

# Thanksgiving Day Service

November 26, 2020

## Prelude:

“Now Thank We All Our God”  
*from Cantata 79*

*J. S. Bach (1685 - 1750)*

## Opening Hymn:

“We Gather Together”

Hymn #433

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing:  
sing praises to his Name; he forgets not his own.
2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning:  
thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glory be thine!
3. We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still our defender will be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

## Welcome and Announcements:

*Officiant:* O God, make speed to save us.

**People:** O Lord, make haste to help us.

## Psalm 65

**Y**ou are to be praised, O God, in Zion; \*  
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, \*  
because of their transgressions.

Our sins are stronger than we are, \*  
but you will blot them out.

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.

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.

You make fast the mountains by your power; \*  
they are girded about with might.

You still the roaring of the seas, \*  
the roaring of their waves,  
and the clamor of the peoples.

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.

You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous; \*  
the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, \*  
for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; \*  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

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

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

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

## **The Lessons**

### **A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**     *2 Corinthians 9:6-15*

**T**he 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 Sermon**

The Reverend Diane Tomlinson

## Meditation:

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Hymn #290

1. Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest-home:  
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest-home.
2. All the world is God’s own field, fit unto his praise to yield;  
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown:  
first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:
4. Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest-home;  
gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide;  
come, with all thy angels come, raise the glorious harvest-home.

## The Prayers

**O**ur 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

## The Collect of the Day: *(Officiant)*

**A**lmighty 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 for ever. **Amen.**

**People: Thanks be to God**

## Thanksgiving Toast

## Closing Hymn:

“God of our fathers”

Hymn #718

1. God of our fathers, whose almighty hand  
leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.
3. From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence,  
be our strong arm our ever sure defense;  
thy true religion in our hearts increase,  
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.
4. Refresh thy people on their toilsome way,  
lead us from night to never-ending day;  
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

**Postlude:**

Chorale Improvisation “Now Thank We All Our God”

*Sigfrid Karg-Elert*  
(1877 - 1933)

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