

Order of Worship

November 23, 2025



Gathering and Welcome *Count Your Blessings*

Prelude *Thanksgiving Medley* – arr. Ron and Linda Sprunger

Jessye Whitis, pianist, Carol Tyson, organist

***Call to Worship**

"Come, let us give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever."

"We enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise!"

Hymn of Gathering # 336 *We Gather Together

Prayer of Confession for Thanksgiving

In the midst of our thanksgiving,
Let us pause in silence
To recall how we so often
Lose sight of the gifts of each day
And of their Giver.

O God, we know that we forget about you,
We forget to love you,
We forget to help our neighbors,
We forget to thank you.

Forgive us.

(a moment of silence for private confession)

**Grant us clear minds to know you,
New hearts to love you,
Strong hands to serve you
Help us live this day, this week, and always
So that our whole life is a thanksgiving to you. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon

God did not send Christ into the world to condemn the world,
But to be its Savior.
We can trust God's word.
We are a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God!

--- from *Thanksgiving Sunday: A Joyful Service of Hymn and Witness*, by Kevin Little.

Choral Anthem Come With Thanksgiving -- by Lloyd Larson

Jessye Whitis, Music Director, pianist

Prayer for Illumination

Prepare our hearts, O God,
to accept your Word.
Silence in us any voice but your own,
that, hearing, we may also obey your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Deuteronomy 8:10–18 – Remembering God as the source of blessing.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 – Rejoice, pray, give thanks in all circumstances.

Luke 23: 33 – 43 – Today you will be with me in Paradise.

Sermon *Almost Home for the Holidays*

Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

***Affirmation of faith (Apostles' Creed)**

**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.

Hymn of Response #14 *For the Beauty of the Earth

Call to Offering

Even in difficult times we remember that God has done great things for us. We choose to live our lives in hope, counting on the goodness of God in every age. As a sign of our trust in God, we share our gifts this morning, strengthening the ministry of this church and the church worldwide as we seek together to extend hope and summon peace.

Offertory *This is My Father's World* – arr. Don Hustad and Ted Smith
Jessye Whitis, pianist, Carol Tyson, organist

Doxology # 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, You are the giver of every good and perfect gift. Today we pause to remember Your faithfulness in every season. Fill our hearts with gratitude, our lips with praise, and our lives with generosity. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

For the beauty of creation...

We give You thanks, O Lord.

For the gift of family and friends...

We give You thanks, O Lord.

For daily bread and unexpected blessings...

We give You thanks, O Lord.

Keep us faithful to our calling and fill our lives with your love to overflowing.
This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, “**Our Father...**”

Hymn of Blessing # 645 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Closing Blessing

"May the peace of Christ guard your hearts,
May the joy of the Spirit fill your days,
And may the love of the Father guide your steps,
Now and always." **Amen.**

Postlude *Now Thank We All Our God*

Jessye Whitis, pianist