

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

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Prelude – Welcome – Announcements

Opening Meditation

Every fourth week of November, we tell ourselves that Thanksgiving should not just be a once-a-year thing, but a way of living every day. In our scripture today - Ephesians 5:15-20 is a call to remember that belief. “giving thanks to God the Father at all times.” At all times!

This isn't just about being thankful for food and plentiful harvests. It is about finding blessings in everyday living. It is a call to move our thinking away from what we think we don't have toward what we have already been blessed with. It is shifting from a scarcity mindset into a realization of the abundance of God's providence. But even as we do so, we must also take time to acknowledge that there are many who are left out of the abundance, not because of the lack of resources, but due to unequal distribution. That is why we are invited to share what we have, so that all might have something. How do we give thanks at all times? By living our gratitude each and every day.

Now is our time to give thanks to our Lord.

A Call to Worship

Give thanks to God!

We thank God for joy, for laughter, for abundant blessings of every kind.

Give thanks to God at all times and for everything!

We thank God, when we can and as we can, for struggles, for solitude, for fears.

Give thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank God that, in Christ, our joys as well as our pain, our losses as well as our laughter, are in God's heart and hands.

Prayer of Thankfulness

Gracious God, We give thanks for the diversity and beauty we find in the people of God. The breadth and depth of the church is truly amazing.

Thank you for calling: the teachers, the doctors, the organized fanatics, the preachers, the musicians, the big-picture thinkers, and the detail people. The laity and the ordained, the worker-bees and the speakers, and the writers.

We are thankful that God called: the servants, the artists, the advocates, the prophets, and prophetic listeners, the young, the 'a little bit older,' the dreamers, the evangelists, and the justice seekers.

Thank you for calling out to Abraham, Moses, Esther, the prophets, the kings, a young virgin, and the Twelve to follow by faith and for continuing to call all people. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Praise Hymn #395 Take Time to Be Holy

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**Take time to be holy,
speak oft with thy Lord;
abide in him always,
and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children,
help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing
his blessing to seek.**

**Take time to be holy,
let him be thy guide,
and run not before him,
whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow,
still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus,
still trust in his word.**

**Take time to be holy,
the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret
with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus,
like him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct
his likeness shall see.**

**Take time to be holy,
be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive
beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit
to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted
for service above**

We Hear God's Word

New Testament Reading..... Ephesians 5:15-20

(New Revised Standard Version)

15 Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, 16 making the most of the time, because the days are evil. 17 So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, 20 giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

Children's Message

Faith Hymn # 2004 Praise the Source of Faith & Learning

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**Praise the source of faith and learning
that has sparked and stoked the mind
with a passion for discerning
how the world has been designed.
Let the sense of wonder flowing
from the wonders we survey
keep our faith forever growing
and renew our need to pray.**

**As two currents in a river
fight each other's undertow,
till converging they deliver
one coherent steady flow,
blend, O God, our faith and learning
till they carve a single course,
till they join as one, returning
praise and thanks to you, the Source.**

Message

Joys/Concerns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Eternal God, we thank you today for your goodness. You have given us beautiful days. You bless us richly with goodness daily. We thank you and praise you.

Lord, we raise to you this day.....

We live in a time of considerable confusion. We ask today for your wisdom as Solomon asked for wisdom.

We are often fearful as was Solomon. We live in a time of peril, war, and world unrest. Different and competing interests strive for our attention and loyalty. Help us, O God, to pray for wise and discerning spirits.

Give us wisdom to know good from evil.

Give us wisdom to assess the clamoring voices and concerns with which we are daily bombarded.

Give us wisdom so that we might learn to be accepting of all the diverse people you have created.

Give us wisdom to be peacemakers and mediators of understanding where there is conflict.

Give us wisdom when we are in conflict to make it possible both for us and for those with whom we differ to save face and win and move forward hand in hand.

Give us wisdom not to violate any of your creatures by discriminating against them.

Give us wisdom to discern what is of ultimate value for our souls and to make wise choices.

We come before you today asking for your guidance as we share the prayer your faithful Son taught us - Our Father...

Offertory/Doxology/Prayer

Eternal God, our time in this life is limited, and our days are numbered. Yet you have reminded us that if we are wise and use that time well, you have an eternity waiting for us that is beyond our imagining. Help us to focus on what we have, and what we can share, and how the gifts we offer this day can bless others until we are joined with them and your children give you their thanks and gratitude for the rest of eternity. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (Ephesians 5:15-20)

Departing Hymn #451 Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou My Vision Words *Ancient Irish*; trans. by *Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931*; versed by *Eleanor H. Hull, 1860*-**Music**: Trad. *Irish melody*; harm. by *Carlton R. Young, 1963* © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, all rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736621-A. All rights reserved. "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #736621-A. All rights reserved

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou
art. Thou my best thought, by day or by
night, waking or sleeping they
presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true
word; I ever with thee and thou with
me, Lord; Thou and thou only, first in
my heart, great God of heaven, my
treasure thou art.**

**Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright
heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still by my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou
art. Heart of my own heart, whatever
befall, still by my vision, O Ruler of all.**

COMMISSION & BLESSING

Go forth into the world trusting with your hearts the wisdom God bestows upon all who seek to follow God's will. When called to lead, do so with humility and confidence in God. Be in this world a sign of Jesus' presence. Share compassion with all whom you encounter. Live wisely in God's name, and glorify God in all you do. And may the grace, mercy and wisdom of God be our support, guidance and strength from this day forward and for ever more. **Amen.**