

WORSHIP GUIDE FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

- Dana Moody

THE MORNING WELCOME

- Dr. Tim Hazlett

CENTERING PRAYER (in unison)

- Dr. Tim Hazlett

Bounteous God, you have lavished your finest gifts on each one of us. We thank you for the many ways in which you have blessed our lives--with love, hope, friends, our church, and so many other things that we cherish. Help us be a blessing for others--that they may come to know you and rejoice in your love. Give us hearts of courage and confidence to step out into the world in service, bringing hope where there is doubt, peace where there is strife, love where there is discord. These things we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“We Gather Together” #131

1. 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.
3. We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

A PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING (responsively)

- Debbie Rippard

- L:** Today we make a joyful noise to you, O Lord. We come into your presence with singing, we worship you with gladness, we celebrate with joy as your entire creation gives you praise.
- P:** **The very mountains and hills are bursting into song, and all the trees of the field are clapping their hands! We praise you, God, we praise you!**
- L:** We know that you are our God. It is you who made us, and we are yours.
- P:** **We thank you for your precious gifts of faith in the Lord Jesus, love toward one another, the spirit of wisdom and the grace we see in the sacraments of baptism and holy communion.**
- L:** We praise you for giving us deep roots in this community, protection from danger and the support and fellowship of brothers and sisters in the faith.
- P:** **May we never forget that we are your people, the sheep of your pasture, and that we need you, our Good Shepherd, and one another.**
- L:** Good and gracious God, your steadfast love endures forever, as well as your faithfulness to all generations.
- P:** **Continue to bring healing to the ill, comfort to the grieving, direction to the lost, serenity to the anxious and justice to the oppressed.**

L: Make us into instruments of your peace, so that we may carry your love into the midst of hatred, and faith into places of despair and doubt.

P: **Inspire us always to be your grateful people, so that in every time and place we may give thanks to you and bless your holy name.**

L: With the confidence that comes from being children of God, we are now bold to pray as Jesus taught us ...

All: **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Give Thanks in Everything”

- Ensemble

SCRIPTURE READING

- Ephesians 1:15-23 (NIV)

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

THE RESPONSE TO THE SCRIPTURE READING

L: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

CONFIRMATION

“Thanks for Nothing”

- Dr. Tim Hazlett

CLOSING HYMN

“Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”; let the poor say,
“I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”; let the poor say,
“I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say,
"I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say,
"I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."
Give thanks, give thank, give thanks.

CLOSING PRAYER (in unison)

- Debbie Rippard

Dear God, thank you that you are a loving, gracious God. Thank you that you've offered us forgiveness and the gift of new life in you. Thank you that your love is perfect, it never fails, and that nothing can separate us from your love.

We pray that our lives would be filled and overflowing with the power of your love so we can make a difference in this world and bring honor to you. We ask for your help in reminding us that the most important things are not what we do outwardly, it's not based on any talent or gift, but the most significant thing we can do in this life is simply to love you and to choose to love others. Amen.

POSTLUDE

- Dana Moody

Sermon Notes for November 21, 2021

In his letter to the Ephesians Paul gives thanks for no material things at all, but rather he gives thanks for things that could not be seen. What specifically was he thankful for?

How does it compare to what you are thankful for this Thanksgiving?
