

Service of Thanksgiving

November 24, 2021 – 7 PM

**Our Thanksgiving Service this evening is centered around the beloved hymn, "For the Beauty of the Earth." As we reflect on all the many ways that God has blessed our lives - may our hearts be filled with gratitude. Together, may we raise to Him a hymn of grateful praise!*

*** Please stand in body or in spirit**

*"For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies"*

Prelude

Opening Video: *"For the Beauty of the Earth"* – John Rutter

Welcome/Announcements

*** Call to Worship: (Based on Psalm 100)**

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is God.

People: **It is he who made us, and we are his.
We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

People: **Give thanks to him and praise his name!**

*** God's Greeting**

Leader: Our help is in the name of our God,
who made heaven and earth.
Grace and peace be yours in abundance
through the knowledge of God
and of Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #5 v. 1, 2 *“Let All Things Now Living”*

1. Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who guides us and leads to the end of our days.
His banners are o’er us, his light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.
2. His law he enforces; the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim him 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!

Words: Katherine K. Davis, 1939, P.D.; Music: (Ash Grove) Welch; desc.
Katherine K. Davis © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Co. CCLI #678905

* Litany of Thanksgiving:

Leader: We give you thanks, generous God,
for the treasures of your good creation.
For each flower that opens, each bird that sings,
each river that runs -

**People: For all things bright and beautiful,
We thank you with joy through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #20 v. 1-4
“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Refrain

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

1. Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings.

Refrain

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

2. The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

Refrain

3. The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one.

Refrain

4. God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

Refrain

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848, P.D.; Music: Melody English traditional, The Dancing Master, 1686; harm. John Worst, 1974, alt. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources, CCLI #678905

*“For the love which from our birth,
over and around us lies”*

Scripture Readings: Psalm 19:1-6 and Psalm 8

Meditation: ***Savoring What’s Around Us: “The Beauty of the Earth”***

Prayer

Creation Slideshow: *“Look at the World”* – John Rutter
(Performed by The Cambridge Singers)

* Litany of Adoration

Leader: God Most High, by your Word you created
a wondrous universe, and through your Spirit
you breathed into it the breath of life.

**People: Accept this hymn of praise from our lips,
And let the praise that is sung in heaven,
resound in the heart of every creature on earth.**

Leader: Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight
in all of your many gifts,
that we might receive all them with gratitude,
care for them with love, and generously share them
with all your creatures,

People: To the honor and glory of your holy name. Amen.

* Hymn of Response: LUYH #19 v. 1 *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

Refrain

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

*"For the wonder of each hour,
of the day and of the night,"*

Scripture Readings: Luke 2:8-20 and Psalm 25:1-5

Meditation: ***Savoring Each Day: "The Wonder of Each Hour"***

Prayer

* Hymn of Response: LUYH #19 *"For the Beauty of the Earth"* v. 2-3

2. For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,

Refrain

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:

Refrain

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

*“For the joy of human love,
friends on earth and friends above.”*

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Meditation: ***Savoring our Loved Ones: “The Joy of Human Love”***

Prayer

(Time of Silence)

Joy of Human Love Slideshow—*“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”*

- * Hymn of Response: LUYH #19 v. 4 *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

Refrain

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

- * Litany of Praise:

Leader: God of the ages, we praise you for all your servants
who do justice, love mercy, and strive to walk
humbly with God.

People: **We praise you for all who seek your new creation,
And who, by their steadfast faith,
show their discipleship in Jesus Christ.**

Leader: We praise you for all those we know and love.

**People: And we pray that together we may follow
in the way of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #529 1, 2, 4 *"Gather Us In"*

1. Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away
here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

"Gather Us In" Text and Music: Marty Haugen (b. 1950), © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc., All rights reserved, Reprinted under OneLicense.net License#A-711218

*"For yourself, best gift divine,
agent of God's grand design"*

Scripture Reading: I John 4:7-12

Meditation: ***Savoring Jesus: "Best Gift Divine"***

Prayer

* Hymn of Response: LUYH #19 v. 5 *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

5. For yourself, best gift divine,
to the world so freely given,
agent of God’s grand design:
peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Refrain

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

Words: Folliot S. Pierpont, 1864, alt., P.D.; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; adapt.
William H. Monk, 1861, P.D.; CCLI #678905

* Litany of Praise:

Leader: God of the ages, we praise you for all your servants
who do justice, love mercy, and strive to walk
humbly with God.

People: **We praise you for all who seek your new creation,
And who, by their steadfast faith,
show their discipleship in Jesus Christ.**

Leader: We praise you for all those we know and love.

People: **And we pray that together we may follow
in the way of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* Hymn of Gratitude: LUYH #17 v. 1-4 *“Beautiful Savior”*

1. Beautiful Savior! King of creation!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I’d love thee, truly I’d serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.

Acapella

4. Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

Words: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1873, P.D;
Music: Schleissche Volkslieder, 1842, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

*"Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise"*

We Give God Thanks For (And With) our Children

Adult: In the words of our children, we give thanks to God:
For our moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas,
brothers and sisters,

People: we give you thanks, O God.

Child #1: For warm houses in cold weather,
for hospitals that take care of sick people,
for good schools where teachers make learning fun,

People: we give you thanks, O God.

Child #2: For friends to play with, fun fairs, pictures,
and a country that has so much I can even go
door to door and ask for candy,

People: we give you thanks, O God.

Child #1: For theater, talents, songs I make up, books to read,
and television,

People: we give you thanks, O God.

Adult: For the freedom of religion and the people
who make our church a place of worship,

People: we give you thanks, O God.

Child #2: For all the magic kingdoms you've created,

People: we give you thanks, O God.

Adult: And because we can be here together

People: we give you thanks, O God. Amen.

Song of Response: LUYH #358 *"Give Thanks"*

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

because of what the Lord has done for us!"

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks, give thanks.

"Give Thanks" Henry Smith, ©1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI# 678905

* God's Parting Blessing

* Doxology: LUYH #543 v. 1-3 *"Now Thank We All Our God"*

1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven—
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Words: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.; Johann Crüger, 1647, harm. based on Felix Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang*, Opus 52, 1840, Public Domain; CCLI #678905

* Postlude

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (Psalm 118:1). We **welcome** everyone to this hour of worship! Let us offer our gratitude and praise to our Creator. May this be a time of inspiration and joy for us all. After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.