

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Lord, you are the bread of heaven, giving life to the world.
You fill our emptiness with your goodness.
You come to our weakness with your strength.
Take and use these gifts to bring in a rich harvest
of your heavenly food and life-giving refreshment. Amen.

—from *Harvest Resources from CMS*, on the CMS website.

♪ Hymn "Give Thanks" (insert) TFWS 2036

✠ Benediction

Are you grateful people?

Yes. We are thankful and generous people!

Are you intentional about expressing your attitude of gratitude?

Yes. We share what we have.

Will you consciously pass along your contentment with life?

Yes. We will listen openly; our conversations will be respectful.

Will you be alert for the Holy Presence throughout this whole week?

Yes! We are God's thankful, compassionate, and hopeful people, nurtured by the Holy Spirit that gives life!

I thank God for you! Go, nestled in the arms of the Caring Presence,
God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer! **Amen!**

Worship Participants

Coburn UMC	Rev. Webster Cox
	Woody Mendenhall
	Darren Wallace
	Rev. Justin Williams
Faith UMC	Nick Howard
	Rev. Joy Wigal
First Christian Church	Rev. Dawn Remster
First UMC	Rev. Jessica Stonecypher

Thanksgiving Service



November 21, 2017



✠ Announcements and Welcome

♪ Prelude

✠ Call to Worship Rev. Joy Wigal

Come, let us sing praise to God!

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into the Divine presence with thanksgiving;

Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord;

To sing praises to your name, O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

and your faithfulness by night.

For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;

At the works of your hands we sing for joy.

📖 Hymn "Come, Ye Thankful People Come" UMH 694

✝️ Thanksgiving Prayer

God of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow — empower us with the Holy Spirit so we may consciously pass on the *blessings* we hold dear. Liberate us from baggage that weighs upon us but no longer promotes health, sanity, graciousness, and gladness. We open ourselves to your light; we want to *enjoy* our adventure on this earth with you. Amen.

🎵 Choir Anthem "Every Day is Thanksgiving"

Old Testament Lesson Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Rev. Dawn Remster

✝️ A Litany of Thankfulness

It's Thanksgiving time! Winter is settling in and the earth's production around us is slowing down. Our *gratitude* today is clear and palpable. We *thank* God for what we have and who we are. God is good and divine faithfulness sustains us day by day.

Through all our human adventures, we experience the Holy Spirit as our guide.

Each day, we receive fresh impressions of Divine Presence and we make time to *appreciate* how the Holy One is among us.

We acknowledge that God made us — made us in the Divine mold! We treasure opportunities to be co-creators with the Creator of the whole cosmos!

We are alert for the subtle voice of the Holy One drawing our attention to this planet and its resources.

We respect the land and the waters and cherish their life-sustaining qualities.

Don't forget the variety of wholesome foods that *please* our palates!

Red and yellow, green and purple, large and small, sweet and sour, seeded and smooth — all the vegetables and fruits that provide for the intricate needs of our physical bodies — we are grateful for them.

We are *grateful* for animals, for the meat we have so we can *enjoy* barbecues and marinated succulence, salted and herbed!

We savor time and conversations with our kin and friends who accompany us on this adventure we call life.

Recall the men and women who prepared the way for us.

We applaud the courage and audacity of the pilgrims who longed for space and privilege to explore religious options, to carve a government that would protect the common good and provide for those needing help, and to encourage individual prosperity that would enhance the whole community.

We *value* our country and the women and men who wear US uniforms around the world to foster democracy and freedom in order that everyone can participate in the rhythms of their culture.

We admire the individuals who use their training and experience to govern our country. We thank God for their gifts and we pray that they use their power wisely.

So we gather today to be aware of *blessings* that surround us and sustain us.

We are contented with living, satisfied with our journey toward God! So let us make a joyful noise — loud enough, for a few moments, for our neighbors to hear! We delight in life!

Is there anything else we want to add to our thanksgiving list?

(Allow time for people to name their items.)

I *thank* God of the next generation — for our children. Together, you and I are mentors for them, teaching them to be hopeful, collaborative, responsible, and compassionate individuals.

Thanks be to God for the blessings and goodness surrounding us all!

Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Darren Wallace

Contemporary Lesson:
Food Insecurity in Musk. Co.: Rev. Jessica Stonecypher

Gospel Lesson: Luke 17:11-19 Rev. Webster Cox

The Life Well Community Center: Nick Howard & Woody Mendenhall

🎵 Hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" UMH 102

✉️ Invitation to the Offering Rev. Justin Williams

📖 "The Doxology" UMH 95