

Thanksgiving Eve ~ Order of Worship

November 22, 2017 ~ 7:00 o'clock in the Evening

[Let us] unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions – to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually – to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed – to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness onto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord – To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us – and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New-York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

Geo Washington

Prelude *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* C. Callahan

Opening Sentences 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*Evening Prayer (unison)

Originating out of the Mohawk Nation of Akwesasne in the lands of the St. Lawrence River Valley

Thank you, Creator of the Universe, for the people gathered around us this night.

Thank you, Creator of the Universe,

for the things of the earth, that give us the means of life;

for the plants and animals, that we use as food and medicine;

for the natural world, in which we find the means to be clothed and housed.

Thank you, Creator of the Universe, for the ability to use these gifts of Creation.

Help us to see our place among these gifts,

not to squander them or think of them as means for selfish gain.

May we respect the life of all you have made;

May our spirits be strengthened by using only what we need;

And may we use our strength to help those who need us. Amen.

*Hymn of Gathering

God's Salvation We Proclaim

Tune: Hymn to Joy

Words: © Michael Williams 2013

As the autumn sun is rising; As the days grow cool and clear;

As the grain is stored for winter; As the harvest moons appear;

Gather we in thankful measure; Gather we to praise God's name;

In the harvest now before us, God's salvation we proclaim.

As the winter star arises; As the frost clings to the ground;

As the days grow short and bitter; As the night becomes profound;

Gather we in thankful measure; Gather we to praise God's name;

As the land lays still and barren, God's salvation we proclaim.

As the promised spring emerges; As the rains fill ponds and streams;

As the greening comes to meadows; As new life affirms our dreams;

Gather we in thankful measure; Gather we to praise God's name;

With the planting comes the promise, God's salvation we proclaim.

As the summer blooms in brightness; As the days grow warm and long;

As the children play together; As all nature joins in song;

Gather we in thankful measure; Gather we to praise God's name;

In the growth of life arising, God's salvation we proclaim.

[Organ Interlude]

As the autumn sun is rising; As the days grow cool and clear;

As the grain is stored for winter; As the harvest moons appear;

Gather we in thankful measure; Gather we to praise God's name;

In the harvest now before us, God's salvation is proclaimed.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 34:1-10

Meditation

Thanksgiving Sense

Pastor Williams

Finding God in Taste, Sight, Touch, Smell, and Sound

Forest Green

Linda Williams, Dulcimer

***Thanksgiving Sending** (unison)

17th Century Puritan Sermon

Be gentle with yourself and others. We are all children of chance, and none can say why some fields blossom while others lay brown beneath the harvest sun.

Take hope that your season will come. Share the joy of those whose season is at hand. Care for those around you. Look past your differences. Their dreams are no less than yours; their choices in life, no more easily made.

And give. Give in any way you can. Give in every way you can. Give whatever you possess. Give from your heart.

**To give is to love. To withhold is to wither.
Care less for the size of your harvest than for how it is shared;
and your life will have meaning; and your heart will have peace. Amen!**

*Benediction

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

setting by C. Callahan

The congregation is invited to join together in a time of fellowship as we celebrate Thanksgiving at our Annual Pie Social held in Tunnell Hall immediately following the service.

Pastor..... Rev. Michael Williams
Organist..... Mrs. Sallie Horner

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