

DAY OF THANKSGIVING

Give Thanks to God!

Give Thanks . . . Not Just For, But To . . .

November 27 & 28, 2024

AS WE GATHER

At the corner of Hayden Hill and Walkley Hill roads in Haddam, Connecticut, stands the colonial home of one of the early resident families of that little town on the Connecticut River: the Thankful Arnold House. Now the location for the town's Historical Society, it is the home where Thankful Clark Arnold and her husband, Joseph, raised their twelve children, beginning in 1798. The house stayed in the family for over 150 years until a family member gifted it to the local community. At one time, "Thankful" was a proper and common name for girls and women. It served as a testimony to the goodness of God throughout that individual's life. In his "Song of Thanks" recorded in First Chronicles, King David exclaimed "Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!" (16:8). No matter what personal name we may carry throughout our lives, we can individually express our great thankfulness to God for all the blessings that we receive day by day and season after season.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

✠PREPARATION ✠

HYMN #892 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Come, ye thankful people, come;
Raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto His 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.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord, our God, shall come
And shall take His harvest home,
From His field shall in that day
All offenses purge away,
Give His angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come
To Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified,
In Thy garner to abide;
Come with all Thine angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest home.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

People: **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,

People: **and all your saints shall bless you!**

Pastor: I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.

People: **We, your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: As we approach our God, if we confess our sins, our God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

People: **Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God, our gracious Father.

People: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, creator of all things, we confess that we are indeed sin-filled people. We are by nature sinful, and sin is present in our lives each day, in thought, word, and deed. We know that we have done the evil you forbid and have not done the good you require of us.**

People: **We have not always lived lives that reflect thankfulness to you, the giver of all that is good. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Lord, who is the source of our salvation. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may live faithfully and with great gratitude here on earth until that time beyond time when we rejoice together in your eternal presence.**

Pastor: Our God has promised to hear us and to grant forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him for His grace and mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you be kept steadfast in the Holy Spirit, living each day in thankfulness to God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN #806

"Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy one,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.
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.
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.
(Repeat Song)

Ending: Give thanks, give thanks.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, we adore you as the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus, and with the whole church on earth and all the hosts of heaven we ascribe to you honor and blessing, thanksgiving and praise. Grant that we may with thankful hearts receive your great mercies and express our gratitude, not only with our lips but also in our lives as we give ourselves to your service and walk before you in holiness and righteousness all our days. Grant us faith that works in love, hope that never disappoints, kindness that never fails, confidence in you that never wavers, patience that does not grow weary, and courage always ready to confess Christ, that we may live in your mercy and die in your peace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 8:1–10* (A call to remember the goodness of the Lord) “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ²And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know,

that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:14–24*

¹⁴And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

6:00 ANTHEM “*Let God’s Great Love*”

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 17:11–19* (One leper of ten healed shows gratitude to Jesus.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."

¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY #785 "We Praise You, O God"

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our father, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'er take us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

7 continued

With voices united our praises we offer

And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.

To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

SERMON

"Thankfulness: The Will of Our God" ¹ Thessalonians 5:14-24

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

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Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

8 continued

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERING

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs, giving thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

Gracious God, gratefully we remember your bountiful gifts to all of us. We remember your many acts of kindness to your people through all ages. We bless you for the orderly progression of the seasons and thank you for the bountiful harvest of the fruits of the earth. We thank you,

People: for your steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Let us pray for the church, here and around the world, giving thanks for the joyful message of the Gospel as it is faithfully proclaimed from generation to generation. Almighty God, we thank you for the church, where your Holy Spirit gathers us as your people to receive your gifts and celebrate your goodness. Bless the work of missionaries, teachers, health workers, and all others who give witness to your unchanging love. We thank you,

People: for your steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Let us pray for the world in which we live, giving thanks for the amazing place in which we live and asking that we may readily share the bounty we receive from the hand of the Lord. Caring God, we thank you for the world in which we live as

together we pray for the community of nations around the globe. Continue to give us all things needful and grant that we may be good stewards of the earth. Grant that our homes be places of love and care and our neighborhoods be centers of welcome and compassion. We thank you,

People: for your steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Let us pray for those people who are blessings to us in our homes, in our communities, and beyond, remembering our local emergency workers, our national defenders, and the many workers in the agricultural fields across our nation and beyond. Giver of all good gifts, we thank you for the faithful labor of people living out their vocations for our welfare. Bless the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, who selflessly serve to defend our nation in challenging times and who guarantee our safety in times of peace. We remember those whose labor brings a rich variety of food to our tables in this and in every season. We thank you,

People: for your steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Let us pray for those with special needs for compassion at this time, that they may know the care of the Lord and our care as well. Let us also bring thankfully to mind those who have completed their earthly journey and now rejoice in the Lord's eternal kingdom. Lord of time and of eternity, we remember in our petitions those with special concerns and needs including the ill, the hospitalized, and the homebound, those who sorrow, the unemployed and underemployed. Grant that we find purpose and blessing in assisting those who need our concern and our care. On this

Day of Thanksgiving, we also recall those no longer among us on earth, who now rejoice in the glorious light of your heavenly kingdom. May we be inspired by their faithful witness and seek to be your agents of blessing during our earthly lives as we look forward to that time when we rejoice together and give you eternal thanks and praise. We thank you,

People: for your steadfast love endures forever. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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 forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #726

"Evening and Morning"

Evening and morning, sunset and dawning,
Wealth, peace, and gladness, Comfort in sadness:
These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine!
Times without number, Awake or in slumber,
Thine eye observes us, From danger preserves us,
Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.

Father, O hear me, Pardon and spare me;
Calm all my terrors, Blot out my errors
That by Thine eyes they may no more be scanned.
Order my goings, Direct all my doings;
As it may please Thee, Retain or release me;
All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.

Ills that still grieve me Soon are to leave me;
Though billows tower, And winds gain power,
After the storm the fair sun shows its face.
Joys e'er increasing And peace never ceasing:
These shall I treasure And share in full measure
When in His mansions God grants me a place.

To God in heaven All praise be given!
Come, let us offer And gladly proffer
To the Creator the gifts He doth prize.
He well receiveth A heart that believeth;
Hymns that adore Him Are precious before Him
And to His throne like sweet incense arise.

HYMN #789 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
For all things living, Created good:
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You
That with our neighbor We may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, We would work with You,
Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

Father, providing Food for Your children,
By Your wise guiding Teach us to share
One with another, So that, rejoicing
With us, all others May know Your care.

HYMN #893 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

Sing to the Lord of harvest, Sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise.
By Him the rolling seasons In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest A joyous song of love.

God makes the clouds rain goodness,
The deserts bloom and spring,
The hills leap up in gladness, The valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with His fullness,
All things with large increase;
He crowns the year with blessing,
With plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar The gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, The soul Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him When at His feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Him Who gave His life for all.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

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Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord
rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises
and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us bless God together.

People: My soul, give thanks to the Lord; all my being, bless His holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, and never forget all His blessings. It is He who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion, and who fills your life with good things. Give thanks to the Lord, all His works, in every place where He rules. My soul, give thanks to the Lord! Give praise to the Father Almighty, to His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord, and to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts both now and forever. Amen.

SEQUENCE OF THANKS

Pastor: As God's thankful people, we praise God the Son for His work of redemption and for His blessed example of giving thanks. In the familiar "Words of Our Lord" at the time of Holy Communion, we are reminded that when Jesus was at the Table with the disciples in the Upper Room on the night He was betrayed, He gave thanks. Jesus gave thanks as part of His worship life, and He lived His daily life with gratefulness, interacting graciously with friends and followers alike. Also we give thanks to the Holy Spirit, who dwells in our hearts and who richly and daily blesses God's people with priceless gifts that strengthen our fellowship on earth and give us a foretaste of heaven.

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you crown the fields with your blessing and permit us to gather the fruits of the earth. As stewards of your creation, may we receive your gifts in humble thankfulness and share your bounty with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN #895 "Now Thank We All Our God"

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Harold J Bender
Grant Gundersen, Katie Scepaniski
Deaconess Carole King

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**Mid-Week Advent
Worship**

December 4, 11 & 18 at
10:00am & 6:00pm

Advent Dinners

Each Wednesday in
Advent at 4:45pm in

