



Enter his gates  
with thanksgiving,  
and his courts  
with praise!  
Give thanks

Psalm 100:4



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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November 19, 2023

Thanksgiving Sunday

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## Welcome

### Prelude

*Oh the Glory of Your Presence*

Steve Fry

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Opening Words

Psalm 100

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. <sup>2</sup> Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. <sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. <sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

### \* Opening Song

*We Gather Together*

# 17 HWB

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.

2 Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine.  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord, was at our side, all glory be thine!

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!

# CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

**Children's Time** (children under 5, can go to Nursery Care)

**Song** *Come, Ye Thankful People* #123 VT

1 Come, ye thankful people come! Raise the song of harvest home.  
All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker, doth provide for our need 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, fruit unto God's praise to yield;  
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.  
God of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

3 For our God again shall come, and shall take the harvest home,  
from the field shall in that day all offenses cast away,  
giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

4 Then, O church triumphant, come. Raise the song of harvest home.  
All are safely gathered in, free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there forever purified in God's presence to abide.  
Come, ten thousand angels, come! Raise the song of harvest home.

**New Testament Reading** Colossians 2:6-7 NRSVUE

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

**Congregational Prayer**

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

**Special Music** *Thanksgiving Medley* arr. Cindy Berry

*Thanksgiving Medley* arr. by Cindy Berry  
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# Thanksgiving Litany of Seedtime and Harvest

One: Almighty God, Creator and Sustainer of all, Giver of every good and perfect gift; For the joy of seedtime and the riches of harvest;

**ALL: We give thee thanks, O God.**

One: For life-filled seed and sacred earth, for blessed sun and blessing rain;

**All: We give thee thanks, O God.**

One: For the bounty of field and garden, forest and mine;

**All: We give thee thanks, O God.**

One: For divine love that blesses our lives and speaks to our souls, reconciling us to thee and to our fellow people;

**All: We give thee thanks, O God.**

One: Help us that our farms and homes, our shops and factories, our bodies, minds, and strength may be used as a sacred trust from thee;

**All: We beseech thee, O God.**

One: That we may be good stewards of all these thy blessings, and that we may so share our bounty with those in need across the world as to cause all lands to break forth into songs of thanksgiving;

**All: We beseech thee, O God.**

## The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

**Song**

*Give thanks with a grateful heart*

# 1030

*Give Thanks* by Henry Smith

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Give thanks with a grateful heart;

give thanks to the Holy One,

give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his son.

(2x)

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.”

(2x)

Give thanks.

## LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

### Scripture Lesson

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 NIV

<sup>18</sup>This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. <sup>19</sup>Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. <sup>20</sup>They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

### Sermon

“Contentment is My Lot”

## GO IN GOD’S NAME

### \* Closing Song

*Count Your Blessings*

#786 C

1 When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings— name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

*Refrain:*

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done.  
Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.*

2 Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?

Count your many blessings; every doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by. [Refrain]

3 When you look at others with their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings; money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven nor your home on high. [Refrain]

4 So amid the conflict, whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged; God is over all.  
Count your many blessings; angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. [Refrain]

**\* Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *Lord You Sometimes Speak*                      Christopher Johnson

\* Please stand as able and led

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- Ministers..... All Members  
Pastor ..... David Whitten  
Minister of Music.....Vanessa Morton  
Worship Leader..... Terrie Glass  
Children's Time.....Sarah Hartman  
Flautist .....Sarah Hartman  
Guitarist ..... David Whitten