GATHERING MUSIC (6:45pm)      Songs of Thanksgiving
Cal Sweeten, hammered dulcimer

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace and peace to you from God our Parent,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven:
who knew you and chose you before the world began;
who loves you so much that she calls you her own children;
who has brought you from darkness into light
and filled you with his glorious power;
who has prepared an inheritance for you that will never spoil or fade;
who encourages and strengthens you in every good deed and word;
who comforts you in your troubles so that you can comfort others.

This is our God, the ultimate source of all things, and the One for whom we live.
Let’s worship God together!
1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
2 In the just reward of labor, God’s will be done.
3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will be done.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and de-
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still con-

sleeping, future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, thanks be to God.
sparing, in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will be done.
found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called “Harvest Hymn,” this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God’s endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means “throughout the night.”

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt.
MUSIC: Welsh melody, c. 1784

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company
VIDEO PRAYER “Thanksgiving in All Circumstances”

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!

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Colossians 3:16 (Common English Bible)
The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Beautiful things are always in your right hand.

First Thessalonians 5:16–18 (Common English Bible)
Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

MUSIC (Video) “For These Thy Gifts” by Austin Cunningham

There was turkey and cornbread dressing, homemade rolls were piled up high
sweet potatoes, casseroles, cranberries, and pumpkin pie.
He could see it all so clearly, good memories never fade
a ten-year-old, a full household, and a fine Thanksgiving Day.

All the rooms were filled with laughter, all the glasses raised in toast,
both leaves were in the table, still they all had to sit real close.
There was music in the silverware and in the clatter of the plates,
then his daddy called for silence, they bowed their heads and all said grace:

“For these thy gifts, we are thankful; blessed are we who gather here.
The bounty of the Lord, who could want for more?
Than these thy gifts we receive year after year.”

Well, his dream abruptly ended when he woke up freezing cold
in a dirty downtown doorway, feeling beaten, tired, and old.
It was eight blocks to the mission, he had fifty cents he’d saved
and since it was a holiday, he thought he’d give himself a shave.

Now the meal they said was sponsored by the Jaycees and volunteers;
a TV news crew filmed him in the food line with his peers;
then he sat like all the others in an old brown metal chair
and with tear-filled eyes and folded hands, he offered up this prayer:

“For these thy gifts, we are thankful; Blessed are we who gather here.  
The bounty of the Lord, who could want for more?  
Than these thy gifts we receive year after year."

There was turkey and cornbread dressing, homemade rolls were piled up high  
Sweet potatoes, casseroles, cranberries, and pumpkin pie.

REFLECTION  “These Are a Few of My Favorite Things”  Rev. Mitch Trigger

Sending

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE AND CARE

“For the Beauty of the Earth ”  arr. Don Hart  
Bob Dover, clarinet

*HYMN 645  “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”  MIT FREUDEN ZART

Stanza 1 All Parts
Stanza 2 Men Unison
Stanza 3 Ladies Unison
Stanza 4 All Parts
Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love.

What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepseth; by morning glow or evening shade distressing, an ever-present help and stay, thy praises, that all may hear the grateful song.

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief the God of our salvation. With God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth. With our peace and joy and blessing, as

Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud the God of our saved. With my voice unwearied raises. Be

Healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless in the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body.
*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Seated)                     “Nun Dunket”                     arr. Hal Hopson
                                           Linda Dover, organist

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

*If convenient/able, please stand.

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