

October 13, 2024
Thanksgiving Sunday

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" George J. Elvey Arr. Victor Labenske

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made the heavens and the earth.

We glorify our God with songs of thanksgiving and joy.

We will not forget all that God has done,

**Feeding our ancestors in the faith with manna,
quenching our thirst with streams of living water.**

We will not forget to speak the simple words,

"Thank you!" to our God.

As we sing and shout together of God's amazing love.

Hymn VU 519 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell, 1866.

Music: Johann Steurlein, 1575, harmon. Healey Willan, 1958. Words and Music in the Public Domain.
Harmony © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise,
with joyful hearts and voices your hallelujahs raise;
by whom the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest a joyful song of love.

God makes the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom in spring,
the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.

God fills them all with fullness, all things with large increase,
and crowns the year with goodness, with plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar all things God's goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save:
your hearts lay down before him when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.

Opening Prayer

Creator God, you crown the year with your goodness. You bless us with all that we have, yet we take it for granted or presume it is owed to us. May we who have been blessed recognize our blessings and always give thanks to you. You bless us abundantly, yet we hoard our wealth. May we who have been blessed share your abundance with others. You bless us with all of creation, yet we abuse sky, field and stream, and seek to deny other creatures access to food and habitat. May we who have been blessed recognize your gifts and treat them with reverence. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "A Thanksgiving Hodie" Words and Music by Joseph M. Martin

A New Creed VU 918

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 227 "For the Fruit of All Creation" Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1970. Music: Welsh folk melody, ca. 1784.
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For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are
Sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and
despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the goods we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still
confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Psalm 26

**We praise the One who gave the growth,
with voices full and strong.**

When God brought Zion's captives home,
it seemed to us like a dream.

**But then our mouths were full of laughter,
and our tongues uttered shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations:

"God has done great things for them."

**Truly God has done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoice.**

**We praise the One who gave the growth,
with voices full and strong.**

Restore our fortunes, O God,
as streams refresh the Negev.

**Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy.**

Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed for sowing,

**shall come home with songs of joy,
bringing in their sheaves.**

**We praise the One who gave the growth,
with voices full and strong.**

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Instructions concerning Prayer

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

*The other readings for this week are: **Joel 2:21-27; Matthew 6:25-33***

Meditation: "Thankful? Thankful for what?"

Hymn VU 522 "Give Thanks, My Soul, for Harvest" Words: William Watkins Reid, Sr., 1960.

Music: Meiningisches Gesangbuch 1693, harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847. Music in the Public Domain.

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Give thanks, my soul, for harvest, for store of fruit and grain;
but know the owner gives so that we may share again.

Where people suffer hunger, or little children cry,
with gifts from God's rich bounty may thankfulness reply.

Give thanks, my soul, for riches of woodland, mine, and hill;
but know that gold and timber are the Creator's still.
God lends to us, as stewards, abundance we might share,
and thus provide earth's children the blessing of God's care.

Give thanks, my soul, for labours, that strength and days employ;
but know the Maker's purpose brings toil as well as joy.
Show forth, O God, your purpose; direct our will and hand
to share your love and bounty with all in every land.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Holy One, you created a richly abundant world, with plenty for all. We offer our gifts not only as a way of saying "Thanks", but also to ensure the fair and just distribution of your blessings with all. Our tithes and our offerings will be received.

Offertory Hymn VU 538 "For the Gift of Creation" Words and Music: Steve Garnaas-Holmes, 1991.
Words & Music © 1991 Abingdon Press. OneLicense.net A620168 CCLI 11438349

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Prayer of Dedication

Extravagant God, you yield abundant fruit for all to share, and invite us into your chamber to feast and celebrate. As we present our gifts, fill us with your passion to feed the world, that, leaving no one poor or hungry, all may dwell with you in peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, presider over the affairs of people and nations,
move us to thanksgiving:

not because of what we have,
not because of present blessing,
not because of your continuing providence,
not because of the moment,
not because of the eternity of salvation; but because of whose we are.

Let our thanksgiving be expressed:

not only in feasting, but in sharing;
not only in passive enjoyment, but in active service;
not only in annual observance, but in daily attitude.

And because your concern for wholesome living embraces every person upon the earth, we pray for ourselves and others:

For your church, in all of its diversity and variety, especially Mount Elgin United Church
And their spiritual leader Lori Minler.

For our leaders, political, ecclesiastical, and others....
grant them your wisdom and compassion.

For those who are caught as bystanders in acts of aggression and violence, military and otherwise,
especially the people of the Middle East, keep them safe from harm and grant them courage.

For all our brothers and sisters with whom we share this world, especially the people of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

For those who mourn the loss of relationships through the death of loved ones, especially the friends and family of Leighton Coatsworth, Bill Greason and Ruth Laing, grant them comfort and strength.

For those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially and their loved ones, and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts... grant them comfort and strength, courage and healing.

We gather all of these prayers together and lift them to you, in the name of the one who taught us to pray, saying,

**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 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,

forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU 242 "Let All Things Now Living" Words: Katherine K. Davis, 1939. Music: Welsh folk melody.

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Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Commissioning

May God,
who clothes the lilies of the fields, & feeds the birds of the sky,
who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water,
who multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water into wine,
**lead us, feed us, and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator,
to whom we offer praise and thanksgiving, now and forever.**

May it be so.

Amen.

Response: VU 298 “When You Walk from Here” Words & Music: Linnea Good, 1991.
Words & Music © 1991 Borealis Music. OneLicense.net A620168

When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God’s humble care.

Postlude: “Now Thank We All Our God” Johann Crueger Arr. Victor Labenske

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **study group** meets Wednesdays at 2 p.m. until October 30.

The **2024-2025 Salt of the Earth** calendar is now available to order. Please let Rev. Mark know if you want one so we can combine orders to save money!

Frozen Fruit Pies are now available for order. Large pies are \$14, small pies are \$7. You can sign up (name, phone number, and order) on the sheet in the lower hall, email dorchesterUC@gmail.com call 519-268-3154, or contact Carol Reid or Brenda Olejnik. Pickup will be Saturday, November 30, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Cross Country Check-In! All are invited to join an informal, thoughtful national meeting on October 22 at 6:00 p.m. ET with the General Secretary, the Rev. Michael Blair, and guests from the General Council Executive—LIVE ONLINE. They want to hear from the church across the country so they can prepare for the November General Council Executive meetings and beyond. Everyone is welcome. Registration is now open at <https://churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=221>

Fishbowl: Cross-Generational Discussion. ARWRC is holding an online discussion between youth (teens to twenty-somethings) and elders (45+) to better understand one another and their context within the church. To learn more, go to <https://arwrcucc.ca/youth-and-elders-fishbowl-discussion/>

LECTIONARY READINGS:

October 20 – Twenty-second after Pentecost – Proper 24

Job 38:1-7, (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45