



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 Kathy Bures

INTROIT “I Will Bless the Lord” Words by J. Paul Williams  
Exaltation! Reunion Choir Music by Douglas Nolan  
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

## 367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.  
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,  
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har-vest home;  
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har-vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
 from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
 there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.  
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!



Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE &amp; 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

Kathy Bures

## OFFERING &amp; GIFTS OF MUSIC

“Somebody's Prayin'”

Words & Music by John G. Elliott

Exaltation! Reunion Choir

arr. Mark Hayes

Emily Monrad Boston, soloist

**(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.*

*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

# 643 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice - es,  
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in high - est heav - en,

who won-drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es;  
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;  
 to Fa - ther and to Son and Spir - it now be giv - en:

who, from our moth-ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way  
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per-plexed,  
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom heaven and earth a - dore,

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
 the God who was, and is, and shall be ev - er - more.

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.

\*CLOSING WORDS & BENEDICTION

Kathy Bures

POSTLUDE (*Seated*)

“Praise His Holy Name”

by Keith Hampton

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.



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