

HYMN*Now Thank We All Our God***Chalice, #715**

November 19, 2023

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Thanksgiving Sunday

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Friends, go in peace.

All people: *We will BE peace in this world.*

Pastor: Go in hope.

All people: *We will BE hope in this world.*

Pastor: Go in faith.

All people: *We will BE faithful in this world.*

Pastor: As you go, may the grace of God cover you,
 the love of Christ shine within you,
 and the Spirit's courage propel you forward,
 this day and forevermore.

Amen!

All people: *AMEN!***POSTLUDE****GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS****JOYS AND CONCERNS****PRELUDE****Mr. Kevin Crone***(Please stand in body and/or spirit)***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based upon Psalm 90:1-12)

Pastor: Loving and gracious God, you have been God from the
 beginning of time and all of time is embraced by Your presence.

**Congregation: Teach us to count our days that we may gain a thankful and
 wise heart.**

Pastor: As humans, we tend to think that everything lasts forever but we
 are reminded that nothing lasts forever. Even the flourishing
 grass is here one day and soon it withers.

**Congregation: Teach us to count our days that we may gain a thankful and
 wise heart.**

Pastor: Some days go well. Some days don't go well. Life is both a mix
 of challenges and celebrations. Before we know it – life in this
 realm is over.

**Congregation: Teach us to count our days that we may gain a thankful and
 wise heart.**

Pastor: Grant us Your wisdom, oh God, that we may live our lives well.
 Grant us the wisdom we need to steward our lives well.

**Congregation: Teach us to count our days that we may gain a thankful and
 wise heart.**

All people: *Loving God, as we count our days, help us to make our days
 count. May our actions align with Your intentions. May we be
 led by Your wisdom. Amen.*

HYMN*God of our Life***Chalice #713****CALL TO CONFESSION**

Pastor: Beloved of God, friends of Jesus, trusting in the Lord's abundant
 grace, let us confess.

References

- Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License #A-733911.
- Nancy C. Townley wrote today's *Prayer of Confession* for [Ministry Matters: November 19, 2023](#). Pastor Laura adapted it for today's service on November 3, 2023.
- Scott Wagoner, of Faith Element, wrote today's *Call to Worship* based on today's scripture readings.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: We are "pack rats", O Lord. You continually pour gifts and blessings into our lives, and we hide them away for fear that they might disappear or not be worthy. Sometimes, we squander them wastefully on things that are not healthy or helpful to others. We confess too, we have not always recognized the talents we have been given. We find it easier to belittle the gifts than to honor the Giver. As Jesus reminded his listeners to honor the Giver of the Gifts by using them to create something better, for healing, for hope in the world; remind us that the message of Jesus is truly pertinent to us today. Forgive us when we have treated today's Gospel reading, as just another nice story. Help us to take the gifts you have given us, to develop them, and use them in ways which will offer healing and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on

Pastor: You are loved by God and given so many gifts to serve God and others. Do not fear to use those gifts, for God is with you, continually blessing you and the gifts for service.

All people: AMEN!

PRAISE HYMN

Jesus Loves Me

JAM CHOIR

Chimes & Boomwhackers

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

Chalice #56

OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 15:24-31

EPISTLE READING – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 25:14-30

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Laura Baker

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

Chancel Choir

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

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: When we give, we combat the lie that we do not matter or can make a difference in this world. So, as we enter a time of giving, I invite you to reflect on how your life, your skills, your time, and your money matters in the life of this congregation and contributes to God's mission in the world. (Moment of Silent Reflection)

Liturgist: Following our youth's song of praise and petition, let us dedicate what we have committed to giving, with a prayer.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Give Thanks, With a Grateful Heart

JAM Choir

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: God, whose giving knows no ending, we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us; we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us; we offer up ourselves in service and praise. Receive these gifts by your grace. Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.