

November 25, 2020
Thanksgiving Eve

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Pastor

Kathy Jurk
Organist

Prelude Music
Gathering in Readiness for Worship
Ringing of the Bells

Holy, Holy, Holy

Call to Worship (Responsively)

L: Praise God in the sanctity of the faithful.

P: Sing to God a new song, and dance for joy.

L: God is our maker; the Ruler over all things.

P: It is pleasing to praise and worship God.

L: God meets us in our anxiety and our troubles.

P: God calls us to a fresh and abiding hope and gives us the good news of life everlasting.

Opening Prayer based on Psalm 65:1-13 (All together)

What mighty praise belongs to you, O God, for your acts of love and faithfulness toward us! In your mercy you hear our prayers, you forgive our sins, you provided for our needs.

From one end of the earth to the other, you inspire worship and praise! Even nature celebrates your goodness. We too, would offer our praise and thanksgiving for your mercy and your faithful love toward us. Receive our adoration, our confession, our thanksgiving.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit make your presence known among us that we may hear your Word and know your will. In Christ's name, we pray. *Amen.*

Young At Heart Time



Praising God in Music

All Glory be to God on High

Message:

The True Story of Thanksgiving
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Holy Communion

Today we offer our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts. For the tables we share and the bread we partake of within our communities, within our families, within our homes, and for those serving in the military – within the base mess hall we give thanks.

For the hands of friendship that have been extended to us and the grace we have received, for your continual provision in our lives. Praise the Lord.

For the embrace of love, the mercies that are new at dawn and sustain us through the day, echoing in dark of the night. We are thankful.

For the gift of your Son and his blood poured out for the many and the new life that beats within us now. In all things, we give you thanks. May this be a day in which we set aside our differences and embrace one another. Great is the Lord; most worthy to be praised!

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

On the night when Jesus was betrayed, he had one last meal with his disciples. At that meal he took bread, gave thanks to you – God almighty, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying,

“Take, eat; this is my body given freely for you. Eat of this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, again he gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink it, remember me.”

In memory of Jesus Christ who gave himself freely; to honor and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we give praise and thanksgiving, in union with Christ's offering for us.

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Let the Holy Spirit be poured out on all who gather virtually, individually, or as a family. Let it be known that we are all of one family – sisters and brothers in Christ. Let the Holy Spirit be poured out on these gifts of bread and wine/juice. Make them for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ.

Let us serve one another; serve in ministry to all the world and follow God's call upon our lives. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours almighty God, now and forever. *Amen.*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering, Tithes and Gifts can be made on-line through our website (**St. James Only**) or by mailing your offering to: St. James UCC, 13312 Pioneer Road, Newton, WI 53063 OR St. Mark's UCC, W1307 Orchard Road, Cleveland, WI 53015

Offertory Music

O Lord of Heaven and Earth and Sea

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving (all together)

God of all creation, thank you for the wonderful things you have made. Thank you for the universe full of stars and planets. Thank you for our world, full of life. Thank you for making each one of us in your image. Thank you for loving each one of us. Take these gifts we now offer back to you. May they be used to the glory of your name, and the serving of others in your name. We offer ourselves and all the gifts you have blessed us with. Take us and use us to share your love with the world. *Amen.*

A Sending Forth Song

Now Thank We All Our God Kingdom, Lord

Benediction

Heavenly Father, Son and Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with gratitude in all that we receive from you: For eyes that see. For ears that hear. For fingers that grasp. For knees that bend. For lungs that breathe. Let us be thankful for our families, our homes and our Savior Jesus Christ. Today we ask for nothing, and we thank you for all things. In Jesus' name, *Amen.*

Postlude

In
EVERYTHING
give thanks.

(Today's worship liturgy was inspired by and (in part) borrowed from Christine Longhurst.)