

*flourish, generosity may flow, and your name may be praised. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.*

November 17, 2024  
Harvest Home – Thanksgiving Sunday

**HYMN**                      *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*                      **Blue Hymnal, #434**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor:                      In this season of thanksgiving, be filled with thanks and praise.  
**Congregation:**        **We'll let it overflow, to burst through every stress and anxiety.**  
Pastor:                      May your gratitude trickle gently over every grief and sadness,  
   until thanks and praise are in every word you say,  
   every choice you make, every moment you live.  
**Congregation:**        **Glory and praise to God.**  
*All people:*                *Amen.*

**CANDLE EXTINGUISHING**  
**POSTLUDE**

**Acolyte**  
**Mr. Kevin Crone**

**PREWORSHIP MUSIC**

**Mr. Kevin Crone**

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING**

**Acolyte**

**CENTERING WORDS**

*“You will know that I am in the midst of Israel,  
and that I am the Lord your God—no other exists” (Joel 2:27).*

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor:                      When the Lord turned the tide of history,  
**Congregation:**        **we could hardly believe it!**  
Pastor:                      Laughter bubbled within us!  
**Congregation:**        **Shouts of joy burst forth:**  
*All people:*                *“The Lord has done great things for us!”  
Let us worship the Lord.*

**HYMN**

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

**Blue Hymnal, #718**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (Based on Romans 5:5, 8 and Hebrews 4:16)

Pastor:                      God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God in confidence. Let us confess together.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*All:                              O God, we long to come into your presence undistracted by our hectic lives. But instead, we fight our way here, amidst the clutter and stress. Our minds are full of worry. Our hearts are buffeted this way and that. Our souls are tired and sore. We yearn to rest in the assurance of Jesus: “Look at the birds of the air. Your heavenly Father feeds them. You are even more precious to God! Consider the lilies of the field. Even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed so fine!” O God, you know our need. Grow our vision and nurture our trust until our worries fall away. Restore us in your grace that we may breathe again, through Christ and in his righteousness. Amen.*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Pastor:                      Remember this day the gifts and blessings that God showers in our lives. This is a season to trust God's providential care and to rest assured in

Christ's arms of love. In those arms, we have everything we need.

*All people:*

*We will rejoice and give thanks to God!*

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

**Blue Hymnal, #715**

*(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)*

**JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"**

**HYMN**

*We Gather Together*

**Blue Hymnal, #276**

**HEBREW READING**

**Joel 2:21-27**

**EPISTLE READING**

**1 Timothy 2:1-7**

**GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 6:25-33**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Laura C. Baker**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (JOYS AND CONCERNS SHARED)**

Pastor: Let us offer our prayers to God for the life of the world and for all God's people in their daily life and work.

God, the beginning and end of all things, in your providence and care you watch unceasingly over all creation; we offer our prayers that in us and in all your people your will may be done, according to your wise and loving purpose in Christ our Lord. Lord of all life:

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for all through whom we receive sustenance and life; for farmers and agricultural workers, for packers, distributors and company boards; as you have so ordered our life that we depend upon each other, enable us by your grace to seek the well-being of others before our own. Lord of all creation:

**Congregation: hear our prayer**

Pastor: We pray for all engaged in research to safeguard crops against disease, and to produce abundant life among those who hunger and whose lives are at risk. Prosper the work of their hands and the searching of their minds, that their labor may be for the welfare of all. Lord of all wisdom:

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for governments and aid agencies, and those areas of the world where there is disaster, drought and starvation. By the grace of your Spirit, touch our hearts and the hearts of all who live in comfortable plenty, and make us wise stewards of your gifts. Lord of all justice:

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for those who are ill, those named and unnamed in out time of Joys and Concerns. We remember those in hospital and nursing homes.

We pray for all who care for them. Give skill and understanding to all who work for their well-being. Lord of all compassion:

**hear our prayer.**

**Congregation:**

Pastor:

We remember those who have died, whom we entrust to your eternal love in the hope of resurrection to new life. Lord of all peace:

**hear our prayer.**

**Congregation:**

Pastor:

We offer ourselves to your service, asking that by the Spirit at work in us others may receive a rich harvest of love and joy and peace. Lord of all faithfulness:

**hear our prayer.**

**Congregation:**

Pastor:

God of grace, as you are ever at work in your creation, so fulfil your wise and loving purpose in us and in all for whom we pray, that with them and in all that you have made, your glory may be revealed and the whole earth give praise to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*All people:*

*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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**ANTHEM**

*I Will Give Thanks* (Jothan)

**Chancel Choir**

**OFFERING INVITATION**

Liturgist: This is how the earth praises God: giving thanks for God's abundance! The meadows clothe themselves with flocks and the valleys deck themselves with shimmering fields of grain, sharing their bounty with the rest of creation. We, too, are to worship God by being abundant and fruitful with our lives, offering up our yields as if they were songs of joyful praise. Let us worship God with our gifts.

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

**DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God*

**Blue Hymnal, #46**

*(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*All people:*

*Gracious and abundant God, like the birds of the air, we can trust your provision. You take care of us. Like the lilies of the field, all that we have is yours. Every good thing is a gift from you. You take care of us. Bless us on this Thanksgiving or Harvest Sunday, and bless the gifts we bring, that in all we make and say and do: trust may grow, beauty may*