

GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Service of Worship November 27, 2024 7pm Thanksgiving Eve

Gathering

GATHERING (6:45pm)

Photos of Exaltation! Singers Through the Years (1994–2024)

PRELUDE	"We Gather Together"	arr. by Matthew H. Corl
	Linda Dover, organist	

WELCOME AND OPENING WORDS

INTROIT

"I Will Bless the Lord" Wor Exaltation! Reunion Choir Mu Hilary Turner Schmidt & Patrick O'Halloran, soloists Rebecca Prater, director ~ Donna Heer, accompanist

(*Refrain*) I will bless the Lord, who has counseled me. I will walk the path he has shown me, for he is the Lord. I will not serve another. He is the Lord, above him is no other. He alone is worthy of our highest praise. I will bless the Lord.

He makes my heart rejoice; the Lord is my delight. He is my song in the night. And when I need a home, his love will provide. His arms are always open wide. **(Refrain)**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

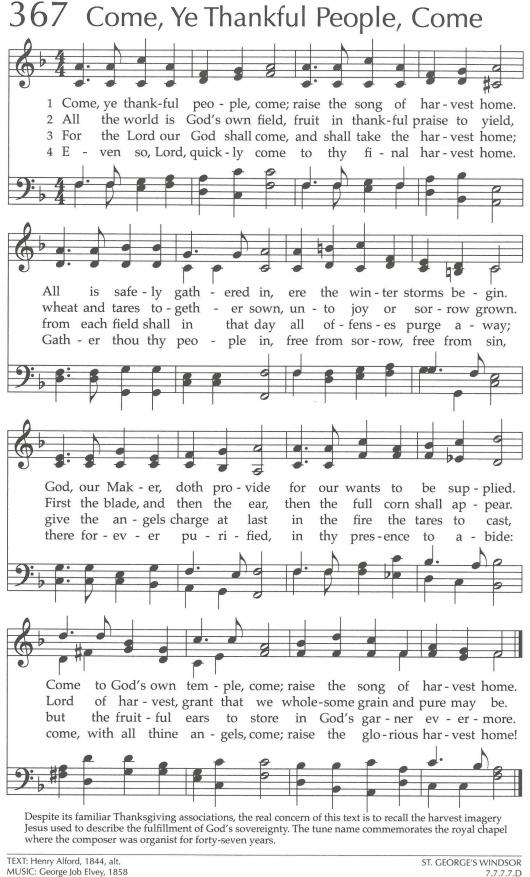
- One: We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
- All: For all that we have and the people we love.
- One: For God is here with us and wants the best for us;
- All: Praise God's Holy name, on this Thanksgiving Eve.

*HYMN 367, st. 1 & 2	"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"	ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
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Kathy Bures

/ords by L Paul Williams

Words by J. Paul Williams Music by Douglas Nolan CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT



7.7.7.7.D

PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 367, st. 4 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

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.

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

1 Chronicles 16:8–11 (CEB)

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;

make his deeds known to all people!

Sing to God, sing praises to him;

dwell on all his wondrous works!

Give praise to God's holy name!

Let the hearts of all those seeking the Lord rejoice!

Mathew 5:43–47 (CEB)

"You have heard that it was said, You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love only those who love you, what reward do you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing? Don't even the Gentiles do the same?

MESSAGE AND MEDITATION

OFFERING & GIFTS OF MUSIC

"Somebody's Prayin'" Exaltation! Reunion Choir Emily Monrad Boston, soloist

Words & Music by John G. Elliott arr. Mark Hayes

(**Refrain**) Somebody's prayin', I can feel it. Somebody's prayin' for me. Mighty hands are guiding me to protect me from what I can't see. Lord, I believe, Lord, I believe somebody's prayin' for me.

Angels are watchin' I can feel it. Angels are watchin' over me. Weary miles ahead 'til I get home, still I'm safely kept before the throne. Lord, I believe, Lord, I believe angels are watchin' over me. Kathy Bures

Well, I've walked the barren wilderness where my pillow was a stone and I've been through the darkest caverns where no light has ever shone. Still I went on 'cause there was someone who was down on their knees, And I thank the Lord for people praying all this time for me. **(Refrain)**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Kathy Bures

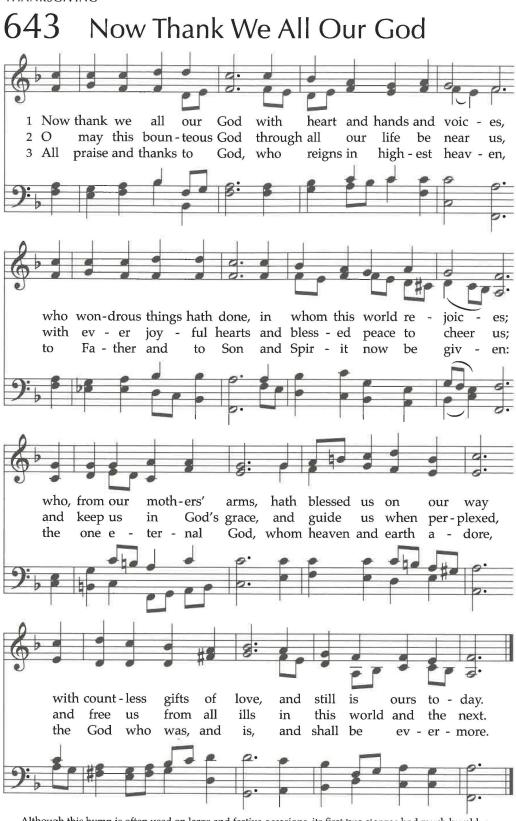
Sending

*HYMN 643, st. 1 & 2

"Now Thank We All Our God"

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

THANKSGIVING



Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

TEXT: Martin Rinkart, c. 1636; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt. MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

*CLOSING WORDS & BENEDICTION

Kathy Bures

by Keith Hampton

POSTLUDE (Seated)

"Praise His Holy Name" Exaltation! Reunion Choir Andrew Alka, soloist Miles McDonald, alto sax ~ Trey Bures, bass guitar

Rebecca Prater, director ~ Donna Heer, accompanist

Sing till the power of the Lord come down. Shout Hallelujah! Praise his holy name! Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me; I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see. Jesus, Jesus how I love him! Shout Hallelujah! Praise his holy name!

Sing till the power of the Lord come down. Shout Hallelujah! Praise his holy name! Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come. 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home! Jesus, Jesus how I love him! Shout Hallelujah! Praise his holy name!

Sing till the power of the Lord come down. Shout Hallelujah! Praise his holy name! Holy Jesus, Praise his name, Oh! Hallelujah! Praise his holy name! Hallelujah! Let us praise his name, Hallelujah, Lord! Praise his holy name! Praise his name! Praise his holy name. Praise his name! Oh, oh, Praise his holy name! Praise Him!

RECAP of Ex! photos

Photos of Exaltation! Singers Through the Years (1994–2024)

Many thanks to Lindsay Callender for putting together the photos of Exaltation! memories.

*Stand in body or spirit

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

*If convenient/able, please stand.

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PARTICIPANTS IN OUR EXALTATION! REUNION CHOIR ~ (1994-2024) NAMES LISTED WITH THE YEAR OF THEIR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

1998 Andrea Dover Jennifer Sweeney Matascik

> 1999 Edwin Fukunaga

2001 Hilary Turner Schmidt

2003 Emily Turner Hussey Christine Thomson Hartlieb

> 2004 Erin Mehl Fry Patrick O'Halloran

2005 Kelly Scarborough Allison Thomson Kinkade

2006 Lauren Burdette Trey Bures Katie Johnson Hearn

> 2009 Peter Bures

2010 Emily Monrad Boston

> 2012 Elizabeth Bures Christine Nance

2015 Jolee Webb 2017 Trent Amerine Caroline McDonald Brandon Oldberg 2018 Rachel Grice 2019 Lindsay Callender 2020 Lexie Fleeman William Grice Kat Mason

> 2021 Emily Grice

2022 Andrew Alka

2023 Miles Dalton Madeline Mahoney

> 2028 Conor Schesser

2013-2015 Darryl Prater sang with Exaltation!

2019 Jesse Bures rang with Exaltation!

EXALTATION! LEADERSHIP

DIRECTORS: Mary Jane Voogt, Kipp Willnauer, Donna Butler Douglas, Celia Nicholas, Carrie DeVries, & Rebecca Prater ACCOMPANISTS: Reggie Reynolds, Keith Spence, Linda Bruns, & Donna Heer SCRIPT WRITER: Kathy Burdette DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY: Matt Vaughan, Chris Anderson, Jay McNeal, Miriam Todd, Miles McDonald, & Emily Nelson Dixon

Exaltation's Purpose

"It is not our purpose to be the best in the world, but to be the best for the world." – Author Unknown

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME to this Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. It is good to share worship with one another and to remember our blessings!

TONIGHT'S OFFERING is designated for the Gifts of Grace Fund. "Gifts of Grace" is an "in-reach" program to help Grace Covenant members and families who may be experiencing financial stress. Donations are accepted to this fund throughout the year and are used when we know about financial issues for church members.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Thursday and Friday of this week.

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, we begin our observance of ADVENT, the time of preparing for Christ's coming.



11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210 Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ www.gcpc.org