



Order of Worship

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

Gathering and Welcome *Shout to the Lord*

Prelude & Lighting of Candles *We Will Glorify* – arr. Jack Schrader

Moment for Stewardship

Dick Wood

***Call to worship**

God of all creation, You have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

The green of summer dips into autumn, and we gaze in wonder at the cascades of golden leaves.

As the sun sets earlier, remind us to take to rest in Your presence.

As the trees let go of their leaves, teach us to surrender what is no longer life-giving.

All: Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving, and shout triumphantly to the Rock of our salvation!

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

***Call to confession**

We come to worship because we believe in the goodness of God. We have seen it. We come knowing that we don't always bear that goodness in our lives. We have made mistakes, and so, we confess, knowing that God is good and merciful and kind. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins, first together and then in silent prayer...

***Prayer of confession**

Almighty God, like the autumn leaves, we confess that our lives are in a constant state of change and transition. We often clutch tightly to what we should let go of – our pride, our past mistakes, and our anxieties. Forgive us for when our love grows cold. Sweep through us by Your Holy Spirit, prune away what is barren, and prepare our hearts for a new harvest of righteousness. Amen.

***Assurance of pardon**

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and made new.
Amen.

Choral Anthem *The Gift of Love* – arr. Hopson/Whitis

Prayer for illumination

God of the changing seasons,

As the crisp autumn air clears our senses,
and the leaves surrender their vibrant colors to the earth,
we gather to seek the light of your wisdom.

Quiet our restless thoughts as the season quiets the land.

Just as the harvest reveals the fruit of months of growth,
let your Word reveal the truth within our hearts today.

Illuminate our minds by your Holy Spirit.

As the days grow shorter and the shadows lengthen,
let your truth be a lamp to our feet and a bright beacon for our path.

Help us to let go of what is dead or fading.

We trust that what you prune in us will rise to new life.
Open our ears to hear, our minds to understand,
and our lives to receive your unchanging grace.

Scripture readings Ruth 2: 1 – 23; John 12: 20 - 26

Sermon “*The Chiliwack Geese*” Rev. Kathy Vineyard, H.R.

***Affirmation of faith** (from the Confession of 1967)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church’s mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need.

His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn of Response # 71 *Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me

Call for the offering

We give back in gratitude for all we have been given. All around us are the wonders of God's love and grace. Tucked within us are gifts to be shared, our talents, our interests, our love and service to others. As we come to the time of offering, we are invited to consider how we will respond to the generosity of God, how we will share our time, talents, and treasures with one another and with the world. Let us consider our gifts given in grateful praise.

Offertory *Lord of the Harvest* – arr. John Carter

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

***Prayer of dedication**

Heavenly Father, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude for the abundant harvest you have provided. As we see the fields filled with fruits and grains, we are reminded of your faithfulness and care.

Thank you for the seasons of planting and reaping, for the rain and sunshine, and for the hands that have worked diligently to bring forth this bounty. We ask that you bless the food we gather, and may it nourish our bodies as your Word nourishes our souls. Help us to remember those who are in need and to share our blessings generously. May we always be mindful of your provision and give thanks in all circumstances. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

A Celtic Prayer Welcoming Autumn

The earth is the Lord's

And all that is upon it

Created and creative things

Fruit and Fruitfulness

Springtime and Summer

Seedtime and harvest

For the promise of harvest

contained within a seed

we thank you.

For the oak tree

within an acorn

The bread

within a grain

The apple

within a pip

The mystery of nature

gift wrapped

for us to sow

we thank you.

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.

We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.

Creator God, who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,
sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled,
mouths fed.

And, as your good earth rests
through winter's cold embrace,
we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by Spring's first touch.

We pray now in silence for all who are going through the seasons
of life...Hear us, as we prayer in the strong name of the Trinity,
praying together as our Lord taught saying ..." **Our Father...**"

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

Charge and benediction

Go forth into the world with open hands. May the God who colors the autumn trees fill your heart with wonder, give you patience in the seasons of waiting, and bring you safely to His eternal harvest. **Amen.**

Postlude *Let All Things Now Living*

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