



**An Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 22, 2023, at 7 PM**

Prelude:

Now Thank We All Our God, arr. Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

Welcome

Rev. Vikki Clayton

Thanksgiving Call to Worship

Rev. Karen Davis

All stand as you are able.

L: As we gather, God's presence can be felt.

P: Hallelujah! The Creator is here!

L: In drawing together, we find Jesus' heart.

P: Hallelujah! Christ is here!

L: As we share the fullness of our lives, our unity strengthens us, so we may change the world.

P: Hallelujah! The Holy Spirit is here!

L: Let this moment be a foretaste of God's Kingdom, a glimpse at redeemed creation.

P: Hallelujah! God is here!

Opening Hymn:

Come, ye thankful people, come

Hymn 290

Collect of The Day

Rev. Dr. Anita Gould

Lector: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Lector: Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

All seated..

A Reading from: Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Rev. Dr. Jalene Chase

Moses said to all Israel: For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions.

He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65

Rev. Dr. Jalene Chase

Let us read the psalm responsively by half verse.

- 1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; *
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- 2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, *
because of their transgressions.
- 3 Our sins are stronger than we are, *
but you will blot them out.
- 4 Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there! *
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the
holiness of your temple.
- 5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation, *
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.
- 6 You make fast the mountains by your power; *
they are girded about with might.
- 7 You still the roaring of the seas, *
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.
- 8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at
your marvelous signs; *
you make the dawn and the dusk to
sing for joy.
- 9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.
- 10 You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.
- 11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its
increase.

12 You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.

14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

The Epistle

Rev. Dr. Nick Works

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

"He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

He who supplies seed to the Sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem: *Be Still*, Karen Marrolli

All stand as you are able.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 17:11-19

Mr. Alfred Jacobs, Agape AME

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Hymn of Preparation *We gather together*

Hymn 433

All seated.

Sermon

Rev. Emily Hart

Litany of Thanksgiving

Rev. Vikki Clayton

L: Let us give thanks to God, our Creator, for all His gifts, so freely bestowed upon us. For the beauty and wonder of your creation, on earth and sky and sea,

P: We thank you, Lord.

L: For all that is gracious in the lives of both men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

P: We thank you, Lord.

L: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

P: We thank you, Lord.

L: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

P: We thank you, Lord.

L: For health and strength to work and leisure to rest and play,

P: We thank you, Lord.

L: For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

P: We thank you, Lord.

L: For all valiant seekers of truth, liberty, and justice,

P: We thank you, Lord.

L: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

P: We thank you, Lord.

ALL: Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus, Our Lord. To Him, be all praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

The Offertory Hymn:

'Tis the gift to be simple

Hymn 554

All stand as you are able.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above the Heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Pastoral Benediction

Rev. Emily Hart

Choral Benediction “*A Clare Benediction*”, arr. John Rutter

Taking the Light Into the World

Salem UMC, Brookeville

Postlude: *Postlude Fantasia*, arr. Robert W. Thygeron

Please join us for refreshments downstairs in the undercroft after the service.

We are delighted that you chose to worship with us tonight, this most special of nights, the eve of our national day of giving thanks to Our Lord and Creator for all that He has given us in this past year. We rejoice that we can all be together to praise and thank God for His abundant blessings!

Tonight's offering will be given to Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville, MD. Please give what you can and know that all donations will be greatly appreciated!

We are grateful for the talents and gifts of the pastors, musicians, choirs, vocalists, sound operators, and staff of the nine churches that joined together to present tonight's service of thanksgiving.

Agape African Methodist Episcopal Church

– Rev. Dr. Anita Gould, Mr. Alfred Jacobs

Goshen United Methodist Church

– Rev. Dr. Jalene Chase

Salem United Methodist Church (Brookeville, MD)

– Rev. Emily Hart

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Laytonsville

– Rev. Vikki Clayton

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Brighton

– Rev. Vikki Clayton

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

– Rev. Will Newton

and

South Damascus Charge of the UMC, consisting of

Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church

Salem United Methodist Church (Germantown, MD)

Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

– Rev. Karen Davis, senior pastor,

– Rev. Dr. Nick Works, associate pastor

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
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