

God's Word Gives Our Lives Direction



First  
**Christian**  
Reformed Church



**“You turned my  
wailing into dancing;  
you removed  
my sackcloth and  
clothed me with joy,  
that my heart may  
sing to you and  
not be silent.  
O Lord my God,  
I will give you  
thanks forever.”**

**Psalm 30:11-12**

**November 22, 2023**

**Welcome to Mount Vernon**  
**First Christian Reformed Church!**  
**November 22, 2023 – Thanksgiving Eve Service**  
**Pastor John Knoester**

\* Please stand in body or in spirit

**We Gather Together**

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

\* Call to Worship (Psalm 100)

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

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

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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 for Jesus Christ and for His 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

Offertory

\* Song of Preparation: *"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, "We are strong!"  
Let the poor say, "We are rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us!"

And now let the weak say, "We are strong!"  
let the poor say, "We are rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us!"  
Give thanks, give thanks.

*"Give Thanks"* Henry Smith, Ó1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI# 678905

## **We Give Thanks for God's Word**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 100

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"Giving Thanks"***

Prayer of Application

\* Hymn of Application: LUYH #1 v. 1-4

*"All People That On Earth Do Dwell"*

1. All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Serve him with joy, his praises tell,  
Come now before him and rejoice!
2. Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
he formed us all without our aid.  
We are the flock he comes to feed,  
the sheep who by his hand were made.
3. O enter then his gates with joy,  
within his courts his praise proclaim.  
Let thankful songs your tongues employ,  
O bless and magnify his name.
4. Because the Lord our God is good,  
his mercy is forever sure.  
His faithfulness at all times stood  
and shall from age to age endure.

*Words: William Kethe, 1561 at., P.D.; Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551, P.D.; CCLI# 678905*

# **We Give Thanks to God through Prayer**

## **Psalm 100:1-2**

***Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.***

*Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's Provision in the Past*

## **Psalm 100:3**

***Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us,  
and we are his; we are his people,  
the sheep of his pasture.***

*Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's Provision in the Present*

## **Psalm 100:4**

***Enter His gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.***

*Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's Promised Provision in the Future*

## **Psalm 100:5**

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

*Time for congregation members to share what they are thankful for.*

\* Hymn of Response: LUYH #348 v. 1-3

*"Great is Thy Faithfulness"*

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain*

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Refrain*

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Refrain*

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23: Words: Thomas O Chisholm, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951  
Hope Publishing Company; Music: William M. Runyan, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951  
Hope Publishing Company, CCLI #678905

## **We Go Forth in Gratitude and Thanksgiving**

\* God's Parting Blessing

\* 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*

Postlude