

**Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ**  
**Thanksgiving Sunday**  
**November 24, 2024**

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*\*\* Some rise to their feet, some rise in their hearts—please rise as you are able.*

**GATHERING BELL**

*At the sound of the bell, please silence yourselves and prepare for worship.*

**PRELUDE**

Shannon Jones, Martha Jones

*Come Ye Thankful People Come/Now Thank We All Our God, arr Robert D Vandall*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Paul Ashby

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

**Whoever you are...and wherever you are on life's journey...  
you are welcome here!**

**OPENING REFLECTION**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Julie Krueger

Thanksgiving can be the worst holiday of the year. With too many calories and time with relatives who cancelled out our votes, what is there to look forward to?

**Our Pilgrim spiritual ancestors gave thanks for simply surviving another year.**

But Thanksgiving can be so boring and the same teams seem to play every year. Why always the Lions and the Cowboys?

**Life is our opportunity to transcend boredom. Take time to enjoy your favorite foods,  
talk with children, play a game, express your love to those you have missed.**

Can we celebrate this gift called life even when the turkey is too dry, the gravy is barely warm, the stuffing is lumpy, and the pies are burnt on the bottom?

**Discover a heart of gratitude even if its gratitude for a heart that still beats.**

**\*\*HYMN**

*Come, O Thankful People Come*

New Century Hymnal 422

Come, O thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in as the winter storms begin;  
God our Maker does provide for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,  
all the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,  
All that spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,  
all that liberal autumn ours from its rich o'er flowing stores.

These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow,  
and for these our songs we raise, grateful vows and solemn praise.  
Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;  
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Paul

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Respond to each shared prayer request with "Peace, Shalom, Salaam."

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Julie

OFFERTORY

*A Thanksgiving Garden*, Joseph M Martin

Choir

**\*\*DOXOLOGY** (tune: *Nun Danket*)

**All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,  
To Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

**\*\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Julie

**God of Thanksgiving, we offer our thanks for the goodness of nature's bounty, the gift of friendship and the love we experience even in flawed families. Guide us to carry a spirit of gratitude into our homes, our friendships, our churches, our neighborhoods. Let Thanksgiving be a quality of spirit above and beyond a quantity of food. AMEN**

**\*\*HYMN NCH #421**

*We Gather Together*

All

We gather together to ask for God's blessing,  
to live in community, seeking God's will.  
We come now, as sisters and brothers, confessing  
the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,  
you call us, O Savior, to life that is new.  
You draw us away from self-centered complaining.  
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.

All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.  
You offer us freedom, to follow or stray,  
Empowering all by the hope you engender.  
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.

SCRIPTURE

*Psalm 100, Colossians 3:12-17*

Julie

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Serve the Lord with gladness;  
come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him; bless his name.

For the Lord is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

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Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to Abba God through him.

MESSAGE *"The Gratitude of Our Spiritual Ancestors"* Paul

\*\*HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God* New Century Hymnal 419, vs 1,2

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

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

\*\*BENEDICTION Paul

\*\* SUNG BENEDICTION *World Peace Prayer* All

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace,  
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
Let peace fill our universe!

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE

RECESSIONAL *Now Thank We All Our God*, arr Don Hustad Shannon

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### **Today's Worship Leaders**

preacher	Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
liturgist	Julie Krueger
musicians	Shannon Jones, Kam Macar

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### **Acknowledgements**

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