



GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Service of Worship November 24, 2021 7:00pm
Thanksgiving Eve

Gathering

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mitch Trigger

*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!**

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

For the Fruit of All Creation 36

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, 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.”

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

645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

THANKSGIVING

mur - mur stilled:
all is right:
cho - sen band:
take your part:
to God all praise and glo - ry!

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

TEXT: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.
MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesang*, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906, alt.

MIT FREUDEN ZART
8.7.8.7.8.8.7

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE (*Seated*)

"Nun Danket"
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Hal Hopson

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

**If convenient/able, please stand.*

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