

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 14, 2021

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

*Give Thanks*¹
*Days of Elijah*²
*In His Time*³

PRELUDE

I Look to the Lord (Johnson)⁴

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – IN THE BULLETIN
GREETING**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come ye, thankful people, come!
Come and hear what God has done --

Congregation: God has listened to all our prayer.

Pastor: When we pass through the torrent of deep troubles,

Congregation: God turns the sea to dry land.

Pastor: When we are tangled in the web of life,

Congregation: God does not let our feet slip.

Pastor: When we are tested as silver is tried,

Congregation: God keeps us in the land of the living.

Pastor: When we go through fire and water,

Congregation: God brings us to a spacious place.

Pastor: Come, ye thankful people, come!
Come and rejoice in what God has done,
what God is doing among us now,
and what God promises to do in the future.

Congregation: Our God is faithful!
God's love is steadfast and will endure forever.

OPENING HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People Come

Hymnal, #434

COMMUNAL CONFESSION OF SIN

All: In this season of harvest, O God, we come before you with thanksgiving, even as we acknowledge that our lives are shadowed with the fear of scarcity. As the church, Lord of Creation, forgive us for looking at our finances through the lens of world economics, rather than dreaming and envisioning a future through the lens and trust of your economics - Kingdom economics! In fear, we assume there is not enough money, time, talent, patience, or love to share and so we turn inward and focus on self-preservation. Forgive us when we doubt your abundance and ignore the possibilities and potential you promise. Forgive us when we sit with arms crossed and hands tightly clenched. Forgive us for being close-handed and tight-fisted, for it is in this posture that we are closed off to receiving what you long to give us. Forgive us when we unconsciously reject a future you have envisioned for us here at Starview United Church of Christ. Forgive us too, for second-guessing blessings

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=047xtru0ZRO> "Give Thanks" Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # L-11322561. All rights reserved. CCLI Church Copyright License #20711152, CCLI Church Streaming License #100909, CCS License #131520

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca9LnzJnpjQ> "Days of Elijah" Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # M-511825. All rights reserved. CCLI Church Copyright License #2072264, CCLI Church Streaming License #100909, CCS License #131128

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtcBURtm5Aw> "In His Time" Kim Collingsworth -Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # M-63213253. All rights reserved. CCLI Church Copyright License #20702245, CCLI Church Streaming License #100909, CCS License #1312224

⁴ 1981 Word Publishing House. Use with permission, CCLI license # 118625291

you bestow on us, as simply, too good to be true or lasting. Open our eyes to the wonders that surround us. Help us surrender to your loving embrace which enfolds us, always. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Beloved People of God, hear the words of our Savior: “Do not be afraid.” Let us take comfort in knowing that we serve a God who is Still-Speaking, Still-Creating, and Still Making All Things New!

All: *Amen! Through the Holy Spirit, God embraces us with and enduring love and in Christ, we have eternal life! Thanks be to God!*

HEBREW READING

1 Samuel 1:4-20

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 10:11-25

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:1-8

SERMON

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: *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.*

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: In Second Corinthians, chapter 9, verses 6 through 8, we hear these words:
“Remember this — a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.’ And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and still have plenty left over to share with others.”
Having heard this challenging good news,
sisters and brothers in Christ,
let us give cheerfully and generously,
trusting that in the sharing of our financial resources, time, and talent,
God will provide more than enough!
Let us dedicate ALL we give with a prayer...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: *Gracious God, you call us to let go of the things we cling to and step out in faith, trusting in your love and provision. Give us courage to step out boldly, each of us planting our seeds of time, money, and talent generously, and without fear. Use our gifts to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine, so that, through us, your kingdom might come, and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.*

RECEPTION of NEW MEMBERS

Pastor: We invite to come forward those who wish to unite with us in this household of faith. Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the Sacrament of Baptism. These good and faithful disciples have found nurture and support in the midst of this family of Christ. Through prayer, they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of this church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts, which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Pastor: You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together, which grows into a holy temple in Christ – in whom you are also built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

Pastor: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the family of Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let all God's people stand to unite in confessing our faith in the Triune God.

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

All: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit.

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit. (The congregation may be seated.)

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Pastor: Marta Dennis, Peg and Gerry Gingerich, do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people known as Starview United Church of Christ, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this congregation as it serves this community and the world.

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Let us, the members of Starview United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

Congregation: Marta, Peg, and Gerry, we welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Starview United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love and welcome you into the family of this local church.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Be Still, My Soul*⁵

Gloria Moyer, Dulcimer

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: God be with you

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

⁵ Used by permission, CCLI Streaming License #55162253, Diane Bish, Beckenhorst Press, Columbus Ohio

Pastor: It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, Almighty and Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory, forever praising you and singing:

All sing: **Seraphic Hymn** **Hymnal, #522**

Pastor: Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Congregation: **Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.**

Pastor: In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

Congregation: **Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.**

SHARING OF ELEMENTS

Pastor: These are holy things for holy people.
The body of Christ...take and eat.
The blood of Christ...take and drink.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: **Gracious God, we thank you for this meal and for the many ways you nourish us. May the understanding of just how much you love us and willingly sacrificed for us – grow within us – a deep and abiding spirit of gratitude and thankfulness. May the sharing in this meal nurture within each of us, a spirit of selfless generosity. Lead us forth to be a blessing to the world – your peacemakers and healers. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God* **Hymnal, #72**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go, ye thankful people, go!
Go and trust that God's presence is real
and God's promises are true.

Congregation: **Pastor, we are going with thankful hearts.
We are going into the world,
to witness to God's steadfast love and faithfulness.
With cheerful hearts, we will rejoice in our blessedness,
by blessing others,
beginning right here at church.
I will participate in its ministries,
and invest in them with my time, talent, and money.**

Pastor: We are blessed to be a blessing.

All: **May it be so!
Thanks be to God!
Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Te Deum* (Beethoven) ⁶