

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
November 20, 2022



Thankfulness
1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Thought for Meditation: Gratefulness is the inner gesture of *giving* meaning to our life by *receiving* life as a gift. The deepest meaning of any given moment lies in the fact that it is given. Gratefulness recognizes, acknowledges, and celebrates this meaning. *David Steindl-Rast*

Prelude Now Thank We All Our God Manz

Welcome and Announcements Doug Marshall

Pastor Nominating Committee Update LaVonne Pelisari

Call To Worship Philippians 4:4-6 Terri Ludwig

L: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!

P: Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

L: Do not worry about anything,

P: Instead, share with God all your prayers and concerns.

L: At the same time, give thanks to God for all things!

P: Let us rejoice and give thanks to God!

* **Songs of Praise** Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart (v1, 2, 5) #169
Give Thanks #170

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, we come before you as people who have been abundantly blessed. You have given us more than we could ever need – food, clothes, homes, friends, jobs, this church, and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet too often we assume we deserve all that we have. We take for granted your abundant blessings and forget to say “Thank you.”

So now we offer you our thanks for all that is ours. Above all we thank you that through Jesus you forgive our sins and welcome us into your presence. Hear now our prayers of thanks and confession.
Silent Prayer of Confession and Thanks...

Assurance of Forgiveness Romans 8:33-34

L: Who has the right to accuse us as sinners?

P: Who could condemn us?

L: Christ alone has the authority to condemn us,

P: Yet Christ died for our sins.

L: Christ was raised from the dead and overcame our sins.

P: Christ is right now praying for us at the right hand of God.

L: Friends, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

* **Passing of the Peace**

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Please pass the peace of Christ to your neighbors in the pews and introduce yourself to those you do not know.

*** Glory Be To The Father**

#813

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 118:1-4, 28-29

L: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

P: His steadfast love endures forever!

L: Let Israel say,

P: His steadfast love endures forever!

L: Let the house of Aaron say,

P: His steadfast love endures forever!

L: Let those who fear the LORD say,

P: His steadfast love endures forever!

L: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

P: You are my God, I will extol you.

L: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

P: His steadfast love endures forever!

Special Music

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name (Fettke)

Chancel Choir

New Testament Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:4-9 (page 991)

Sermon

Giving Thanks in a Struggle

*** Hymn of Response**

For the Beauty of the Earth

#793

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended to heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call for Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Innes

*** Doxology**

#815

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*** Prayer of Dedication**

*** Hymn of Dedication** Come, Ye Thankful People, Come #797

*** Charge and Benediction**

*** Congregational Response** Give Thanks #170

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. Give Thanks!

*** Postlude** Now Thank We All Our God Bach/Fox

***PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

Welcome to Grace Community Presbyterian Church.

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us for worship. Cindy and John Irvin will be your greeters today. We hope you can join us for Coffee Fellowship after worship today. Dan and Teresa Howard will be your hosts.



Worship Committee will be decorating the church for Christmas this Saturday, November 26 at 10:00am. If anyone would like to help, please stop by. All are welcome!



The Amy's Angels Tree is ready for the adoption of angels. When you've chosen your angel, remove the angel from the tree and sign your name and phone number on the clipboard next to the corresponding number of your angel. **Please return your wrapped gift, with the angel taped to the outside, to the Narthex by Sunday, December 4th.** Thank you for supporting the Hope Center and their annual Adopt-A-Family campaign.



There are three time slots available on Saturday, December 3 (2pm-3pm; 3pm-4pm and 4pm-5pm). Volunteers are a vital piece to The Salvation Army's red kettle campaign. Every 2 hours that a volunteer stands at a red kettle, The Salvation Army can provide 104 meals to local neighbors in need. Please consider volunteering; signup sheet located on the bulletin board outside of the office.



Congregational Meeting

Please plan to stay after worship on December 11 for the Annual Congregational Meeting. We will review the 2023 budget.



TODAY'S MUSIC: *"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"* (Phil. 4:4). The word rejoice (in its various forms) is found in our English Bibles about six hundred times. The two Bible verses that Edward Plumptre particularly had in mind, as he developed his theme for "**Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart,**" were Philippians 4:4 and Psalm 20:5 - *"We will rejoice in your salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners!"*

Plumptre wrote this hymn as a processional hymn for a choir festival at Peterborough Cathedral. This festival involved gathering choirs from churches throughout the diocese — a dozen or more choirs with scores of singers. Imagine those choirs processing down the long center aisle of the cathedral with the cross and banner held aloft at the beginning of the processional. When the first verse of the hymn says, "your glorious banner wave on high" and "the cross of Christ your king," it is that processional banner and cross that he had in mind.

Now Thank We All Our God was born from some of the severest sufferings imaginable during the Thirty Years' War of 1618-48, one of the most devastating in all history. Martin Rinkart, age 31, arrived at Eilenberg to pastor its Lutheran church just as the dreadful bloodshed of the war began, and there he spent the remaining 32 years of his life, faithfully ministering to those in need.

Germany, the primary battleground of this conflict, was reduced to a state of misery that defies belief. As the various armies marched through the town, several waves of deadly diseases and famines swept the city, leaving death and destruction. The plague of 1637 was particularly severe, resulting in thousands of deaths, including Rinkart's wife. At its most severe, he was the only minister remaining to care for the sick and dying. Rinkart alone conducted the burial services for 4,480 people, sometimes as many as 40 or 50 a day!

Martin Rinkart believed that God's providence is always good. The overwhelming atmosphere of the hymn breathes utter confidence in God, regardless of the circumstances. The hymn first appeared under the title "Tisch-Gebetlein" (Little Table Prayer). The first two stanzas, intended for his family as a grace to be sung before meals, is based on a doxology from the apocryphal biblical text of Sirach (in the Christian tradition referred to as "The Wisdom of Jesus, son of [Eleazar] Sirach" or "Ecclesiasticus"): *"And now bless the God of all, who everywhere works great wonders, who fosters our growth from birth, and deals with us according to his mercy. May he give us gladness of heart and may there be peace in our days!"*

**This Week's Calendar
November 20 - 26**

Sunday	Sunday School (all ages)	9:00am
	Fellowship & Nurture Meeting	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Deacons Meeting	11:00am
	Youth Group	6:00pm
Tuesday	Bible Study	1:00pm
Thursday	Thanksgiving Day	OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday	Decorating for Christmas	10:00am

**Looking Ahead
November 27 - December 3**

November 27	Sunday School (all ages)	9:00am
	Worship	10:00am
	Youth Group	6:00pm
November 29	Bible Study	1:00pm
November 30	CS Den Meeting	6:00pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm
	November CrossCurrents will be mailed out. If you have anything you would like to submit, please send an email to the office by Monday, November 28.	
December 1	CS Pack Meeting	6:00pm
	Ladies Club	6:30pm

**November 20-21 Operation Christmas Child Drop-off Center
Drop-Off Center Hours**

Sunday	Nov.20	12pm - 2pm
Monday	Nov 21.	10am - 12pm

CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant Street, Lower Burrell, PA 15068
(724) 339-9661
Website: www.gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Worship Service is at 10:00am

Church Staff:

Pastor: Doug Marshall, Interim Pastor
doug@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Secretary: Wendy Stein Clark
secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org
Christian Ed.: Bill Ludwig
Organist: Kenneth McGeary
Treasurer: Ray Zerjav
Custodian: John Baron and Paul Zunich

Elders

Reitha Bieranoski
Cathy Brady
Cathy Christoforetti
Ben Edwards
David Highfield
Dan Howard
Henry Kedzierski
Val Lester
John Napierski
Sharon Rupert
Stephanie Tutka
Cathy Vitari (clerk)

Deacons

Darlene Artman
Rich Artman
Gary Barbiaux
Judy Barbiaux
Elsie Deem
Margie Bistline
Beulah Brown
Jackie Chickerella
Cindy Irvin*
Terri Ludwig
Lavonne Pelisari
Debbie Roskey
Mary Ann Walter
Lou Walter
Shirley Wilson

*Denotes Moderator