

*I will give thanks
to the Lord
with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your
wonderful deeds.*

Psalm 9:1



Thanksgiving Evening Service

November 23, 2021

7:00 p.m.

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

(PH denotes *The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

PRELUDE MUSIC

"Thanksgiving Celebration"

Bell Choir

WORDS OF WELCOME

PROCLAMATION OF THE DAY

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

People: **God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's name.

People: **Make known God's deeds among the peoples!**

Leader: God blesses us with gifts of love:

People: **With food and clothing, home and family.**

Leader: God protects us in time of danger:

People: **And guards us from every evil.**

Leader: God calls us into relationship with the divine:

People: **And forms us into one holy people, regardless of how we worship or where.**

Leader: Therefore shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

People: **O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.**

* HYMN PH #551

“Come, Ye Thankful People Come”

verses 1,2,4

*Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home:
 All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
 God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied:
 Come to God’s own the temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.*

*All the world is God’s own field, fruit unto God’s praise to yield;
 Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown;
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:
 Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.*

*Even so, Lord, quickly come to Thy final harvest home;
 Gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;
 There forever purified, in Thy presence to abide:
 Come, with all Thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.*

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. So lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, freely acknowledge our sins and shortcomings, and serve you in willing obedience; this we ask in your most holy name. Amen.**

READING FROM HISTORY**The Mayflower Compact of 1620****RESPONSIVE READING****Psalm 95:1-7**

Leader: ¹O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: ²**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Leader: ³For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

People: ⁴**In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

Leader: ⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

People: ⁶**O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

Leader: ⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
 O that today you would listen to his voice!

* HYMN PH #559

"We Gather Together"

all verses

***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.***

***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!***

***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, made us free!***

READING FROM HISTORY

A Letter to Sir Edwin Sandys

CHOIR ANTHEM

"A Round of Thanks"

Donald Moore

***O come, ye thankful people, come and raise the song of harvest home.
Sing to our God with cheerful voice a simple hymn: rejoice, rejoice!***

***O come, ye thankful people, come, and raise the song of harvest home.
Our God, our Maker, doth provide for all our wants to be supplied.***

Thanks be to God.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

OFFERING

Tonight's offering will go to support our sisters and brothers in the larger Newton Community. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and loving concern. You may use the offering plates at each exit or if you prefer to give online, please use the QR Code in the worship guide. You may also send your offering directly to First Presbyterian or First United Methodist, or whatever faith community you are a part of and indicate your intentions for its use.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God, who desires good for all creatures, satisfy our hunger not just for food, but for freedom, truth, justice and love. As you call us to care for all people, so may we dedicate our lives and our offerings to your service. Bless these gifts and abide in our hearts so that our gifts and our actions may live out our faith, glorify God, and bring forth a fruitful harvest of love, peace and justice. Amen.

* HYMN PH #554

"Let All Things Now Living"

verse 1

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shing forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.*

LITANY FOR THANKSGIVING

Leader: As the pioneers of the Plymouth colony gathered around the feasting table with native Americans in 1621 to give thanks for all that they had been given by our Bountiful Provider, so we too gather this night to offer thanks for all those gifts which the Lord has seen fit to give us, especially for our country, our state and our town.

Almighty and Generous God, we bring before you, in our hearts and on our Thanksgiving tables, the gifts and blessings which you have given us this year. And, in humble gratitude, we give you thanks for them. We thank you as well for the blessings which come to us through the peace and prosperity of our nation, our state and our town.

People: **We praise you, and we thank you, O God.**

Leader: We acknowledge that as we have greatly received, so are we called to be good stewards of our resources. Therefore, O Lord, keep us from being unfaithful in our lives as citizens of this nation and as recipients of all that past generations of Americans have bequeathed to us. Help us to be worthy of our ancestors and of their God.

People: **Help us, O God, to be faithful.**

Leader: To all the high desires of the pioneers and prophets,

People: **Help us, O God, to be faithful.**

Leader: To their belief in the possibilities of a common people:

People: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

Leader: To their passion for freedom and their readiness to die in its defense:

People: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

Leader: To their scorn of tyranny, and their trust in men and women to rule themselves:

People: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

Leader: To their vision of a human commonwealth in which
the people of many lands may share:

People: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

Leader: To their release from the prejudice of an old world and their will to build a new one:

People: Help us, O God, to be faithful.

Leader: As our ancestors trusted in you, O Lord, and you delivered them:

People: Keep us ever close to you.

Leader: Lord of the nations, guide our people by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom.
Give us what outward prosperity may be your will, but above all things give us faith in
you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples. And let
the people say Amen.

People: Amen.

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 sins as we
forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For
the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

* HYMN PH #555

"Now Thank We All Our God"

all verses

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*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 in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.*

*** BLESSING FOR THANKSGIVING**

Leader: May the Lord of all creation shower blessings and favor upon us.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord of the harvest grace our Thanksgiving tables with holy presence and fill our loved ones with peace.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord of salvation guide us all our days until we come into the joys of the eternal kingdom.

People: **Amen.**

All: **And may God Almighty bless us now and forever. Amen.**

*** POSTLUDE "Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing"**

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Thank you for being here this evening. Due to ongoing Covid concerns, we will not have a time of fellowship following the service.

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Participants in Tonight's Service:

- Rev. David Young, First Presbyterian Church
- Colleen Duffy, First Presbyterian Church
- Ann Socha, Organist
- Combined Choirs
- Handbell Choir, Mindy Kline, Director

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Acknowledgments: The liturgy for today adapted from one that was written by the Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel, a pastor of the ELCA. The Litany for Thanksgiving was adapted from *The Experimental Liturgy Book*, R.F. Hoey ed., Seabury Press 1969, p.170. The closing prayer of the Litany is adapted from the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Augsburg Pub. 1978, p.40.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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Upcoming Christmas Services and Events
The First Presbyterian Church of Newton

December 11 th	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Deacon’s Cookie Sale
December 19 th	4:00 pm Blue Christmas Service
December 24 th	4:00 pm Family Friendly Service and Blessing of the Animals 7:30 pm Special Music 8:00 pm Traditional Service
December 30 th	10:30 am Carol Sing