

**November 26, 2023**  
**Thanksgiving / Reign of Christ Sunday**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDES**

*Come, Ye Thankful People Come*  
*Rejoice the Lord Is King*

*Harold Rutz*  
*Ann Slowins*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #709**

*God, We Honor You*                      *Abundant Blessings*  
**God, we honor you. God, we trust in you. God, we worship and adore**  
**you. Take what we bring, offered to you. Teach us to show your**  
**abundant blessings. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.**

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**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Our God is bringing us to a good land, with flowing streams, valleys, and hills,

**All: Wheat and barley, olive trees and honey.**

One: We will eat our fill and bless the Lord our God,

**All: Who has given us all good gifts.**

**\*OPENING SONG #643**    *Now Thank We All Our God*                      *Nun Danket Alle Gott*  
*(verse 1)*

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

*(verse 2)*

***O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever***  
***joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us in God's grace,***  
***and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and***  
***the next.***

*(verse 3)*

***All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven, to Father***  
***and to the Son and Spirit now be given: the one eternal God, whom***  
***heaven and earth adore, the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.***

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: The scriptures say God loves a cheerful giver. We know it is easier to be a cheerful recipient. It is harder to imitate the generosity of God. Let us pray to God who can help us let go:

\*Please stand as you are able.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the harvest, we are quick to thank you for the abundance of our lives. We proclaim ourselves blessed when we have enough— enough food on the table, enough money to spend, enough people to share our days with, enough space to live comfortably. We are deeply grateful, but we think of these blessings as our own. We fail to think that we might share these blessings with others. Forgive us for our stinginess. Forgive us for considering ourselves to be better than those who have less. Teach us that the truest thanks we can give you is to share our abundance with other beloved children of God.

*(Moment of Silent Confession)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: One of the indescribable gifts of God is the forgiveness that never ends. In gratitude, we will share. In gratitude, we will give praise.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## \*SONG OF RESPONSE #698

*Take, O Take Me as I Am*                      *Take Me as I Am*  
**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

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## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And, also, with you.**

## WORD

## CHORAL PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #455

*Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken*                      *Listen*  
**Listen to the word that God has spoken; listen to the One who is  
close at hand; listen to the voice that began creation; listen even if  
you don't understand.**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING      *Psalm 65*

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed, <sup>2</sup> O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come. <sup>3</sup> When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. <sup>4</sup> Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple. <sup>5</sup> By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. <sup>6</sup> By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. <sup>7</sup> You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. <sup>8</sup> Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the

\*Please stand as you are able.



(verse 2)

**Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.**

(verse 3)

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.**

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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      *Lead Me Lord*      *Becker*

**POSTLUDE**      *Thanksgiving Praise*      *Lani Smith*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Flowers

The flowers are dedicated by Ruth & Alan Gurd to give thanks for many blessings including our Valley church family.

### Decorating the Sanctuary



The Advent season is fast approaching. After worship today, we will be decorating the sanctuary. Plan to stay for a little while and add a few Chrismons to our tree or perhaps to help set up a nativity. Thank you!

### Advent Wreath Sign-up



The Advent Wreath sign-up has been posted in the Narthex. Please consider signing up to light a candle as we prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus.

### CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



**Turkeys, boxed turkey stuffing, green beans, canned sweet potatoes, boxed mashed potatoes, gravy, anything else that you would have for Thanksgiving, or anything you would like to donate.**

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations.

## Stewardship Pledges

Thanks to everyone who returned their pledge cards for the upcoming year. If you have not, we ask you to return them to the church office as soon as possible; cards are available on the back Narthex table.

## Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

**Friday, December 15, 2023** (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

**Saturday, December 16, 2023** (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or [passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com](mailto:passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com).

## Community Meal – Tuesday, December 5



Continuing this month, we will be engaging in our community meal program: preparing dinners to be available for pick-up or delivery. These meals are our gift to the community: to anyone who is in need of the food or the love that goes into making it.

**The menu for the December 5th meal is: Honey glazed ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans, roll, and assorted Christmas cookies.**

If you are interested in helping, we will be cooking meals from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; assembling from 3-4 p.m.; and distributing / delivering from 4-5:30 p.m. In addition, if you would like to bake Christmas cookies (your recipe of choice) at home, it can be delivered by 10 a.m. on December 5th.

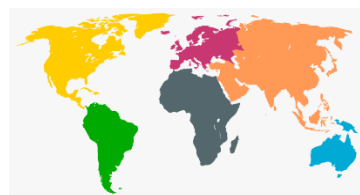
Sign up for the meal or to help on the church website, via the email from Pastor John, or call the church office.

## Valley Festival Choir



Christmas is like no other season! Everyone seems to be more united by traditions and faith. Hearts are more connected as there is a stronger feeling of goodwill toward all. It is, also, a time to reflect on the gift of Jesus Christ. So, come and celebrate "*COMING HOME*" with the Valley Festival Choir on

**December 10th** during the **10:30 a.m.** worship service. Come Home to our sanctuary and share in the life that came and changed all of our lives forever, the GIFT to all mankind.



Also, in the Narthex are index cards. Please take one and fill out your name and where you were born (city and state), and drop the card in the basket. I will be putting up a map in the Narthex and marking the locations where each person was born. Then, we can see where everyone started from and where we now call home. Any questions, contact Nancy Sullivan or the church office.

## Christmas Giving Opportunities

- **\$5 for Feet, Fingers and Fares for North Church**



Help give the gift of warmth to our North Church partners this winter. Your cash donations will be used to purchase adult gloves, hats and socks. Also, cash will be provided for the purchase of bus fares. Collection boxes will be located in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your warm response to our neighbors in need.



- **Giving Gifts that Help Others**

Looking for gifts to give that are meaningful and help others at the same time? Heifer, Habitat, and Presbyterian Giving are three ways to do this. Please see the Mission bulletin board in the hall for more information. Online addresses are posted there. You can shop at Heifer.org, Habitat.org, and PresbyterianGiving.org and give a gift that will make someone's life better.

- **Angel Tree**



The Angel Tree is now set up in the Narthex. This year, we are supporting our friends at the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center with pajamas and gift cards. Please take a tag from the tree, and return your gift by Sunday, December 10.

Thank you,  
Mission

## December Events



### **Sunday, December 10**

Music Program – during worship

### **Sunday, December 17**

Christmas Dinner – following worship

### **Sunday, December 24**

Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Lessons and Carols – 8:00 p.m.

#### **VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

[www.valleypresbychurch.org](http://www.valleypresbychurch.org)

**VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345**

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