

GATHERING

Prelude: “Come, You Thankful People, Come” David Cherwien

Invocation

Announcements and Passing the Peace of Christ

*Call to Worship

Leader: Let us come before God with prayers of thanksgiving,

People: For we have been given great grace by the Lord.

Leader: There is beauty in the world, and we may have fellowship with all of God’s creatures.

People: This is grace—Lord, hear our prayer of thanksgiving.

Leader: There are families to warm us, friends to be made, even across walls of difference and disagreement and hurt.

People: This is grace—Lord, hear our prayer of thanksgiving.

Leader: There is the healing of the Spirit, in body, mind, and soul.

People: This is grace—Lord, hear our prayer of thanksgiving.

Leader: There is our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us, all the way to death on a cross.

People: This is grace—Lord, hear our prayer of thanksgiving.

Leader: There was and is and always will be the God of grace, whose love is neverending.

People: Let us, indeed, come before God with prayers of Thanksgiving.

*Hymn: #559 “We Gather Together”

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Dear God, you have given us so much. You’ve given us life and the chance to nurture other lives. Yet, too often we care only for ourselves. You’ve given us love. Yet, too often we withhold love from neighbors we reject. You’ve given us talents. Yet, too often we use them not to build your Kingdom, but instead for vain and passing things. Forgive us, dear Lord. Heal us. Help us to be your children. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri (p. 579)

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

First Scripture Readings: Psalm 100 (p. 522)

*Hymn: #555 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Second Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17 (p. 190)

Sermon: **THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Thanksgiving Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

We give thanks for the *gift of life*—may we live it abundantly.

We give thanks for our *talents and skills*—may we joyfully express them for the common good.

We give thanks for our *friends and families*—may we return their love by our helpfulness.

We give thanks for *opportunities*—may we accept them as a challenge to achieve.

We give thanks for *happiness*—may we strive to make others happy.

We give thanks for *beauty*—may we help to make the world more beautiful.

We give thanks for *inspiration*—may our lives become an inspiration to others.

We give thanks for *each new day*—may we live it to the fullest.

*Doxology (p. 592)

*Hymn: #554 “Let All Things Now Living”

*Benediction

Silent Prayer (be seated)

Postlude: “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

English Folk Tune

*Those who wish may stand

VISITORS AND MEMBERS: WELCOME! We are glad you have joined us for worship this Thanksgiving eve. We hope that you have a blessed Thanksgiving and we invite you to join us in worship at our Paradise location Sunday morning.

All glory to our Lord Jesus Christ for the grace we have received.

PRAISE THE LORD! HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Rev. Robert W. Birch

Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director