

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. June Boutwell, Senior Pastor
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

November 21, 2021

Thanksgiving Sunday

10:30 a.m.

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated
so the present can be lived abundantly.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Menold, Lector

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES AND THE ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT

THE PRELUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Mark Hayes/Felix Mendelssohn

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP Colossians 3:16

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is a time for giving thanks; a time to be mindful of the good that encircles us.

People: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

Leader: Friends and family encourage and care, and this community shows us God's loving ways.

People: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

Leader: We find a home in God's creation and the earth gives us good food to make us grow.

People: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

Leader: The seasons change, sunshine comes and goes, yet your loving care for us is eternal.

People: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

*OPENING HYMN

“We Praise You, O God” (bulletin page 4)

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, in this season of thanksgiving, remind us of the truth that every good and perfect gift comes from you. Holy One, we admit that even in our moment of gratitude, we fall short. We feel thankful for the gifts without acknowledging the Giver. We praise the beautiful creation around us without drawing close to the Creator. We sing about our salvation without glorifying you – our Savior. Forgive us. Remind us, O God, that any good we experience is only a glimpse of your character. That any blessing is only a foretaste of what you have in store for those who put their hope in you. And that even our lives– the very breath in our lungs– is only there because of your deep love for us. God, reveal yourself to us in every good gift, and give us eyes to see you in them. Hear now our silent prayers....

A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

PRAYER RESPONSE (Tune: 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.**

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Today as we count our blessings, we also keep in mind those who are in need of blessing in some way.

THE 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 103:1-5, 13-18,22 (The Message)

O my soul, bless GOD. From head to toe, I’ll bless his holy name! O my soul, bless GOD, don’t forget a single blessing! He forgives your sins—every one. He heals your diseases—every one. He redeems you from hell—saves your life! He crowns you with love and mercy—a paradise crown. He wraps you in goodness—beauty eternal. He renews your youth—you’re always young in his presence.

As parents feel for their children, GOD feels for those who fear him. He knows us inside

and out, keeps in mind that we're made of mud. Men and women don't live very long; like wildflowers they spring up and blossom, but a storm snuffs them out just as quickly, leaving nothing to show they were here. GOD's love, though, is ever and always, eternally present to all who fear him, making everything right for them and their children as they follow his Covenant ways and remember to do whatever he said.

Bless GOD, all creatures, wherever you are—everything and everyone made by GOD. And you, O my soul, bless GOD!

CHOIR ANTHEM "A Harvest of Thanksgiving" Thornhill/Nordmeyer

SERMON *Abundant Blessings*

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

Invitation

Offertory Anthem "We Thank You, Lord" Price/Besig

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God for all that love has done, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Offertory Prayer

CLOSING HYMN "Give Thanks" (sing 2 times) (CCLI #20285) (bulletin page 5)

THE BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE "May Our God" arr. by Paul Cerlius

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

THE POSTLUDE "Victor's Crown with Crown Him With Many Crowns" Smith/McDonald

MEDITATION: Henry Van Dyke, American author, educator, diplomat, and clergyman

Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse.

We Praise You, O God

420

Julia C. Cory, 1902; alt.

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,
 Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;

we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.
 to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Julia Bulkley Cady Cory wrote this hymn for Thanksgiving in 1902 at the invitation of the organist of New York's Brick Presbyterian Church who felt that the familiar words to Kremser contained too much militaristic imagery.

Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.
 Valerius, Nederlandsch Gedenklanck, 1626

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,

Give thanks be-cause He's giv - en Je - sus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

rich be - cause of what the Lord has done for us."

Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks, give thanks!
Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks, give thanks!