

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 21, 2021

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

*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.
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.*

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 "Now Thank We All Our God"

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands 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.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

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 us. Renew within us glad and generous hearts
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In Jesus Christ, all is forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE

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 heaven and earth adore,
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

God of abundant life, your grace is our daily bread.
Nourish us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit
so that we may grow in faith and love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON 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.

PSALTER Psalm 100 (Responsive)

Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands;
serve the LORD with gladness
and come before God's presence with a song.

**Know this: the LORD alone is God;
we belong to the LORD, who made us,
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving;
go into the holy courts with praise;
give thanks and call upon the name of the LORD.

**For the LORD is good,
whose mercy is everlasting;
and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 6: 25-33

[Jesus said] “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

SERMON “Simple Gifts, Simple Praise”

ANTHEM “Simple Praise”

Craig Courtney & Pamela Martin

*For a canvas of colors, for a concert of sound;
For the unfolding seasons, the earth spinning round.
For the birth of each sunrise, for the sky set ablaze;
For these simple gifts, we give simple praise.
Simple praise for the Giver, and thanks to the One
Who has given us breath and given His Son.
To the Giver of blessings for all of our days,
For these simple gifts, we give simple praise.
For the love of a mother, for the touch of her hand;
For the deeper emotions we can't understand.
For the lessons we learn from the trials we face;
For these simple gifts, we give simple praise.
The heart of the Giver, the hand of the One
From whom every blessing of living has come;
For measureless mercy and limitless grace,
For these simple gifts, we give simple praise.*

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.**

PRESENTATION OF PLEDGES

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Accept, O God, these tokens of our gratitude
and signs of commitment which we bring forward today.
By your word of 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 "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.

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 least in the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

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 angles, come; raise the glorious harvest home!

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL 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.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Choir of the Kirk, Dennis Lee, director; Camille Lee, pianist
Nancy Beenken, reader
The Rev. Paul Collier, pastor