



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Stewardship Sunday
Thanksgiving Sunday

November 21, 2021

Due to COVID precautions, we are asking everyone in the congregation to remain masked, and to enjoy singing the hymns and responses.

MEDITATION:

*"It seemed like a dream, too good to be true, when GOD returned Zion's exiles.
We laughed, we sang, we couldn't believe our good fortune . . .
So those who went off with heavy hearts will come home laughing,
With armloads of blessing."*

Psalm:126:1 and 6, The Message

PRELUDE: Adagio – Allegro (from *Sonata in F major*)

G. F. Handel

Guiomar Turgeon, violinist; John Finney, organist

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come home laughing and singing, rejoicing with armloads of blessing!
Let us pray.

All: **Gracious God, receive the thanksgivings which rise from our experience of trust that is deeper than human uncertainty, blessing more eternal than a feast and power that keeps company with pain. Amen.**

* HYMN: Come, O Thankful People, Come

St. George's Windsor

New Century Hymnal (black hymnal), #422

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Let us turn to the One by whose mercies we rise to a new day.

All: Holy God, while we are quick to call others to the ways of Christ, we are slow to do the same. We have been bold to demand generosity, mercy and forgiveness for ourselves yet hesitant to reach out to others with welcome, love and compassion. Forgive us and restore us to following in your way. Amen.

--silent confession--

One: All things, in heaven and on earth, are reconciled to God in Jesus Christ. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

* SUMMARY OF THE LAW

* GLORIA

Music by Alice Jordan

**Glory to God the Creator,
and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.**

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please be seated.

Reader: JoAnna McKinney

READING: Malachi 4:1-2a, *NRSV*

To those who become complacent and indifferent, Malachi proclaims that the love of a passionate God deserves the passionate response of faithfulness, integrity, purity, and justice in human relationships.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, *NRSV*

To correct a misunderstanding that believers were to wait passively for Jesus to return, Paul exhorts the young church in Thessalonica to be steadfast and proactive in their life and faith.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters do not be weary in doing what is right.

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: "Love is as Love Does"

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens

* HYMN: Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

Dennis

New Century Hymnal (black hymnal), #393

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO GOD

Invitation

As the offering plates are passed, please pass and sign the Friendship Register.

Offertory Concertato on *For the Beauty of the Earth* *Mark Hayes*

Chancel Choir

Guiomar Turgeon, violinist

The Hills Bells; Martha Stowell, Director

Susan Holm, Judy Nitsch, Beth Ross, Lucy O'Mara,

Ronee Skornik, Chris Stowell, Katie Stowell, Libby Zobel

* Doxology

Old Hundredth

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.

* Dedication of the Offering

Gracious God, All that we have is a gift from you, so we dedicate more than our money. We reinvest ourselves in response to your generosity towards us. Receive these pledges and gifts that the church may be empowered for Your service. Amen.

* HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God

Nun danket

New Century Hymnal (black hymnal), #419

* COMMISSION & BENECTION

Please be seated during the Postlude.

POSTLUDE: Allegro (from *Sonata in F major*)

Handel

Guiomar Turgeon, violinist; John Finney, organist

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

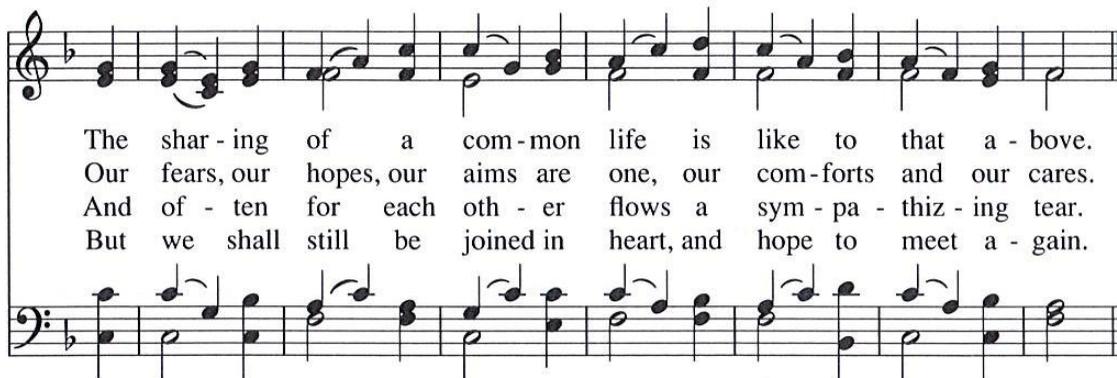
393

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.

Tune: DENNIS S.M.
Melody by Johann G. Nægeli (c. 1768-1836)
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

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Come, O Thankful People, Come

Exod. 23:16

St. 1, Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

St. 2, Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld, 1772; alt.

St. 3, composite of Alford and Barbauld; alt.

Descant

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

1 Come, O thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;
 2 All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,
 3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;

and for these our songs we raise, grate-ful vows and sol-lemn praise.

all is safe-ly gath-ered in as the win-ter storms be-gin;
 all the fruits in full sup-ply, rip-ened 'neath the sum-mer sky,
 and for these our songs we raise, grate-ful vows and sol-lemn praise.

Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

God our Mak - er does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
 All that spring with boun - teous hand scat - ters o'er the smil - ing land,
 Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 all that lib - eral au - tumn pours from its rich o'er - flow - ing stores,
 come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

This hymn represents the joining of two Thanksgiving hymns by nineteenth-century poet Henry Alford and eighteenth-century poet Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld. The creator of this combined form, which appeared early in the twentieth century, is not known.

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1858
 Descant: H. A. Chambers, 1931

Nun danket alle Gott

(Now Thank We All Our God)

Sir. 50:20–24; 39:35; Ps. 67

Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

1 Nun dank - et al - le Gott, mit Herz - en, Mund und Händ - en,
 1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun-teous God through all - our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,

der gro - sse Ding - e tut an uns und al - len End - en;
 Who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es,
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,

der uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kind - es - bein - en an
 Who, from our par - ents' arms, has blessed us on our way
 And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,

un - zäh - lig viel zu gut bis hier - her hat ge - tan.
 With count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 And free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

For much of his life, German Lutheran pastor and musician Martin Rinkart ministered to the walled city of Eisleben amidst the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. This hymn has become one of the most widely used hymns of the church.

Tune: NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.
 Johann Crüger, 1647
 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840