



Stewardship Commitment Sunday

November 14, 2021

Draw near to God

for God is waiting for you.

* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able

italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation

PRELUDE

**CALL TO WORSHIP*

Delight! Children of God, delight!

We are delighted to be here together; to worship as a family and to be united in a common ministry.

We gather in worship to celebrate this community.

We celebrate the love that we have for one another, the support that we give to one another and the journey we are on to be united by God's grace.

We come together this day to delight in offering our gifts.

We delight in the gifts we are giving, the pledges we are making and the future we are creating.

We join our hearts and our spirits today and delight in giving.

We are here! We are delighted! We are united!

Let us worship the God who loves when we delight in giving.

Let us worship God!

**OPENING PRAYER*

Lord, we have come to you this day bringing all that we have, our lives, our hopes and dreams, our fears and sorrows. We place these before you in faith and hope, knowing that no matter what has happened you are with us and blessing us. Open our hearts to receive your words and your spirit, that we may find healing and comfort. Open our lives to the wondrous possibilities for service and joy that you offer to us. Ease our minds and spirits that we may hear the words of encouragement and peace this day. Amen.

**HYMN #386 Come, Worship God*

1. Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor; enter God's presence with thanks and a song!

You are the rock of your people's salvation to whom our jubilant praises belong.

2. Ruled by your might are the heights of the mountains; held in your hands are the depths of the earth.

Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them, God above all gods, who gave us our birth.

3. We are your people, the sheep of your pasture; you are our Maker, and to you we pray.

Gladly we kneel in obedience before you; great is the one whom we worship this day!

4. Now let us listen, for you speak among us; open our hearts to receive what you say.

Peace be to all who remember your goodness, trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF BROKENNESS AND CONFESSION

O God, our God, we confess that we have not always lived for you. You have invited us into new life, yet we often close our eyes and ears and hearts against that invitation. You have shown us the way to love, yet we have chosen too often the path of uncaring. You have called us to the ministry of reconciliation, yet often we find ourselves tempted to turn away from others. You have challenged us to generosity, but many times we would rather keep to ourselves. Enter our lives, God, once again. Release us from the bonds of self-centeredness. Create in us a renewed openness to your love, that we may share your love with others. Amen.

WORDS OF BLESSING AND ASSURANCE

...Remember the good news: **Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.**

**GLORIA PATRI*

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.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN featuring Nathan Holton, Eagle Scout

**HYMN #708* We Give Thee but Thine Own

1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
2. May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive, and gladly,
as thou blessest us, to thee our first fruits give.
3. The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ-like thing.
4. And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be;
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 12:38-44

³⁸As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

SERMON It's Not the Size that Matters

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING AND RECEIVING STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES

**DOXOLOGY*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

We dedicate our gifts to you, O God. Help us to use them to glorify you; to be vessels of your work in this world.

We dedicate our pledges to you, O God. Guide our leaders as they prepare us financially for the upcoming year.

Use us, O God, to do your work in this world. Encourage us to see that we are all ministers called into the Body of Christ.

Use us in our service. We pray over these gifts, blessing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

UNISON PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SONG This Little Light of Mine*

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

2. Hide it under a bushel – NO! I'm gonna let it shine.

3. Shine all over the neighborhood, I'm gonna let it shine.

4. Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine.

**BENEDICTION*

May the Lord bless you and keep you as you go from this place to share the gifts that you have been given with a world in need. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Church Staff

Susan Fall, Pastor Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator Jason Gordon, Youth Director
Mary Ann Welsh, Treasurer Chris Miterko, Grounds Keeper

ANNOUNCEMENTS: November 14, 2021

Today in worship we will be congratulating Nathan Holton who recently achieved the Scout rank of Eagle. The coffee hour reception is being provided by the Holton family in honor of Nathan and to express their gratitude for the support Nathan received from the congregation for his Eagle project as well as their support for him over the years. Nathan’s project was the replacement of the church playground equipment and the surrounding landscaping.

Thanksgiving Lunch and Activities: Sunday, November 21, 2021 following worship all are invited to join for lunch in Fellowship. Pastor Su will make a big pot of chicken soup while participants bring their own sandwich/salad or whatever else they would like to eat. We will then have stations set up that will allow us to engage in “thanks” activities. To prepare, think about what you have been grateful for since March 2020 that the pandemic has helped to reveal or highlight. Is there anything you are thankful for that is different than pre-pandemic days. Bring photos or write a small description.

Youth Group: Will meet next Sunday November 21 in the Youth Room at 6:30pm.

Wednesday noontime: This Wednesday **November 17, 2021**. Bring your lunch and join us for some mid-week time together. All are welcome!!

Thursday Night Bible Study and Fellowship to resume: **November 18 at 7:00pm** all are invited to join on Zoom as we begin a new Advent study through the lens of the Dr. Seuss story *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/127591875>

Poinsettias for the Christmas Season: Order forms can be found on the table as you’re departing today. Thank you for helping decorate our sanctuary with Poinsettias. Or call Susan in the Church office to place your order.

Winter Apparel Drive: On December 5th, the youth group will be holding a drive for veterans, ex-offenders, the homeless and recovering addicts through *Absolute Access Powerhouse*. This organization provides a re-entry program that helps this population obtain permanent employment. Donations of coats, gloves, hats, scarves, sweaters, blankets – anything warm – can be brought to the church on the 5th between 1-3:00 PM.

Calendar: **November 17** – 12pm Bring a sandwich and join us in Fellowship Hall for lunch.
 7pm – Christian Education on Zoom
 November 18 - 7pm Bible Study Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Raymond Tinari, Dick Wright, John Thiessen, Rebecca Stemplewicz, Rick Wiggins, Becky Schroeder, Linda Bowers