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October 9, 2016

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.
All points marked * those who are able are invited to stand.)

Approach

- * Gathering Hymn VU #518 – *“As Those of Old Their First-Fruits Brought”*

Call to Worship

One: From far up in the sky where the eagle might fly, to the deep ocean where the fish will swim –from the colour drenched leaves, to the rain drenched street, with our lips, with our hearts, with our hands, with our feet –

All: We sing out, “ALLELUIA!” we laugh out, “HOSANNA!” we shout out, “THANK YOU, LOVING GOD!”

One: For all that was. For all that is. For all that will be.

All: Alleluia. Hosanna! THANK YOU, LOVING GOD!

One: For all that we were. For all that we are. For all that we could be!

All: Alleluia. Hosanna! THANK YOU, LOVING GOD!

One: So, we come together this morning and together we say, together we shout.

All: Alleluia. Hosanna! THANK YOU, LOVING GOD! AMEN.

- * Opening Hymn VU #218 – *“We Praise You, O God”*

Prayer of Approach and Confession

God, on this Thanksgiving we know enough to give thanks. Our prayers often begin, “Thank you God for...”and then we make a list. The list is longer today, because it’s thanksgiving. But what if thankfulness has nothing to do with lists? What if thankfulness is more like the difference between night and day, the difference between being shut in and being free, the difference between holding on and reaching out? What if thankfulness is not something to be grasped, not something that can be simply said, not something at all?

What if thankfulness is transformation; a revolution of the heart, a re-centering, from ourselves to your Son? What if thankfulness is a blossoming, from bud to flower, all the way to the ripe red apple, a movement from life to death and beyond the grave to resurrection? What if Thanksgiving is Christmas, Good Friday and Easter all rolled into one?

When we are tempted to simply list our thanks, or give our

thanks, show us the wider horizon, where we are the extravagant gesture, pressed down, shaken together, running over--thankful people made in your image. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon

Children’s Time

- * Hymn VU #522 – *“Give Thanks, My Soul, For Harvest”*

The Word

- 📖 Scripture Reading – Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
John 6: 25-35

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Meditation – *“What is thankfulness?”*

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem – *“Canon of Thanks”*

The Response

Announcements / Minute Person – Rev. Dr. Bob Galston

- * Offering / Response

**In the spirit of thanksgiving, Lord,
We bow our heads in prayer.
Let this time be the beginning,
When we finally learn to share.
We are blessed to be a blessing.
Fill our cup, Lord, with Your grace.
Overflowing with thanksgiving,
Truly living out our faith.**

The Lord’s Prayer / Prayers of the People (VU #959)

- * Closing Hymn MV #182 – *“Grateful”*

- * Benediction / Response (VU #227 vs.3)

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all love has found us, thanks be to God.**

Patrick Woodbeck, Student Minister

Luci Toews, Office Administrator

Douglas Gauthier & Gloria Waldron, Nursery Care

Heather Karavas, Liturgist

Laura Steidl, Music Director

Myrna Hagues, Organist

Gina Grant, Custodian

Ushers: Lorraine Johnson and Pat Lumsden

Greeters: June Kaan and Anne Thoroughgood