON “Wilderness, Snakes, and Scorpions”

PRAYERS

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.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

God's love is eternal!

Come, let us praise God with eager joy.

Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

For the good world; for things great and small,
beautiful and awesome, seen and unseen:

Loving God, we thank you.

For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together;
for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying:

Loving God, we thank you.

For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor;
for exchanges of good humor and encouragement:

Loving God, we thank you.

For life together in partnership; for the mystery and joy of oneness;
for mutual forgiveness and sharing of burdens:

Loving God, we thank you.

For families of all sizes, shapes, and kinds; for living and eating together;
for playing and arguing in love; for unity in disagreement; for comfort in dying:

Loving God, we thank you.

For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and their startling frankness;
for their ready sympathy:

Loving God, we thank you.

For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn out values;
for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows:

Loving God, we thank you.

For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure;
for time made precious by its passing:

Loving God, we thank you.

For your presence in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases;
for preserving us in temptation and danger:

Loving God, we thank you.

For the Church into which we have been called;
for the good news we receive in word and sacrament; for our life together in Christ:

Loving God, we thank you.

For all gifts of this life, and for the promise that nothing will separate us from your love:

Loving God, we thank you.

Lord, you have been our refuge and our strength,
and you continue these blessings of life every moment of our days!

So we respond with glad and grateful hearts:

**offering our gifts in thanksgiving, committing our lives, our energy, our resources
to your call and to your service in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

DEDICATION OF PLEDGES

Accept, O God, these tokens of our love
and signs of commitment which we dedicate today.

By blessing and grace,

may these seeds take root in fertile soil and blossom forth
as leaves on a tree, as flowers in our hearts,

as blessings in your kingdom, as joy in Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN "Let All Things Now Living"

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:
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

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 depths 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!

BLESSING

RESPONSE

God be with you till we meet again, God be in you, go in peace.
Loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you.
God be with you till we meet again, God be in you, go in peace.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Camille Lee, piano; Dennis Lee, vocals
The Rev. Paul Collier, pastor
Nate Ruge, video recorder & editor

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Words: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR George Job Elvey, 1858

"We Give Thanks Unto You"

Words & Music: Marty Haugen ©1987 GIA Publications

"Let All Things Now Living"

Words: Katherine K. Davis ©1939, 1966 E. C. Shirmer Music Company

Music: ASH GROVE Welsh folk melody; harm. Gerald H. Knight, 20th cent.

"God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

Words: Based on Jeremiah Eames Rankin.

Music: Based on BEACH SPRING, arr. Dale Woods. ©1996 The Sacred Music Press

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