

Thanksgiving Service
Starview United Church of Christ
November 13, 2022

“If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, ‘thank you,’ that would suffice.”
– Meister Eckhart

PRELUDE

We Gather Together

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

Pastor: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: **And also, with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 65, adapted)

Pastor: Come, ye thankful people, come!

Let us gather in unity, as a community of faith, in Jesus Christ.

All: ***We gather for worship, to sing God’s praise,
and to offer God thanksgiving!***

Pastor: We join those who live at earth’s farthest bounds who also offer God praise.
Even the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy!

All: ***Why?***

Because, God visits the earth, providing nourishment to all creation.

Pastor: The pastures of the wilderness overflow with God’s bounty,
the hills and valleys are full of God’s blessing.

All: ***The hills adorn themselves in bursts of color,
the meadows clothe themselves with increasing flocks.***

Pastor: The valleys deck themselves with abundant grain and with them,
we add our hymns of grateful praise.

All: ***We will not forget the provision of the Lord our God,
nor the earth that helps to nourish us.***

Come, ye thankful people, come.

***As a community of faith in Jesus Christ,
we gather for worship, to sing God’s praise,***

and to offer God thanksgiving!

HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come¹

Hymnal, #434

LITANY OF CONFESSION SIN²

Pastor: Gracious Creator, you have given us so much, but too often we take those gifts for granted, or as something to which we are entitled.

Congregation: **You call us to live in caring community, but too often we place our wants and needs first, with those of others a distant second.**

Pastor: You call us to share Your gifts with the world around us, but we are worried that there may not be enough, and our worrying gets in the way of our sharing.

Congregation: **For all the times when we mistreat and misuse your gifts, for all the times we assume that we get what we have by ourselves, forgive us, and lead us back to the path of wisdom.**

...time of silent prayer...

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Listen to this good news: Jesus came to show us how much God loves us. Jesus is God’s promise to us: God forgives you.

Congregation: **God forgives you, too!**

All: ***Thank you, God! Amen!***

¹ Public Domain. CCLI SONG #50200

² Little, Kevin. "Prayer of Confession for Thanksgiving." 28 October 2017 <<https://reworship.blogspot.com/2011/09/prayer-of-confession-thanksgiving.html>>

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: As God has given us peace through Christ, so let us pass the peace of Christ to our neighbors with a wave, a peace-sign, a namaste bow, and/or a smile using the words: The peace of Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also, with you.

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH**HYMN***We Plow the Seeds and Scatter³*

Hymnal, #432

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 34:10,29-35a

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3: 15-17

GOSPEL READING

Luke 17:11-19

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Baker

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: What a great day to be together, to share, and rejoice. God calls us into the church, to share our gifts and our service. God will use them to help others and to give them hope. We pause to consider our stewardship: the giving of the first fruits of our time, talent, and financial resources. With thanksgiving let us offer a prayer to God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: God of all creation, through your good grace we have money to give, talent to share, and time to spend. Take us and our tithes and offerings to do your work in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying: 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. Amen.

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
INVITATION**

(Please take a moment to fill out a Communion Card and later, place it in the Offering Plate)

Pastor: Jesus Christ says, "Come to dinner!"
Everyone who loves Jesus and hopes to live the way Jesus taught is invited.

Rebekah Wertz: Let's think about God.

Congregation: **We're thinking about God.**

Rebekah: Let's pray and thank God for everything.

Congregation: **Thanking God is a joyful thing to do!**

All: God, we thank you for everything you do for us. You created us. You created the beautiful world we live in. You love us so much that you help us know what is right and good and what is wrong and sinful. You love us so much that you always want us to love you and love other people.

Rebekah: You are holy and your Son, Jesus is holy. He was born as a baby, just like us. He lived with his mom and dad, Mary and Joseph, and he grew up like us. He studied and learned, like us. When he grew up, he showed us your love. He taught people how to love each other, and he helped people have healthy bodies and healthy spirits. He gathered many people into your church and told us to keep doing his work. To help us remember him, he invited us to remember a special meal, this holy meal.

³ Public Domain. CCLI SONG #2647133

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- Pastor: Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to his people, saying, "This bread will remind you of my broken body – that I am giving myself for you." He took a drink made from grapes and said, "Drink this to remember me. Drink and remember the forgiveness of sins. Drink and remember that I live in you."
- Rebekah: And so, we remember all the wonderful things you did, O God, through Jesus Christ. We want to be part of your family, doing what Jesus did, so we proclaim:
- All:** *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!*
- Pastor: God, send your Holy Spirit to us here today. Send your Holy Spirit on this bread and this juice and wine, so that when we commune, we will know that Jesus lives in us and we live in Jesus. Send your Holy Spirit to connect us with Jesus and with one another in your Church. Send your Holy Spirit to give us power to help other people the way Jesus told us to.
- Rebekah: We are all joined together in Jesus because we all eat from the same loaf of bread, and we all receive drink of the fruit of the vine. These are holy things for God's holy people. All things are now ready.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are offered. Commune as you feel called.
Come down the center aisle to receive communion and then return to your seat by the side aisle.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- Rebekah: Let's thank God together again by praying:
- All:** *God, thank you for this holy meal where Jesus invites us and joins us all together. Help us to live the way Jesus taught us to live – with gratitude and thanksgiving. Help us to love you, love ourselves, and love each other the way that you love us. Amen.*

HYMN

*Be Thou My Vision*⁴

Hymnal, #451

BENEDICTION

- Pastor: Now may God, who has blessed us with freedom and joy in this beautiful land, make us truly thankful as we go forth from this sacred place, and fill us with a spirit of love and generosity, with which we may bless the whole world.
+ In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- All:** *Amen.*

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

⁴ Public Domain. CCLI SONG #30639