

Dorchester United Church Thanksgiving Worship Service October 11, 2020

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of harvest, God of life,
we gather here to say thank-you for many things.
God of presence in times of change and times of stability,
we gather here to seek the comfort of knowing you are with us.
God of bread, product of seeds scattered over the fields,
fill us with hope in this hour
From street to street, town to town, nation to nation,
God's people gather together in praise and worship.
In familiar surroundings and in foreign surroundings,
God's people gather to sing and pray. In a changing world,
We gather to give thanks to God who is constantly there.

Hymn: For a Thousand Tongues to Sing Voices United # 326

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and king,
The triumphs of His grace!

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin,
He sets the pris'ner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

He speaks, and, list'ning to His voice,
New life the dead receive,
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease—
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Glory to God, and praise and love
Be ever, ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The church in earth and heav'n.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION/ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, you challenge us to give thanks throughout our lives.
But sometimes we find it hard to remember what we have to be thankful for.
As the world changes we find ourselves strangers in a strange land,
more ready to lament than to sing songs of praise and thankfulness
Forgive our short-sightedness,
our tendency to focus on what we have lost,
our blindness to our abundance....
time of reflection...God has gifted us with many things.
One of them is great, free-flowing forgiveness.
We are reminded always of God's ever-present and all-forgiving Love.
Thanks and praise to God! Amen.

Hymn: "Grateful" More Voices 182

I give thanks, for all You have done
And I will sing, of Your mercy and Your love
Your love is unfailing
Lord, I am grateful
When I was down, You brought me out
You set my feet, on higher ground
So here I stand, You are my God
Your faithfulness, my Solid Rock
I give thanks, for all You have done
And I will sing, of Your mercy and Your love
Your love is unfailing
Lord, I am grateful
I give thanks, for all You have done
I won't forget, all the battles You have won
Your love is unfailing
Lord, I am grateful

And as we lift our hands up
The heavens open, heavens open
So let our lives declare the love
Our God has spoken over us
And as we lift our hands up
The heavens open, heavens open
So let our lives declare the love
Our God has spoken over us
I give thanks, for all You have done
And I will sing, of Your mercy and Your love
Your love is unfailing
Lord, I am grateful
I give thanks, for all You have done
I won't forget, all the battles You have won
Your love is unfailing
Lord, I am grateful

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God we call...throughout the ages people have called out in their times of crisis.
O God we call...those under the thumb of oppression, those struggling under the weight of life.
O God we call...seeking to know that we are heard, seeking relief in our hardship.
From deep inside we yearn for you. We ask you to break into the world, to set things right.
We are not alone...we trust that you hear the cries of your people.
We are not alone...with thanksgiving we celebrate your constant presence, your assurance that the arc of the universe continuously bends toward justice.
We are not alone...God of life, we thank you for the gifts you share with us, we thank you for changing the world so that all your children might flourish.
And so in hope and thanksgiving we echo the old prayer: That all will be well, all manner of thing be well.
Someday. Amen.

VU 509 "Here I Am, Lord"

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky,
I Have Heard My People Cry.
All Who Dwell In Dark And Sin,
My Hand Will Save.
I Who Made The Stars Of Night,
I Will Make Their Darkness Bright.
Who Will Bear My Light To Them?
Whom Shall I Send?
Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

I, The Lord Of Wind And Flame
I Will Tend The Poor And Lame.
I Will Set A Feast For Them,
My Hand Will Save
Finest Bread I Will Provide,
Till Their Hearts Be Satisfied.
I Will Give My Life To Them,
Whom Shall I Send?
Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The candle flame reminds us of the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in our midst
As we gather in its light may we always remember to give thanks for the gifts God has given us.

VU 506 "Take my life and let it be"

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3 Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart; it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

He Has Made Me Glad The Maranatha! Singers

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad
He has made me glad, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for he has made me glad
He has made me glad, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for he has made me glad

(Children's Time)

What do you see A doughnut, It has a hole in it because that helps it to cook better all the way around.
Doughnuts are like life. We can appreciate all the good things around us, and not focus our attention on what we don't have. The Israelites were released from slavery but didn't appreciate their freedom, they just kept thinking about how they had better food to eat before. It is sad when we give all our attention to the hole in the middle, or what we don't have than focusing on what we do have and being thankful.

Children's Prayer:

Dear God. We have been blessed by you in so many ways. Help us, through your Holy Spirit, to focus our thoughts on what do have and not on what we don't have. Thank you for your love and your life known to us through your son Jesus – in his name we pray, Amen!

Scriptures Deuteronomy 8:7-18 New Revised Standard Version

7 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, 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, 9 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. 10 You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. 11 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. 12 When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, 14 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, 15 who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous[a] snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, 16 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. 17 Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” 18 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.

Psalm 65

Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty
To the leader. A Psalm of David. A Song.

1 Praise is due to you,
O God, in Zion;
and to you shall vows be performed,
2 O you who answer prayer!
To you all flesh shall come.
3 When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.
4 Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
to live in your courts.
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your
house,
your holy temple.
5 By awesome deeds you answer us with
deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.
6 By your[a] strength you established the
mountains;
you are girded with might.
7 You silence the roaring of the seas,

the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.
8 Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are
awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the
evening shout for joy.
9 You visit the earth and water it,
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.
10 You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.
11 You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

New Revised Standard Version

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 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. 9 As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness[a] endures forever.”

10 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.[b] 11 You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; 12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 13 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, 14 while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

SERMON: It Would Be Enough Dayeinu

Closing Hymn: MV 138

My love colours outside the lines,
Exploring paths that few could ever find
And takes me into places where I've never been
before
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

Refrain:

We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to
drown, body and soul need a soaking from time to
time.
And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not
prepared to
die and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

2. My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places where I've never been
before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

Refrain

3. My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun come in and shine,
I want to walk beyond the boundaries, where I've
never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.
Refrain

Benediction and Closing Prayer

Prayer: Splitting Rocks in the Wilderness (Ps. 78:15) Written by Rev Erin Counihan

You split rocks open in the wilderness.
You called water to pour forth from the fissures.
To quench your people's thirst.
To calm your people's complaints.
To teach us how to trust.

You.
You split rocks open in the wilderness.
You split rocks open in my heart.
You called living water from there, too.
To change your people's path.
To fuel your people's journeys.
To teach me how to believe.

You.
You are splitting rocks open in our communities.
You are calling forth the rush of our voices.
To flush out your people's complacency.
To bubble up your people's creativity.
To teach us how to act out in faith. (Again)

You.
You are splitting and pouring and helping and
churning,
You are rumbling and turning and raining and
charging,
and we are trying to follow along.
Not understanding.
Not knowing.
And, yes, complaining.

And You.
You don't give up.
So, go ahead.
We're here.
Listening.
Learning.
Breaking.
Trying.
For You.