

Prairieland Parish

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.  
May we together experience the presence of God

+++++

**We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**



OUR HYMN OF GRATEFUL PRAISE  
WORSHIP SERIES ON GRATITUDE

**Opening Meditation**

This is Thanksgiving week, so as we gather today it is an appropriate time to reflect on the pervasiveness of the life of gratitude that the gospel suggests. Today we will turn to that familiar passage from Philippians: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). Here, we find that gratitude and joy are woven together and that it is sometimes hard to tell one from the other. It also reveals that our consideration of a life of gratitude should be exuberant, marked by the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

So as we gather as a community of faith today may we find comfort in our surroundings with the knowledge that in this space we may find caring and gratitude and peace. Let us pray for contentment and may we give thanks for the promises of God.

Come let us worship our amazing Lord!

**A Call to Worship**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

**God, we delight in your creation. We thank you for soft breezes, crisp apples, and changing seasons that remind us of your presence and provision.**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

**God, we delight in our connectedness. We thank you for friends who check in, for church family who lift one another up, for neighbors who show up in the good and challenging times.**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

**God, we delight in your peace that dwells among us. We give thanks for neighbors who offer help in times of trouble, gentleness in the midst of pain, and acts of kindness during seasons of struggle.**

Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving and rejoicing!

**Come! Let us worship God together. Amen.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**Lord of All Creation ... Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer:  
With Thanksgiving close upon us, we're reminded again  
of the gifts You have given us by Your grace and mercy:  
children and grand-children,  
parents, grandparents and family.**

**A place to call "home" and people to call "friends"  
... and those who call us "friend".**

**You give us life itself ... as well as Eternal Life in Your Son. Jesus;  
filling our days with labor and hope,  
and our nights with rest and protection.**

**So, with grateful hearts we pray in Jesus name. Amen**

## **Praise Hymn UMH #131 "We Gather Together"**

**1. We gather together  
to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens  
his will to make known.  
The wicked oppressing  
now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name;  
he forgets not his own.**

**2. Beside us to guide us,  
our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining  
his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning  
the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord, wast at our side,  
all glory be thine!**

**3. We all do extol thee,  
thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still  
our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation  
escape tribulation;  
thy name be ever praised!  
O Lord, make us free!**

## **New Testament Reading..... Philippians 4:4-13 (NRSV)**

4 Rejoice[a] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.[b] 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about[c] these things. 9 As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

### **Acknowledgment of the Philippians' Gift**

10 I rejoice[d] in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me but had no opportunity to show it.[e] 11 Not that I am referring to being in need, for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

This is the Word of God, for the people of God, **Thanks be to God!**

### **Children's Sermon**

#### **Faith Hymn UMH#102 "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 this 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;  
and keep us still in 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 him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven;  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.**

**Message**

## Sharing of our Joys and Concerns

### Pastoral Prayer

Gracious God, we offer you our thanksgiving for all the blessings you so abundantly give to us, for the seagulls soaring into the heavens, for a fragrant cup of coffee that welcomes a new morning, for the deep delight that overflows when we think of the ones we love. For all the gifts you grant to us that are easy to see and for those you give that are disguised, for the blessings we recognize, and for those we fail to notice –

O Lord, hear our prayers of gratitude. In the quiet of these moments, we turn to you hoping to sense you speak into our lives words of love and forgiveness, of meaning and grace, that you would re-center our lives in the things that are important in this life – your will and your ways, the ones we love, the things that will matter beyond this day or this week.

O Lord, our thoughts wander to those of us whose problems weigh heavily on our hearts today. We live in a world where fear, chaos, and violence often seem to overtake the beauty of life. We find ourselves shrinking in anxiety, yet we believe that you are the one who calls us to stand up for what is good and right – to bring purpose and meaning to our worlds, to live in your will and your ways, serving your people.

Today, we pray especially for ... (add names of those mentioned)  
may your peaceful healing touch them.

There are many of us who carry concerns that need to be yielded to you and left in your hands – yet sometimes we feel as if you need to pry them from our clenched fists. Help us to release all our concerns to you, trusting your goodness.

As we envision the week ahead, we know we need your wisdom and presence. Let this be our prayer -- lead us to seek you that we might be transformed into the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whom we pray together the prayer He taught us to pray: Our Father...

### Offertory/Doxology/ Offertory Prayer

Lord of peace and serenity, receive the gifts we bring this day as we present them in thankfulness and joy. We bring ourselves as our offering, that in living lives of truth, justice, honor, and excellence, we might please you and be worthy of your never-failing love and presence with us. Grateful that Christ and the Holy Spirit might dwell in us, we pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen. (Philippians 4:4-13)

### **Departing Hymn UMH # 98 “To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done!”**

*Author: Fanny J. Crosby (1875)*

*Composer: William H. Doane (1875)*

**1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

**Refrain:**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear his voice!**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. Refrain)**

**3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)**

**SENDING FORTH**

May God's peace follow you wherever you go, guiding and guarding you, that you may live in joy and thanksgiving with God, self, neighbor, and all creation. Amen.

**Postlude**