

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

November 25, 2021 – 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Jon Spronk

Prelude: Gloria De Bruin, organist; Ben Spronk, pianist
“Great is Thy Faithfulness/Let All Things Now Living”
“Now Thank We All Our God”

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship

*God’s Greeting

Thanksgiving Hymns: **“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”* #559:1(R)
**“For the Beauty of the Earth”* #560:1, 3, 5(R)
**“We Gather Together”* #561:1-3(R)
led by the Praise Team of Byron & Deb Bruxvoort,
Ruth De Bruin & Leon Groenendyk

Thanksgiving Litany: led by the Praise Team

Praise Team: Eternal God of every season,
People: Bless us in all of our seasons and give us an understanding of your mercy and faithfulness.

Praise Team: Patient God of Winter,
People: You offer hope and comfort when our nights are long and our spirits are chilled.

Praise Team: Lifegiving God of Springtime,
People: You open your hand, restoring our lives and renewing the face of the earth with your Spirit.

Praise Team: Nourishing God of Summer,
People: All that we have is a sign of your love; all that we are is a gift from your grace.

Praise Team: Glorious God of Autumn,
People: We praise you for the harvest season. Even in uncertainty and change, let the sharing of these gifts proclaim our joyful hope in You, our forever faithful God. Great is your Faithfulness!

*Song of Thanksgiving: *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”* LUYH #348
(vs. 1 – all; vs. 2 – women; vs. 3 – men; chorus all)

Thanksgiving Prayer

*Song of Preparation: *“My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness”*

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15, pg. 1037

Sermon: **“SEASONS OF THANKSGIVING”**

Prayer of Response

*Song of Response: *“This Is My Father’s World”* LUYH #21:1-3

Thanksgiving Offering

Offertory: Thanksgiving Praise Video

*Closing Song: *“Now Thank We All Our God”* LUYH #543:1-2

*Benediction

*Doxology: *“Now Thank We All Our God”* LUYH #543:3

*Postlude: *“Let All Things Now Living”*

Trombones: Michael Groenenboom & Julia Groenenboom
Service Pianist: Sue De Bruin

* All who are able are asked to stand.



SOUND: Kurtis DB, 660-6681 PROJECTION: Lisa DB, 660-6682

LIVESTREAM: Bethany DB (K)

NURSERY: Robbyn DB, Madi H, Zach DG

What Is God-Centered Thanksgiving?

*"I will praise the name of God with a song;
I will magnify him with thanksgiving."
-Psalm 69:30 (ESV)*

Songs train our hearts. They teach us the grammar of grace.

That is why Scripture commands and beckons us to offer songs of thanksgiving to God. When we sing out of the gratitude of our souls, the words and melodies help us sink our roots ever more deeply in the soil of thankfulness.

Perhaps one reason so many people find it difficult to be grateful is that thanksgiving is missing from so many of our songs.

On one level, the world understands the concept of gratitude. It's common to hear unbelievers express their gratefulness at this time of year, but usually they give thanks *for* the various things that have enriched their lives: family, safety, security, happiness, a warm meal. Sadly, the focus is too often on the gift itself.

God-centered gratitude is different. As those who have tasted God's grace in Christ, we do give thanks *for* every blessing we have received, from the simplest to the greatest. Yet each gift should lift our gaze to the Giver. We offer thanksgiving primarily *to* the Triune God who is the author, source, and fount of everything we have.

"My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness" focuses on God's provision in the past, present, and future. It is God who bore our pain and gave us life again through the work of his Son. It is God who walks beside us, sustaining us with arms of love and crowning us with grace. And it is God who will keep us every day until he calls us home.

This Thanksgiving, may God-centered gratitude resound in our hearts, welling up into songs that last not just for a day or season, but all year long.

-Matt Merker