

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of the Church Bell

Prelude *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* Hugo Gehr

Welcome and Call to Worship

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations;

All: **you have been our home throughout all the ages.**

One: You were there before the world was made and will be forever.

All: **From everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

One: O God, the gift of your Son is the life-changing treasure that is truly beyond all value. Your generosity and goodness astound us! Inspire us to share your gospel, that all may enter into the joy of Christ. Amen.

*Hymn *Come, Ye Thankful People Come* #367

*Call to Confession

God has not destined us for wrath, but for salvation in Jesus, who died for us. Confident in God's mercies, let us confess our sin.

*Confession of Sin (unison)

Almighty God, you have shown us the ways of generosity and nurtured us with love. Even so, we have not lived according to your abundant grace.

When we are afraid we cling to fear and hold on tight to our possessions, forgetting to trust in your promises. When we are giddy with power and pride, we cling to our privileges and forget our responsibilities toward others.

Have mercy on us, Lord, for we are weak and prone to self centeredness. Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness, that we might turn to you again, walk in the light, and live in hope and peace; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*Silent Confession

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Children of light, because we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ, we need not fear—for he lived for us, he died for us, he was raised for us and prays for us. Believe the promise of your baptism: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain

Life in Our Church Community

Mission Moment – Hope Children's Home

Heifer Project - Recognition of Birthdays and Anniversaries

A Song of Blessing

May joy and peace surround you, contentment at your door, And happiness be with you now, God bless you evermore.

(Adapted from An Irish Blessing, Tune: Amazing Grace)

~Hearing God's Word~

Prayer for Illumination

Shine your light on your Word, O Lord; by your Spirit let us see your wonder. For your justice outruns our sense of fairness; your love overwhelms our deepest affections. Open our eyes, unstop our ears, and show us your most excellent way; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Old Testament Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 page 879

Psalms Psalm 90:1-12 page 547

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 page 205

One: The Word of the Lord All: **Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem *Canticle of Thanksgiving* Dale Wood

Gospel Matthew 25:14-30 page 28

One: The Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message *Investing Wisely* Rev. Terry Epling

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. [The Apostles Creed]

*Hymn *God Whose Giving Knows No Ending* #716

~Responding to God's Word~

Invitation to Give

God has entrusted us with a variety of gifts; let us return to the Lord a generous measure of our bounty with thanksgiving and praise.

Giving of our Pledges and Offerings & Friendship Pad

Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.

Offertory *I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus* Ludwig Lenel

***Doxology** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* #606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Amen.

*** Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true, beautiful and life-giving.

These pledges represent our lives, they represent our dreams.

These pledges are but tokens of the awesome gifts that have been given to us.

We make our pledge in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become in this place. Remind us to give of the first fruits of all we have and not what we have left over, so that we may live out as closely as possible how you give to us.

May we see them as our thanksgiving offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthy, filled with possibilities.

As we watch our offerings each week come to your table, we can see our very selves being part of this offering, it is us who come to the table, living sacrifices to you the giver of all good gifts. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*** Closing Hymn** *All Creatures of Our God and King* #15 (verses 1-3 & 6)

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* Johannes Brahms

*Please stand, if you are able.

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.