

November 21, 2021
Order of Worship
Grinnell United Church of Christ

As a safety precaution during COVID, please remain silent during the worship service (as in no congregant singing nor praying aloud). Thank you for helping to keep each other safe.

PRELUDE *Now Thank We All Our God*, arr. G. F. Kaufmann (1679-1735)
Thanks Be to Thee, G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

INVOCATION

In deep gratitude we come to worship God.
We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:
love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.

We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.
We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer. Amen

WELCOME and PASSING OF THE PEACE

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
The Peace of Christ be with you.... *(silently)* And also with you.

SCRIPTURE *Psalms 126; Joel 2:21-27*

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

HYMN NCH 422 *Come, O Thankful People, Come*
Words: Henry Alford, 1844 & Anna Barbauld, 1772
Music: Dutch melody, 16th century

1) 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.

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

3) 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.

SERMON *Matthew 6:25-33*

SILENT REFLECTION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

We pray for health and strength for *George Drake, Betty Anne Francis, Gene McCaw, Verlene Mitchell, Emily Pfitsch, and Gayle Strickler.*

We pray for comfort and peace for *Gayle Strickler, family and friends. Lois died September 29th. A memorial service for Lois will take place here at Grinnell UCC, **Saturday, December 4, 10:30am.***

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord, as You hung on a cross,
Your first thought was for others.
You forgave the ones who ridiculed and tortured You,
You accepted the criminal who hung beside You.
And it was You who made a mockery of the sign they placed above Your head.
For little did they know that they did indeed gaze at a king.

We don't need signs and labels to recognize Your power and Your authority, Lord.
It is because we have seen the unlikely become reality;
because we have witnessed You in the unexpected,
and because we believe in truths honed by a carpenter's son,
that we dare to hope, Lord, that Your kingdom has come among us
and continues to come, day after day,
among the poor and the lonely,
the sick and the weary,
the angry and the abused,
the warmongers and the peace seekers.

And so it is for those and others whose lives are touched
by grief and greed, injustice and injury, emptiness and endlessness
that we pray now,
trusting in the goodness and the grace
that retrieved lost sheep and wayward sons;
that consoled grieving mothers and weeping women at a tomb;
that fed aching stomachs and eager minds;
that soothed the open wounds of untouchables

and the throbbing scars of hatred;
that laid open itself to pain, rejection and abandonment
so that we might know healing, acceptance and belonging.

And if we catch only a glimpse
of Your mercy among the hardness of life,
if we can sense Your presence
only for a fleeting moment
in the busyness of life,
if we can witness that wholeness
happens among the brokenness of life,
then we will know
that Your kingdom has come
and we pray that Your will be done.
This day and always, for Jesus' sake
and in his name we pray, saying...

LORD'S PRAYER (*Inclusive Version*) (*Please pray silently*)

Blessed One, our Father and our Mother

Holy is your name.

May your love be enacted in the world.

May your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For all that we do in your love,

and all that your love brings to birth,

and the fullness of love that will be

are yours, now and forever. Amen.

GRATITUDE FOR OFFERING / DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly hosts

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

HYMN NCH 419 *Now Thank We All Our God*

Words: Martin Rinkart, 1647, alt.

Music: Johann Cruger, 1647; arr. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

1) 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.

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

3) 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.

BENEDICTION

As you go from here,
may you experience God's favor,
and rest in the peace that comes
from the One who is,
 who was,
 and who is yet to come;
To God be glory and power,
forever and ever. Amen.

POSTLUDE *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*, arr. Hugo Gehrke (1944)

ATTENTION: For everyone's safety, please exit the building quietly and in a timely manner and reserve socializing for outside the church building.

Liturgist: Ross Haenfler

Musicians: Treble Vocal Ensemble

Organist: Kenneth Davis

Pastor: Rev. Jessica Margrave Schirm

And throughout the month...

Worship Hosts: JoAnn Britton, Jeananne Schild

Chancel Flowers & Paraments: Sue Ramsey, Glenyce Conway, Sarah White, Oliva Wright, Karen Edwards

Mayflower Drivers: Rick Ramsey, Denny Conway, George Britton, Shane Estes, Jay Hansen

Worship Resources:

Invocation ~ posted on *The Presbyterian Church in Canada* website. <http://presbyterian.ca/>

Pastoral Prayer ~ written by Rev. Tina Kemp and posted on the Church of Scotland's Weekly Worship website.

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

Lord's Prayer ~ Copyright © 2003 Richard D. McCall, Associate Professor of Liturgy and Church Music, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Ma. Posted on the Worship Well website.