

Sunday, November 19, 2023
Thanksgiving Sunday

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

“Raise a Song of Gladness” Taizé

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Call to Worship

Let us gather together in thanksgiving to God.

For God has made us and the earth that nurtures us.

Let us gather together in gratitude to one another.

For we are the bearers of divine blessing for the earth and its people.

Let us praise God; let us join hands; let us reach out in care and courage so that the goodness of life may be for all God’s children. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped”

New Century Hymnal #22

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Prayer for Illumination and Thanksgiving

Wonderous Spirit, we raise to you our joyful noise: words of thanksgiving, songs of praise! Rhythm-setter of tides and seasons, from the depths of the waters to the heights of the land, creation declares your greatness. You dapple our days with sun and our nights with starlight. Unceasingly flow your love and peace. May your goodness transform us, deepening our gratitude for the beauty around us, the kindness among us, the bread broken for us. Lead us, we pray, in blessing the lives of others, so that all your world may have reason to rejoice. Amen.

Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth” by F.S. Pierpoint

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Scripture

Psalm 104:1-34

Jan Lewyn

***Hymn**

“O How Glorious, Full of Wonder”

New Century Hymnal #558

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*During the hymn, children and youth are welcome to leave for Sunday School
over in the Friendship Hall*

Sermon

“God’s Abundance Overflows”

Rev. Abby Gackenheimer

Music of Reflection

Joys and Concerns

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.

Prayer Response ***“Hear My Prayer”*** by Moses Hogan

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A Moment for Stewardship

Pamela Hochstetter

Call to Offering

The scriptures tell us to make a joyful noise; to come into God’s presence with singing and give thanks and bless God’s name. This we can do! We can thank God for the bounty we have received and we can return to God a portion of our blessing. We need only to be joyful in our thanksgiving.

Offertory

****Doxology*** *Pilgrim Hymnal #515* **[alternative words]*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him [God], all creatures here below

Praise Him [God] above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father [Creator], Son [Christ], and Holy Ghost. Amen

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*** Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

With thanksgiving and joy, we have returned to you a portion of the blessings you have given to us. Bless us and our gifts for your purposes. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Now Thank We All Our God”

New Century Hymnal #419

Contributor: Martin Rinkart, 1647. Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858. © public domain.

Benediction

Benediction Response ***“May the Lord Go with Thee”*** *anonymous*

Postlude

Liturgy:

Call to Worship: Maren C Tirabassi, *Touch Holiness: Resources for worship*. Edited by Ruth C Duck and Maren C Tirabassi.

Prayer: Ann B. Day from *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship* Edited by Maren C Tirabassi and Mari I Tirabassi

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

Ps. 68:4, 32; Ps. 105

Joachim Neander, 1680

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
 cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - joice - or - gan and
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice - join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

Joachim Neander was a dedicated, caring pastor of the Reformed Church in Düsseldorf, Germany. This was the most familiar of his fifty-six hymn texts, which were published along with many of his original tunes in 1680, the year of his death.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.
 Erneueren Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665
 Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

558

*Curtis Beach, 1958, rev. 1980; alt.**Ps. 8*

1 O how glo - rious, full of won - der is your name o'er all the earth,
2 When we see your lights of heav - en, moon and stars, your power dis - played,
3 You have set us in com - mu - nion with the won - ders of your hand,
4 O how won - drous, O how glo - rious is your name in ev - ery land,

God, who wrought cre - a - tion's splen - dor, bring - ing suns and stars to birth!
Who are we that you should love us, crea - tures that your hand has made?
Made us fly with ea - gle pin - ion, pil - grims o - ver sea and land.
God, whose pur - pose shines be - fore us toward the goal that you have planned!

Rapt in rev - erence we a - dore you, mar - veling at your mys - tic ways.
Born of earth, yet full of yearn - ing, mix - ture strange of good and ill,
Soar - ing spire and ru - ined cit - y, these our hopes and fail - ures show.
Yours the will our hearts are seek - ing, con - scious of our hu - man need.

Hum - bly now we bow be - fore you, lift - ing up our hearts in praise.
From your ways so of - ten turn - ing, yet your love does seek us still.
Teach us more of hu - man pit - y, that we in your im - age grow.
Spir - it in our spir - it speak - ing, make us yours, O God, in - deed.

United Church of Christ minister Curtis Beach submitted this hymn to the editorial committee of the Pilgrim Hymnal (1958). It was one of two psalm paraphrases by Beach to be accepted. The hymn was also included in The Hymnal of the United Church of Christ (1974).

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Traditional Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906
Alternate tune: HYMN TO JOY

Nun danket alle Gott

(Now Thank We All Our God)

Sir. 50:20–24; 39:35; Ps. 67

Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

1 Nun dank - et al - le Gott, mit Herz - en, Mund und Händ - en,
 1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,

der gro - sse Ding - e tut an uns und al - len End - en;
 Who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es,
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,

der uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kind - es - bein - en an
 Who, from our par - ents' arms, has blessed us on our way
 And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,

un - zäh - lig viel zu gut bis hier-her hat ge - tan.
 With count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 And free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

For much of his life, German Lutheran pastor and musician Martin Rinkart ministered to the walled city of Eisleben amidst the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. This hymn has become one of the most widely used hymns of the church.

Tune: NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.
 Johann Crüger, 1647
 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840