

Welcome to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ
Thanksgiving Sunday
November 23, 2025

**** *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

Arioso (Thanks Be to Thee), G.F. Handel

Ellen Bradley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. 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

Jean McArthur

Give thanks to God, for God is good.

God's love endures forever.

God's vast understanding gave life to the universe.

God's love endures forever.

God inspired the Pilgrims to seek a place to live out their faith free from persecution.

God's love endures forever.

God gave Native Americans a heart of compassion as they worked to save the Pilgrims from starvation.

God's love endures forever.

****HYMN NCH 422

Come, O Thankful People Come

All

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.

It is the Holy One who remembered us in our low estate, for God's steadfast love endures forever;
and rescued us from our foes, for God's steadfast love endures forever;
who gives food to all flesh, for God's steadfast love endures forever.
O give thanks to the God of heaven, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

MESSAGE "An Overdue Thank You for (?) 25 Million Pilgrim Children" Paul

****HYMN NCH, vs 1 & 2 *Now Thank We All Our God* All

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*, Sigfrid Karg-Elert Ellen

Today's Worship Leaders

preacher	Rev. Dr. Paul Ashby
liturgist	Jean McArthur
musician	Ellen Bradley

Acknowledgements

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