



## First English Lutheran Church

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Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett ~ 605-237-1501

**Thanksgiving Eve. Service**  
**November 27, 2023 - 7:00 pm**



# *Welcome to Worship*

*Everyone who enters receives an apple*

Prelude, Bells

## **GATHERING**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Psalm 126)*

L: We gather to worship with expectations: God revealed in new and astonishing ways.

**C: God comes to us in real time. God comes to us in dreams.**

L: Sometimes God's presence is hard to take in— difficult to believe.

**C: O God, we long to believe. Restore our faith in you and each other.**

L: God is present here. God is working in our midst.

**C: Then our mouths are filled with laughter,  
Our tongues shout out with joy!**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE:** L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.** *(Please share the peace with those around you.)*

Gathering Hymn 'Come, Ye Thankful People, Come' vs. 1-2 #693

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt. Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

## **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

L: We wonder what's for lunch, we worry about work tomorrow, we fret about the test that is coming up. We worry and waste time over things we cannot control. The One who showers earth with rain, who places the stars in the

autumn sky, is the same One who wraps mercy tight around you, who feeds us on healing and hope. Let us confess how our worries keep us from trusting the God who hears us and restores us to new life.

### **UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**C:** Because we live in this modern, tech-driven, twittering age, we often forget what you have done for us, God of every blessing. We pat ourselves on the back for our ability to learn new computer skills, but have forgotten that life is more than a machine. We have more than we could ever use yet, like squirrels, store up more and more. Our faith is often pushed to the back of the closet, to make room for all the fears we wear so easily.

Forgive us, Restorer of life. As you clothe us with your grace and mercy, may we share with those who have so little. As our hearts overflow with your love and wonder, may we offer them as gifts to everyone we meet. As you feed us with your joy and hope, may we welcome to the Table all those whose lives are filled with tears and pain. As we gather with family and friends during this season, may we continue to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

*Silence is kept*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**L:** This is the good news: as God dresses creation in wonder, so you will be clothed in grace; as God pours out abundance upon the earth, so you will be blessed with peace and joy.

**C:** We don't say it often enough, but thanks be to God for healing, for life, for wonder, for mercy. We are blessed, for we are forgiven. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** **L:** Let us pray...

**C:** Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**FIRST READING:** Joel 2:21-27

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm: Psalm 126

**L:** <sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

**C:** <sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

**L:** <sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

**C:** <sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.

L: <sup>5</sup> Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.  
C: <sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** "Goodness of God" **Senior Choir**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 6:25-33:**

P: The Holy Gospel according to... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE ~ The Gift of the Apple**

Apostle's Creed

p. 105

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY  
of First English Lutheran Church**

**OFFERING SONG:** 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty' vs. 1 & 4 #858

**1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation! Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!**

**4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!**

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: Erneueren Gesangbuch, Part II, Stralsund, 1665.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION: Thanksgiving**

L: Giving God, we give You thanks and praise for all of Your gifts to us. We know that you are the source of every good thing, light and love come from You. You have created us, and you continue to breathe life into us through the power of Your Holy Spirit. You have given us so much, and it is because we recognize the gifts You have given to us that we now dedicate them to the work of Your kingdom here on earth. May this collection be used wisely and diligently, that Your love may be known widely.

**C: As we dedicate this offering, we offer ourselves too, for these gifts of money are but tokens of ourselves. Take and use us, that our hands may reach out in service, our feet may walk the difficult path of reconciliation, and that our words may be words of peace. For this we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**SOLO**

“Day by Day”

**Scott Eugene**

### **Prayers of the People**

*Each petitions ends with ... God, in your mercy...*

*Congregation response, “**Hear our prayer.**”*

The Lord's Prayer

pg. 154

**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.**

### **SENDING & BLESSING**

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn

‘Now Thank We All Our God’ vs. 1 & 3

#840

**1. Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven, the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878. Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662.

### **Dismissal**

**P: Go in peace... share the promise. We Will! Thanks be to God.**

Bells, Postlude

**Our Thanksgiving Offering** will go to the Big Stone Area Food Shelf.

### **THANK YOU...**

the choir director, Lisa Berdan; and the Senior Choir for sharing their talents with us again. Thank you to Carol Ydstie for playing music, Scott Eugene for his solo, Archer for being our acolyte and lector, Marina Thomson for working on the screens & sound system, Ethel & Garry Swenson for greeting, and Paula Reisdorph and Dick Strei for being ushers. And thanks to everyone else who volunteered to help out with the rest on short notice.

