

OCEAN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
67 Central Ave., Ocean View DE 19970
NOVEMBER 23, 2021
Thanksgiving Service



SILENT MEDITATION

*O Thou who by thy touch give form
To all things and their polity,
Whose sight is light to all, draw thanks
From us, as we draw breath from thee.*

*Wendell Berry, **Sabbath 9**, 2009*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC / SILENT MEDITATION

PLAYING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let the nations be glad, and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity, and guide the nations upon earth.

C: Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

L: The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

C: Let all the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

ALL: Let us offer our God our thanks, our praise, and our worship!

*HYMN - 336:

We Gather Together

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.

GATHERING PRAYER

*William Barclay, in **Acceptable Words**, p. 102 (pluralized)*

Let us pray; Thank you, O God, for all the help you have given us today. Thank you for keeping us safe all through today; helping us to do our work through today; giving us strength to conquer our temptations all through today. Thank you for our homes, and all they have been to us; our loved ones and all the circle of those most dear; our friends and comrades with whom we have worked and talked. Thank you for any kindness we have received; any help that was given us; any sympathy that was shown to us. Help us to lay ourselves down to sleep tonight, with glad and grateful hearts. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION

Lord, we praise and thank you for the ability to experience Autumn, and its crisp air, and the anticipation of celebrations to come.

We praise and thank you for walking with us, in a time of darkness, and for your simple blessings you pour out every day; for your forgiveness, blessing and healing.

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

Direct our steps, O Lord. Create in us clean and steadfast hearts. Keep our eyes on you, O God; give us eyes to see as you see and hearts to love as you love. Strengthen us to show the fruits of your Spirit, even in challenges.

We commit to sharing your goodness with all those around us; to praising you and living in your ways. We give you our lives and our attitudes, especially those that drive us to despise or mistreat or ignore our brothers and sisters. We have not been attentive to you, and your call; help us to respond with love like yours, with service like yours, with sacrifice like yours.

Friends, it is God's will to remember our sins no more; it is Christ's love that has set us free. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace!

Thanks be to God!

POEM AND CENTERING MUSIC

*To pray you open your whole self
to sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
To one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more that you can't see, can't hear;
can't know except in moments steadily growing,
and in languages that aren't always sound,
but other circles of motion.*

*From **Eagle Poem**, by Joy Harjo*

(Instrumental: Blest Be the Tie That Binds)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

PSALM READING

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the lands!
² Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
³ Know that the LORD is God!
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him, bless his name!
⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3: 1-4, 12-15

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, ¹³forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2: 25-33

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And inspired by the Spirit^[a] he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word;
³⁰for mine eyes have seen thy salvation
³¹which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to thy people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him;

L: The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Seeing God's Salvation

POEM

John Masefield

*O Christ who holds the open gate,
O Christ who drives the furrow straight,
O Christ, the plow, O Christ, the laughter,
Of holy white birds flying after,
Lo, all my heart's field red and torn,
And thou wilt bring the young green corn,
The young green corn forever singing;
And when the field is fresh and fair
Thy blessed feet shall glitter there.
And we will walk the weeded field,
And tell the golden harvest's yield,
The corn that makes the holy bread
By which the soul of man is fed,
The holy bread, the food unpriced,
Thy everlasting mercy, Christ.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from Our World Belongs to God, 31-33

Jesus stays with us in the Spirit, who renews our hearts, moves us to faith, leads us in the truth, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant. The Spirit sends God's people into worldwide mission; impels young and old, men and women, to go next door and far away into science and art, media and marketplace with the good news of God's grace. The Spirit goes before them and with them, convincing the world of sin and pleading the cause of Christ. The Spirit's gifts are here to stay, in rich variety – fitting responses to timely needs. We thankfully see each other as gifted members of the fellowship that delights in the creative Spirit's work. The Spirit gives more than enough to each believer for God's praise, and our neighbor's welfare. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer. Let us remember God's mercy, for God is gracious and compassionate.

We thank you for calling us to faith in Christ, for putting your Spirit within us, for giving us the mind of Christ, for gathering us into your church.

We thank you, Lord, for extending your grace to us, for calling us to a life of gratitude, for calling us to service in your kingdom.

Thanks be to God!

Let us give thanks to the Lord, who satisfies the thirsty, fills the hungry with good things, and heals the afflicted. Let us celebrate God's abundant goodness.

We thank you, gracious God, that you provide for all our needs, for the food on our tables, for the clothes on our bodies, for the beds we sleep in and for the dwellings that shelter us.

(if you have thanks or intercessions you wish to offer, please do so now)

Lord we praise you for all your gifts that go beyond our basic needs; for the people and pleasures you have given us to cherish, even if only for a time; for the conveniences and the wonders of modern life; for the beauties and treasures you bring into our lives.

Thanks be to you, O God! AMEN.

THE LORDS PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY – 606: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

****Please stand in body or in spirit***

DEDICATION

***HYMN – 643:**

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

CHARGE

*Malcolm Guite, **Thanksgiving**, from **Sounding the Seasons**, p. 60*

Thanksgiving starts with thanks for mere survival,
just to have made it through another year
with everyone still breathing. But we share
so much beyond the outer roads we travel;
our interweavings on a deeper level,
the modes of life embodied souls can share,
the unguessed blessings of our being here,
threads of connection no one can unravel.
So I give thanks for our deep coinherence,
inwoven in the web of God's own grace,
pulling us through the grave and gate of death.
I thank God for the truth behind appearance,
I thank God for the light in every face,
I thank God for us all, with every breath.

BLESSING

Now, friends, I entrust you to God, and to the message of God's grace; a message that is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance with all who are sanctified. Now may the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, and remain with you, this day and every day. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Participants in Thanksgiving Service

***Sister Loretta Primus
St. Ann's Catholic Church***

***Pastor Lora Eloise Henry Gordy
Zoar United Methodist Church***

***Kathy Rhodes
Church Musician
Ocean View Presbyterian Church***

***Kathy Sheetz
Member of Worship Committee
Ocean View Presbyterian Church***

***Judy Reich
Head of Greeters
Ocean View Presbyterian Church***

***Bob Wolf
Information and Technology
Ocean View Presbyterian Church***

***Don Bailey
Information and Technology
Ocean View Presbyterian Church***

Tomorrow; Barbara Crooker

*There will be sun, scalloped by clouds,
ushered in by a waterfall of birdsong.
It will be a temperate seventy-five, low
humidity. For twenty- four hours,
all politicians will be silent. Reality
programs will vanish from TV, replaced
by the "snow" that used to decorate
our screens when reception wasn't
working. Soldiers will toss their weapons
in the grass. The oceans will stop
their inexorable rise. No one
will have to sit on a committee.
When twilight falls, the aurora borealis
will cut off cell phones, scramble the internet.
We'll play flashlight tag, hide and seek,
decorate our hair with fireflies, spin
until we're dizzy, collapse
on the dew-decked lawn and look up,
perhaps for the first time, to read the long lines
of cold code written in the stars...*

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