

Order of Service
October 8, 2023

Hymn: Come, you thankful people, come
VU 516

1

Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

2

All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3

For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take this harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offences purge away;
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

4

Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!

Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified,
in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

Welcome & announcements

- * Land Acknowledgment
- * Celebrations & Concerns
- * Birthdays & Anniversaries
- * Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to worship

In the middle of the soybean harvest, a farm family pauses to share sandwiches and a thermos of coffee by the side of the drainage ditch: Three generations quietly talking and laughing. and hoping

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

At the local hospital, a grandmother recovers from a stroke. She still struggles with words and her left side is weak. But in the room her grandchildren play with their toys and watch the hospital TV, and as she closes her eyes, it's almost like normal. Please God, let normal come.

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

A young couple are in a rush to finish their house cleaning because all their family are coming over for Thanksgiving dinner. It's the first time they've ever hosted anybody. They are nervous if there's enough food, if it's good enough, but their small apartment smells like home - a home they've always dreamed of.

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

It's his second year at university and he's getting used to it. But, he can't get home for Thanksgiving - just can't afford it. So he and some of his friends are going to a local United Church where they are having a Thanksgiving supper for free - and they're going to help serve and then share in the meal. It's not like home, but you make it what you can.

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

And so we find ourselves in familiar places this Thanksgiving Sunday. The world looks lovely: the trees aflame with colour - the air crisp, the neighbourhood decorated for Thanksgiving. It is one more time to be present before God: to truly give thanks for the many small things in life that give joy: family, a table filled with food, good health, a community filled with good

neighbours. And, yes, there are storms - the ups and downs of life - change and uncertainty. But being here, again, at this time of year reminds us: *that neither death nor life, nor angels or demons, nor present or future nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord*"

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

Family of God, from whom does our help come?

**Our help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

Psalm 124:8

Hymn: Bringing in the sheave

1.

Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness
Sowing in the noontide, and in the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come, rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Refrain:

*Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves.
We shall come, rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves.
We shall come, rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.*

2.

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze
By and by the harvest, and the labour ended,
We shall come, rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

3.

Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master
Tho' the loss sustain'd our spirit often grieves;
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,
We shall come, rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Prayer and confession

God of All Creation... *(Minister continues with Prayer)*

God of our lives, when we give thanks for your good gifts around us, we know that we enjoy an abundance many cannot even imagine. Yet we confess we do not always see the blessings in which we share. We worry about the future, if the

pandemic is coming back, whether we will have enough for our families to flourish. Forgive our fears of going without, and our failure to be grateful for how much goodness is already ours. Amen.

Assurance of pardon & 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 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Greeting Christ in All of Us - Passing the Peace

The Ministry of Music

Children's hymn: All things bright and beautiful

VU 291

Refrain:

All Things bright and beautiful

All Creatures Great and Small

All things wise and Wonderful

In Love God made them all

1

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings. R

2

The purpleheaded mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky; R

3

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:

God made them every one. R

4

The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall; R

5

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well. R

A time for all God's children

The Offering: We plough the fields, verse 3 & Chorus
VU 520

3

We thank you then, O Maker,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food;
accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts,
and, what from us you long for,
our humble, thankful hearts. R

All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.

Dedication of the Offering

Today's scripture: Exodus 16: 1-18 (ESV)

They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had

departed from the land of Egypt. And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord.” Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’” And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked towards the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. And the Lord said to Moses, “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

May God Bless to our understanding this reading of Holy Scripture
Amen

Pastoral prayer

Sermon: “*Comfort Food*”

Benediction

Closing hymn: Now thank we all our God

VU 236

I

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 mother's 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,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.

3

All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore