

First Presbyterian Church of Newton

10:30 AM NOVEMBER 19, 2023

** indicates when to rise in body or in spirit*

(PH denotes *The Presbyterian Hymnal* and STF denotes *Sing the Faith Hymnal*)



I'M
IN!!

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Happy are we

People: when our treasures cannot be quantified.

Leader: Happy are we

People: when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

Leader: Happy are we

People: when our pain is held in the balm of love.

Leader: Happy are we

People: when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

ALL: Let us worship God together!

Give Thanks, O Christian People

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Mary Jackson Cathey, 1984

Memmingen ms., 17th century
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904

1. Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, For work-ers of our day
 2. Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, For lead-ers of our years
 3. Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, For all who love the Lord,
 4. Give thanks, O Chris-tian peo - ple, For life in fel-low - ship

Who heed the call to ser - vice And make it their life's way
 Who live to share with oth - ers Our joy when Christ ap - pears,
 Who live each day be - liev - ing In God's e - ter - nal Word:
 With all who trust our Sav - ior Their serv - ing to e - quip

To go to feed the hun - gry, To tend to those in need,
 To teach the ones who seek light, To guide the fal-tering feet,
 To share Christ's love in liv - ing, To wit - ness with each deed,
 To ease an - oth - er's bur - dens, To cope in joy and stress,

To work for e - qual jus - tice, Till all God's folk are freed.
 To lead the fol - lowers for - ward Our liv - ing Lord to meet.
 To use the tal - ents giv - en To plant the gos-pel seed.
 To mag - ni - fy God's mes - sage And Christ's great love con - fess.

Text: Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit* by Lavon Bayler, 1986, The Pilgrim Press, 1981, New York, NY.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Mystery, we want to stay awake and be ready for your surprises, but we are tired and overcome with the usual routine. We want to wait patiently for the fulfillment of your kingdom, but we are frustrated by our need for immediate gratification. We want to believe your promises from ancient days, but we are overwhelmed with postmodern doubts.

Come to us again, O God. Awaken us with your unexpected grace. Shock us with your daring mercy. Lift us up from lethargy and set our feet on your path once more.

(A Time of Silent Prayer follows)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

based on 1 Thessalonians 4

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS *“Come, thou Fount of every blessing”*

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!*

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 24:1-3, 13-17

Leader: Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people,

People: **“Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave you a land on which you had not labored and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant.**

Leader: **“Now, therefore, revere the LORD and serve God in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”**

Then the people answered,

Leader: **“Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”**

CHORAL ANTHEM

"A Round of Thanks"

TIME WITH CHILDREN

God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it, God throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. God's right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out. This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. God gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE **God Pours on the Blessings - "I'm IN!"**

STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION

Please affirm your faith today by coming forward to place your pledge for your giving in the year 2024 in the box on the front table and take a key home with you to remind you that you are proclaiming "I'm IN" in response to God's many blessings.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR PLEDGES**

We offer to you, O God, these gifts in humble thanks for the creating love you give to us. We offer to you, O God, these pledges in unassuming thanks for the redeeming love you give to us.

We offer to you, O God, these commitments in grateful thanks for the sustaining love you give to us.

As we prepare for the year ahead, and for the newness that will be ours, we pray for the ministers who may seek a new call, and the path ahead.

Let us be surprised this year, O God. May our eyes, our minds and our hearts be opened this year. May we be surprised in our lives, in our church and in our ministry together.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***HYMN**

“Once to Every Soul and Nation”

TUNE: EBENEZER

1. Once to every soul and nation Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood, For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, some great decision, Off'ring each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by forever 'Twixt that darkness and that light.
2. Then to side with truth is noble, When we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit, And 'tis prosp'rous to be just;
Then it is the brave one chooses While the coward stands aside,
Till the multitude make virtue Of the faith they had denied.
3. Though the cause of evil prosper, Yet the truth alone is strong;
Though her portion be the scaffold, And upon the throne be wrong,
Yet that scaffold sways the future, And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God, within the shadow, Keeping watch above His own.

CALL TO OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S SERVICE

OFFERTORY

*** RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE PH 591 “Praise God”**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ending with the LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Give Thee but Thine Own

SCHUMANN SM

William Walsham How, c. 1858

Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis*, 1850

1. We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
 2. May we Thy boun-ties thus As stew-ards true re - ceive,
 3. To com-fort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
 4. The cap - tive to re - lease, To God the lost to bring,

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
 And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first - fruits give.
 To tend the lone - ly in dis - tress, Is an - gels' work be - low.
 To teach the way of life and peace—It is a Christ-like thing.

5. And we believe Thy Word,
 Though dim our faith may be;
 Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
 We do it unto Thee.

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE



We thank our Worship Leader Gail Hoffman and
 our Ushers/Greeters this morning.

Our Staff

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Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

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Church Web Site Address: www.fpcnewtonnj.org facebook.com/FPCNJ

www.youtube.com (Search for: "fpcnewtonnj")

Liturgical Resources: Katherine Hawker, Sarah E. Weaver,