

Community Thanksgiving Service



Hosted by

Absecon United Methodist Church

Worship Leaders

Tina Brown, Absecon Presbyterian Church

Reverend Dave Ledford, Absecon United Methodist Church

Reverend Heidi Link, Reformation Lutheran Church

Father Terry O'Connor, St. Mark and All Saints Episcopal Church

Director of Music/Organist

Priscilla Cunningham

Community Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 22, 2022, 7 PM

Welcome to all worshiping with us this evening!

*Give thanks to God, who is good –
whose mercy endures forever. (Psalm 136:11)*

Prelude Great Is Thy Faithfulness arr. Douglas Wagner

Gathering of God's People

***Greeting**

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon the earth.

People: Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Leader: The earth has brought forth its increase; may God, our own God, bless us.

People: Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

***Opening Prayer**

People: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn No. 66**

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

Litany

Leader: For the beauty and wonder of all creation, in earth and sky and sea,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For all that is gracious in the lives of those who reveal the image of Christ,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For the brave and courageous who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, justice, and peace,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For the Communion of Saints, in all times and places,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: Above all, let us give thanks for the great promises and mercies given to us and to all the world in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

People: To Christ be praise and glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson – Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Moses said to all Israel: For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

Responsive Reading – Psalm 65

- 1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- 2 ***To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, because of their transgressions.***
- 3 Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you will blot them out.
- 4 ***Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there!
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.***
- 5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.
- 6 ***You make fast the mountains by your power;
they are girded about with might.***
- 7 You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.
- 8 ***Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your
marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.***
- 9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.
- 10 ***You prepare the grain,
for so you provide for the earth.***
- 11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

12 *You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.*

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.

14 *May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout
for joy and sing.*

Solo

My Tribute
Jim Caterson

Andraé Crouch

Second Lesson – 2 Corinthians 9:6-16

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you

glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God

***Gospel – Luke 17:11-19**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ!

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ!

Prayers of the People

Leader: Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all gifts so freely bestowed upon us:

a brief silence

For the beauty and wonder of all creation, in earth and sky and sea,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For all that is gracious in the lives of those who reveal the image of Christ,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

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Leader: For the brave and courageous who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

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Leader: For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, justice, and peace,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: For the Communion of Saints, in all times and places,

People: We thank you, Lord.

Leader: Above all, let us give thanks for the great promises and mercies given to us and to all the world in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

People: To Christ be praise and glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Leader: And now with the confidence of children of God, let us pray in the words that our Savior Christ has taught us...

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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

***Doxology**

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Closing Prayer**

People: Amen

***Sending Hymn No. 102**

Now Thank We All Our God

***Benediction**

Postlude

Come, Ye Thankful People Come

George J. Elvey

This evening's offering benefits the *South Jersey Center for Family Services Holiday Gift Project!* With our gifts, Family Services staff will purchase items most needed for the families in their care and for the children living in their safe housing programs. They are careful to purchase items in the children's favorite colors, sizes, and styles. 100% of our monetary donations will be used to purchase gifts for a child in need.

A Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!