

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday, November 24, 2019

Prelude J. S. Bach
Nun danket alle Gott, BWV 657

Welcome

Introit M. Maple
All Praise to You, Creator God
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

One: Let us come to God with open hearts.

All: We come, to praise God with thanksgiving.

One: Bless God's holy name, the One who has made us.

All: We come into God's presence, singing songs of hope and gratitude.

One: God is good! God's faithfulness never ends.

All: We are God's people, seeking lives of praise and service.

Hymn 23 KREMSER
We Gather Together

We gather together to ask for your blessing, you chasten and hasten your will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. We praise your name, O God; forget not your own.

Beside us to guide us, O God, with us joining, ordaining, maintaining, redeeming our world; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; Lord, you were at our side; we trust in your word.

We all do extol you, our leader triumphant, and we pray that you still our defender will be. Let your con-

gregation escape tribulation. Your name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

In the midst of our thanksgiving, Gracious Giver, we pause to recall how we so often lose sight of the gifts of each day. We know that we forget about you. We forget to love you and one another. We forget to help our neighbors. We forget to thank you. Forgive us. Grant us clear minds to know you, renewed hearts to love you, strong hands to serve you. Guide us this day, this week, and always so that we live our whole life in thanksgiving to you, we pray...

(moments for silent reflections)

Words of Assurance

Anthem

9:00 We Praise You for the Sun A. Mahnke
Cherub Choir

10:30 Dance, Sing, Clap Your Hands D. E. Wagner
Explorer Choir

Children's Message and Lord's Prayer

Dee Buchanan

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn 526 ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere 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 pours from its rich o'er-flowing stores.

These to thee, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow; and for these our souls shall 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.

Pastoral Prayer

Generosity and Gratitude

Offertory P. Stopford
For the Beauty of the Earth

Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

¹⁴And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. ¹⁵See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circum-

stances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Sermon

Peter Wiley

Hymn 27

NUN DANKET

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.

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 in all grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God almighty now be given; to God, the three-in-one, who reigns in highest heaven, the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore, for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

Postlude

A. D. Miller

The Feast Is Ready

Service Notes:

Call to Worship adapted from *Bearers of Grace and Justice: Lectionary Liturgies for Year C.*, the Rev. Thom M. Shuman. © 2012 Thom M. Shuman.

Prayer of Confession adapted from "Thanksgiving Sunday: A Joyful Service of Hymn and Witness," Kevin Little. United Church of Canada