



**Nelson United Church
October 11th, 2020**

**Thanksgiving Sunday:
Giving Thanks for the
World God Made**

Welcoming Music

Welcome and Announcements

We invite you to light a candle if you are able, and if you can, have a piece of bread ready and something to symbolize “wine.”
Please speak along where you see **bold text**.

God, the Giver of Life

Call to Worship

The world belongs to God,
the earth and all its creatures.
How good it is, how wonderful,
to live together in unity.
Love and faith come together,
justice and peace join hands.
If we were to keep silent,
these stones would shout aloud.
Open our lips, O God,
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
We light the Christ candle to remind us of God’s presence
among and within us, and of God’s creative love.

(Light Christ Candle)

Hymn VU 519 “Sing to the Source of Harvest”

**Sing to the Source of harvest, sing songs of love and praise,
with joyful hearts and voices your hallelujahs raise;
by whom the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;
sing to the Source of harvest a joyful song of love.**

**God makes the clouds drop fatness,
the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them all with fullness, all things with large increase,
and crowns the year with goodness, with plenty and with peace.**

**Bring to this sacred altar all things God's goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest, all souls in love to save:
in Christ is love incarnate, gift to the world in peace,
and with our lives and service, our thankfulness increase.**

Gathering Prayer

O God of all creation, Source of life and blessing, sustain our planet earth. Teach us to conserve and to appreciate the riches of nature, to rightly use the blessings of former generations, and to plan for the welfare of our children's children. Renew our wonder, reawaken our concern, and make us faithful stewards of this world that is yours. Hear us, O God, our Creator, in the name of Christ.
Amen

A Word for All Ages

Echo Prayer

Hymn MV 8 "And On this Path"

And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!

So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!

God Is the Wind

Responsive Reading Psalm 65, VU page 782

Refrain

Eleanor Daley 1994

The musical notation is for a refrain in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Praise is due to you, O God, in Zi - on." The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final cadence. The bass line provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

Music copyright © 1994 Eleanor Daley

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, to you shall vows be performed.

**You give heed to prayer;
to you all mortals shall come.**

The burden of our sins is too great for us,
but you will purge them away.

R

Blessed are the people you choose and bring to dwell in your courts

We shall be filled with the blessings of your house, your holy temple.

With awesome deeds you answer our prayers for deliverance, O God our saviour —
**you that are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the far-off seas.**

By your strength you make fast the mountains,
and gird yourself round with power.

You still the raging of the seas,
and the roaring of the waves, the tumult of the peoples.
Those who dwell at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your wonders;
the gateways of both morning and evening shout for joy. R

You visit the earth and water it,
you make it very fruitful.
The waters of heaven brim over their banks,
providing us with grain, for so you have prepared the land,
drenching its furrows, settling its ridges,
softening it with showers and blessing its growth.
You crown the year with goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
The pastures of the wilderness abound with grass,
and the hills are girded with joy.
The fields are clothed with sheep;
the valleys are decked with wheat, so that they shout
and sing for joy. R

Gospel Reading Luke 17:11-19
The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Response MV 187 "We Give our Thanks to God"

**We give our thanks to God,
we give our thanks to God,
we give our thanks to God,
we give our thanks to God.**

**We give our hearts to you,
we give our hearts to you,
we give our hearts to you,
because you gave us life.**

Sermon

Prayer of the Spirit

Let us see God in the wind that blows...

**Come, Holy Spirit, come to us; come among us; come as the wind, and brood
new life; come as breath and make new; come as love and give life. Come, O
Spirit, and make us your Spirit-ed people. Amen**

Hymn: MV 194 "Bread of Life"

**Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.**

**I have heard your voice calling, "Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you to show how much I care."**

**Bread of life, help me live
a life as pure and true as Jesus did.
Bread of life, help me see
the boundless love of Christ for you and me.**

I have heard your voice calling, "Come, my friend, and share in the feast that is laid out for you to show how much I care."

Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.

God Is the Tree of Life

Prayer for Trees

Let us see God in the trees around us...

O holy Wisdom of God, in you is life. You are like a tree that gives shade to those who toil in the heat of the day; you are like a tree that gives fruit to sustain life. You call us to community like a grove of trees; root us in your love that we may reach to the sky to declare your gift of life and be firmly of the earth. Amen

Prayers of the People – Joe Woodward

God Is the Rock of Our Salvation

Communion Thanksgiving Prayer

May the Creator of Life be with you all.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts in prayer and thanksgiving.

We lift them up to God to be made new.

Give thanks that the Source of All Life is with us.

It is right to say thank you and to express gratitude to God.

We do give you thanks, Creator-of-All. You are the Source of all life, the deep mystery that calls us to see that we are one. You are the rock of hope in times of distress and unease. We give thanks for all the gifts that you give.

O Strong-Yet-Gentle One, our rock and salvation, you heal us and hold us; you gather us in the palm of your hand when there is dis-ease around us. Strengthen us to live our days in the gentleness of love, for you are our refuge and our life. We give thanks for all the gifts that you give.

We are thankful for the ancient story of Jesus and his call to live compassion and embody your love here and now. We celebrate that story, give thanks for life and share in the gracious gift of life as Jesus gave thanks gathered in an Upper Room with his community. In this declaration of love, Jesus broke bread and passed the bread to those with him while saying, "This is bread broken; each time you eat this bread, remember me." And when the meal was over, as an additional act of thanksgiving, Jesus took a cup of wine, blessed it and passed the cup around the table saying, "This is the cup of blessing and life; each time you drink from this cup, remember me."

At this and every table around which we gather, we give thanks, for this is a Great Prayer of Thanksgiving. And we remember the Spirit that blesses us and opens us to new avenues of gratitude and life. May the Spirit rest upon us and upon these earthly

things that we may be filled with blessing to be a blessing to others, to be part of a community that heals and reconciles, that makes new. And so, we say together...

With people around the world gathered around tables of hospitality who have celebrated this tradition for over 2000 years, with thankful praise we express our gratitude.

As Jesus taught us, we are bold to say together...

Jesus' Prayer:

Our Father and Mother, who is in us here on earth, holy is your name in the hungry who share their bread and their song. Your KinDom come, which is a generous land which flows with milk and honey. Let us do your will, standing up when all are sitting down, and raising our voice when all are silent. You are giving us our daily bread in the song of the bird and the miracle of the corn. Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice, and for burying our dreams, for not sharing bread and wine, love and land, among us, now. Don't let us fall into the temptation of shutting the door through fear; of resigning ourselves to hunger and injustice; of taking up the same arms as the enemy. But deliver us from evil. Give us the perseverance and the solidarity to look for love, even if the path has not yet been trodden, even if we fail; so we shall have known your KinDom which is being built forever and ever. Amen.

(A Latin American paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer, source unknown.)

Sharing Communion

In your own homes, as you are able and as you choose, you are invited to eat a piece of bread, which we will do at the same time, and drink a small amount of "wine" as we share communion together.

God Is the Spring of Life

Prayer of Thanks

Let us feel God in the water...

Cleanse us, O God, with your living water, and we shall be restored. Quench our thirst, and we shall be made strong. May the waters of creation's birth bring about new life to all the world, a new heaven and a new earth, and may the fruits of the earth we have shared, nourished by water and Spirit, be a blessing through us to the world.

Amen

Hymn VU 520 "We Plough the Fields and Gather"

**We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by your almighty hand;
you send the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.**

Refrain

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

**You only are the maker of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star;
the winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children, you give us daily bread.**

R

**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

Commissioning and Benediction

All you works of God, bless your Creator. Wide earth, arching heavens and the whole creation bless your Creator.

Daylight and bright sun, twilight and shadows, embracing darkness, bless your Creator.

Mountains, massive and ancient rocks, valleys and pastures, moorland and rivers, ocean depths and deep abyss, bless your Creator.

Storm and mighty wind, cold and desert sun, mist, cloud and tender rain, bless your Creator.

Seed and sapling, tree and vivid flower, greenness and flourishing, autumn decay and bareness, harvest and springtime, bless your Creator.

You creatures of God, swift and cunning, violent and graceful, all who creep and soar and dance across the earth, bless your Creator.

Bless to all, O God, the sun that is above, the wind that blows, the earth and rocks beneath, the water that sustains, the friends who are around, and your image deep within.

Amen.

Choral Blessing MV 54 "Alleluia"

(Repeated)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude



Hymns and Songs are Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-716713. All rights reserved.