

**Welcome to Mount Vernon
First Christian Reformed Church!
November 23, 2022 – Thanksgiving Eve Service**

* Please stand in body or in spirit

We Gather Together

Prelude

Welcome

* Call to Worship (Psalm 100)

Jennaya: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**People: Worship the Lord with gladness,
come before him with joyful songs.**

Jennaya: Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;

People: we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Jennaya: Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him and praise his name.

**People: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

* Opening Hymn of Thanksgiving: 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

* God's Greeting

* We Greet Each Other

* Hymn of Praise: LUYH #560 v. 1-3 *"We Praise You, O God"*

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
2. We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you never forsake us.
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.
3. With voices united our praises we offer;
our songs of thanksgiving to you we now raise.
Your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us.
To you, our great Redeemer, fore'er be praise!

Words: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt., P.D.; Music: a. Valerius, Nederlandtsch Gedenckclandk, 1626, P.D.; CCLI# 678905

We Give Thanks to God for Our Country and For the Beauty of the Earth

Litany of Thanksgiving:

Reader 1: As we gather together this Thanksgiving Eve,
we count our blessings, one by one,
and realize that we don't often show enough
appreciation for the bounty that is ours.

Reader 2: For redwoods, white plains,
and the wild blue yonder,

Reader 1: for Yellowstone and brownstones,

Reader 2: for evergreen trees and orange groves,

Reader 1: for little pink houses and purple mountains'
majesty,

Reader 2: for every divinely painted acre of this vast land
of ours,

All: **we give you praise, O God.**

Reader 1: For Idaho potatoes and Texas toast,

Reader 2: for Washington apples and Hawaiian pineapples,

Reader 1: for Illinois corn and Maryland crab cakes,

Reader 2: for Ohio cherries and Florida strawberries,

Reader 1: for Philly cheese steaks
and Chicago deep dish pizza,

Reader 2: for Maine lobster and Mississippi mud pie,

Reader 1: for every home-cooked meal
and home-grown harvest,

All: **we give you praise.**

Reader 2: O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

Reader 1: we thank you this day for

Reader 2: police and firefighters,

Reader 1: for the MDs and the EMTs,

Reader 2: for Army rangers and Navy Seals,

Reader 1: for Air Force cadets and Marine Corps reserves,

Reader 2: for all who serve,

All: **we thank them and we thank you, O God,
our creator and redeemer.**

Reader 1: For Psalm 23 and Ecclesiastes 3,

Reader 2: for “How Great Thou Art” and
“Morning Has Broken,”

Reader 1: for “Amazing Grace” and “Jesus Loves Me,”

All: **we give you praise.**

Reader 2: For uncommon valor that never sleeps;

Reader 1: for steady hands, sturdy legs, broad shoulders,
and level heads;

Reader 2: for blood, sweat, and tears;
for conquering our fears;

All: **we give you praise.**

Reader 1: Father, we join with heart and voice all the people
of our country to honor and thank you.

Reader 2: We ask you, Lord, as our forefathers
and mothers did, to secure for our country
and for all peoples of the world
the greatest blessings of freedom and peace.

All: **O God, hear our prayer. Amen.**

* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #398 v. 1-3
“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

1. Sing to the Lord of harvest,
sing songs of love and praise;
with joyful hearts and voices
your alleluias raise.
By him the rolling seasons
in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest
a joyful song of love.

2. God makes the clouds drop fatness,
the deserts bloom and spring;
the hills leap up in gladness,
the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills from his great fullness
all things with large increase;
he crowns the year with goodness,
with plenty, and with peace.

3. Heap on his sacred altar
the gifts his goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest,
the souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before him
when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him
who gave his life for all.

Words: John S. B. Monsell, 1866, alt., P.D.; based on Psalm 65:9-13:
Music: Johann Steurlein, 1575, P.D. CCLI #678905

We Give Thanks for Christ's Church

Litany of Thanksgiving:

Reader 1: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our Rock,
our Fortress and our Deliverer.

Reader 2: Let us remember his mercy,
for he is gracious and compassionate.

Reader 1: We thank you, Lord, for calling us to faith in Christ,

Reader 2: for putting your Spirit within us,
for giving us the mind of Christ,
for gathering us into your church.

Reader 1: We thank you, Lord, for extending your grace
to us, for beckoning us to a life of gratitude,
for calling us to service in your kingdom.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Reader 1: Let us give thanks to the Lord,
for he satisfies the thirsty.
He fills the hungry with good things,
and he heals the afflicted.

Reader 2: Let us celebrate God's abundant goodness.

Reader 1: We thank you, gracious Father,
that you provide for all of our needs.

Reader 2: We praise you, Lord.

Reader 1: For all your gifts that go beyond our basic needs,
for the things that make our work easier,
for the conveniences of modern life,
for the beauty and pleasure that you bring
into our lives and church.

All: Thanks be to God!

Offering: Friendship House or designated charity

Offertory

Ministry of Music: "A Song of Thanksgiving" by Sue Farrer
A song of thanksgiving, a song full of praise, a song of thanksgiving,
Our voices we raise to God the Father and Jesus the King:
A song of thanksgiving, Our praises we sing.

A song of thanksgiving, a song full of praise, a song of thanksgiving,
Our voices we raise. All angels sing their joyous strain.
In songs of thanksgiving they join our refrain.

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given.
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven.
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore:
For thus it was, tis now, And shall be evermore!

A song of thanksgiving, a song full of praise, a song of thanksgiving,
Our voices we raise, All ye who love the Lord rejoice!
With songs of thanksgiving, Lift up your voice!

We Give Thanks for (and with) Our Children

Litany of Thanksgiving:

Leader 1: In the words of children: For our moms and dads,
grandmas and grandpas,

All: we give you thanks, O God.

Leader 2: For warm houses in cold weather,
for hospitals that take care of sick people,
for good schools where teachers
make learning fun,

All: **we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader 1: 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,

All: **we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader 2: For theater, talents, songs I make up,
books to read, and television,

All: **we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader 1: For the freedom of religion and the people
who make our church a place of worship,

All: **we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader 2: For everything you've created,

All : **we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader 1: And because we can be here together

All: **we give you thanks, O God. Amen.**

* Song of Response: PP #181 *"Give Thanks"* 2x

1. 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

We Give Thanks for God's Word

Scripture Reading: Psalm 65

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"The Giver of All Good Gifts"***

Time of Prayer

* Hymn of Application: LUYH #388 v. 1-3 *"Every Heart Its Tribute Pays"*

1. Every heart its tribute pays, every tongue its song of praise;
sin and sorrow, guilt and care,
brought to him who answers prayer;
there by grace may humankind
full and free forgiveness find;
called and chosen, loved and blest,
in his presence be at rest.
2. Ever while his deeds endure
our salvation stands secure;
he whose fingers spun the earth,
gave the seas and mountains birth,
tamed the ocean, formed the land,
spread the skies with mighty hand:
far-off shores revere his Name,
day and night his power proclaim.
3. Year by year, the seasons 'round
sees the land with blessing crowned,
where caressed by sun and rain
barren earth gives life again;
sunlit valleys burn with gold,
nature smiles on field and fold,
gifts of God in plenty poured:
all things living, praise the Lord!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) © 1984 Hope Publishing Company
CCLI #678905

We Give Thanks in Shared Voice and Shared Giving

The Shared Voice of God's People

(an opportunity to proclaim thanks)

* Closing Hymn of Thanksgiving: 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

* God's Parting Blessing

* Doxology: *"Count Your Blessings"* v. 1,2 4

1. When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
when you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
count your many blessings, name them one by one,
and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Chorus

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

2. Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
and you will be singing as the days go by.

Chorus

4. So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
do not be discouraged, God is over all;
count your many blessings, angels will attend,
help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

*Rev. Johnson Oatman, Jr. & E.O. Excell; Copyright,
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Postlude

Welcome! Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy." Those are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 5:11. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, we welcome you and we invite you to "be glad" with us about God's goodness and mercy. Let us "ever sing for joy" and praise God with profoundly grateful hearts. 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.

