

Sunday October 12, 2025

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 23 – Creation Time 6 - Thanksgiving

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:

Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

Be joyful and sing as we gather to worship God!

Let the whole world sing praise to God!

We know that the One who made us is God!

We are God's people, and God is our shepherd!

God is good! God's love and faithfulness last forever!

Let the whole world sing praise to God!

Hymn VU 218 “We Praise You, O God” Words: Julia Cory, 1902. Music: Netherlands melody, 1626;
Harmonized by Edward Kresmer, 1877. Words, Music, and Harmonization in the Public Domain.

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Opening Prayer (unison)

The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say, Thank You!

The hills and valleys are filled with colour, and we say, Thank You!

The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say, Thank You!

Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say, Thank You!

Our life is filled with love of family and friends, and we say, Thank You!

We fill this house of God with our voices, saying, Thank You!

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you,
O God, as we enter into this service of thanksgiving and praise.**

Ministry of Music: “Let Every Thankful Heart” Words and Music by Patrick Mock (ASCAP).
Quoting St. George Windsor. Arr. by Douglas Nolan (BMI)

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.
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn VU 220 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” Words: Joachim Neander, 1680;
English trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863. Music: Stralsund Gesangbuch 1665.
Words, English Translation, and Music in the Public Domain.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear: brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen how all you needed has been
met by God’s gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who out of love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
 All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
 Let the Amen sound from God's people again:
 gladly with praise we adore him.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

RESPONSIVE READING: Deuteronomy 26-:1-3, 5b-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

Collection of Tithes and Offerings

You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him,
"Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us."

offering is placed on the communion table

"A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down to Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me."

You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Psalm 100 VU 820 "Make a Joyful Noise" Words and Music: Linnea Good, 1991; arr. David Kai, 1994.
 Words and Music © 1992 Borealis Music.
 Arrangement © 1994 David Kai. CCLI 11438349

Make a joyful noise all the earth!
 Worship your God with gladness.
 Make a joyful noise all the earth.
 Come to this place with a song!

Know that your God has made you.
 Know it's to God we belong.
 And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
 Worship your God with a song!

Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

Enter these gates, thanksgiving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the Holy Name.
Worship your God with a song!

Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song!

Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

Scripture: John 6:25-51

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away, for I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

*The other lectionary readings for this week is: **Philippians 4:4-9***

Sermon: "Giving Thanks"

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 good 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 Respond To God's Grace

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

God, you are our creator and our sustainer.

We give you our thanks and praise for all of the blessings of this life.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for splendours seen and unseen.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together;

for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

For work to do and strength to work; for comradeship of labour;
for exchanges of good humour and encouragement.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one;
for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling frankness;
for their sudden sympathies.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out values;
for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

For growing up and for growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience;
for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases;
for preserving us in temptation and danger.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

For the church into which we have been called; for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament;
for our life together in the Lord.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;
who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks;

Especially for your Son, Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again;
for our hope in him; for the joy of serving him.

Gracious God, we give you our thanks as we pray the words that Jesus taught us, 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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

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

Music: Meiningisches Gesangbuch 1693; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847.

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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.

Commissioning and Benediction

May the broad expanse of God’s love
and the abundances of His riches in glory
shape your perspective on your own life and needs,
including those things which disappoint you.

May the eyes of your heart be open
to all the blessings which surround you;
may this awareness produce a harvest of generosity in your spirit.

May thankfulness rise up within you,
not just during this short season,
but day after day, from early morning until you lie down at night.

May your prayers reflect gratitude,
while also acknowledging the needs of others
whose situations are different than your own.

And, may the thoughts of Jesus fill your mind,
the hunger for God drive your soul,
and the love of the Holy Spirit guide your every word and deed.

Amen.

Sung Response: “Go Now in Peace” Words and music: Don Bessig and Nancy Price.
Words and music © 1988 Harold Flammer Music
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Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there supporting us with love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.

Postlude: “Now Thank We All Our God” Johanne Creuger. Arr. Victor Labenske

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Organ Recital Series: From Buxheim to Bach A series of four recitals will take place at Metropolitan United Church (London) at 12:15 p.m., followed by a light lunch at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, October 7, October 28, November 18, and January 27. A freewill offering will be received.

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Lectionary Readings:

October 19, Nineteenth after Pentecost, Proper 24

Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8