

NOVEMBER 2023 WORSHIP GUIDE

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of November 2023. Sunday worship is in person, online and broadcast on the radio (you can listen in your car on FM 87.9, in the church parking lot). If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family. - Pastor Jonathan

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home; For the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills and the never-resting winds, for trees and the common grass underfoot. We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of the summer fields, and taste of the autumn fruits, and rejoice in the feel of the snow, and smell the breath of the spring. Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty, and save our souls from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory. Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day, we bow our hearts to You and pray. We give You thanks for all You've done, especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son. For beauty in nature, Your glory we see, for joy and health, friends, and family. For daily provision, Your mercy and care, these are the blessings You graciously share. So today we offer this response of praise with a promise to follow You all of our days. O God our creator, Who lives and reigns for ever and ever, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. Sing to him; yes, sing his praises. Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds. Exult in his holy name; rejoice, you who worship the Lord. —1 Chronicles 16:8–10

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November Worship

Worship Nov 5

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Josh 3:7-17; Ps 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thess 2:9-13; Matt 23:1-12

Call To Worship

On this All-Saints Day, we gather to join the multitude of saints across the generations from all tribes, peoples, and languages, to proclaim: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb! We come to remember, to grieve, and to celebrate those saints who have come before, yet whose life and witness continues to teach us: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb! We gather today as the family of Christ, siblings and saints, diverse yet united by grace to live lives that declare: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb! May we be guided today by the Lamb who is our Shepherd, the one who gathers us, comforts us and tends us. May we join in the work of the Shepherd to bring about a world with no more hunger, no more thirst, no more suffering, and no more pain that all the saints of the past, the present, and the future may share in God's abundant life.

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, although we are the communion of saints, we are also a circle of sinners. We cling to death, hiding in tombs that we have carved out of fear and stubbornness, ignoring your call to come out. We fail to unbind each other from oppression, poverty, and abuse. You lay a feast before us, but we fill ourselves with selfishness and wonder why we are hungry. We are convinced that our best days are behind us, not believing that you are making all things new. Forgive us, we pray, and show us the light that we yearn to see. Lead us out of the tombs of death and into your everlasting way, because you are God of the living.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. We bless your holy name, and give you thanks, for all your servants who, having finished their course, now rest from their labors. Give us grace to follow the example of their steadfastness and faithfulness, to your honor and glory. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, and surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Living Lord. Amen.

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## Worship Nov 12

### Scriptures to read and meditate on

Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps 78:1-7; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Matt 25:1-13

### Call To Worship

We gather at this time to remember God's glorious deeds—recorded for all time by people whose lives were touched by divine grace. As people of hope, they affirmed the great works of God, and the importance of keeping the commandments of God. We are recipients of their faithfulness in witnessing to the greatness of God's wondrous acts. Let our witness be as convincing, so that generations to come will continue to honor God's holy name. Let us praise the Lord for all of God's wondrous acts as we remember God's story.

### Prayer of Confession

Ever-Present God, we too often forget Your mighty acts of salvation. We too often forget the blessings of yesterday as today begins anew. We forget even when you remind us. We expect to come to you on our own terms rather than listening to the words of Your mouth. We complain when we don't get our way. We have failed to share your story with others both in word and in our actions, and we have failed to teach our children to trust in you. Forgive us. Help us. Empower us to tell, to share, to live our story that is found only in you.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy Shepherd of all generations, we bring our gifts this morning with thanksgiving and praise! We present these tithes and offerings not from hearts of obligation or debt, but with the confidence and joy that through your love made incarnate in your son Jesus, you've forever removed our debt. Our joy and gratitude are hard to contain. Use our gifts and our lives to do your work of compassion, mercy, and redemption. Let our lips, as well as our lives, tell the story of your generous love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# November Worship

## Worship Nov 19

### Scriptures to read and meditate on

Judg 4:1-7; Ps 123; 1 Thess 5:1-11; Matt 25:14-30

### Call To Worship

Come! Share the joy of the Lord! Delight in God's goodness! Praise God who gives each person a special gift to be nurtured and shared. Lord, we thank you for these gifts! Come, let us worship God who entrusts us with so much. Lord, make us worthy of your love and trust in us.

### Prayer of Confession

Lord of mercy and justice, You have given us so many gifts to be used in your world. You have given us these gifts because you trust us to use them well, and you will be with us in all our work. But we disappoint you when we belittle the value of our talents and we become so fearful of failure that we don't believe we are capable of helping in this world. Lord, forgive us. Help us to trust in the gifts you have given to us and to trust in your guidance in using them. Forgive us when we are fearful, stubborn, apathetic, indifferent to the needs around us. Give us hearts for serving you, our Master, as we trust in you through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Beloved Lord, you offer us a precious gift. Your invitation to salvation through Jesus Christ frees us from so many unnecessary fears. Receive the gifts that we bring this day as we give them with thankfulness and joy. We also bring ourselves as our offering, that in living lives of truth, justice, honor, and holiness, we might please you and glorify your never-failing love and presence with us. May we be the ones to whom you say, "Well done, good and faithful servant," as we invest our lives in your great love, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Worship Nov 26

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Deut 8:7-18; Ps 65; 2 Cor 9:6-15; Luke 17:11-19

Call To Worship

Come to worship Jesus Christ, Alpha and Omega, the one who is, who was, and is to come (Rev. 1:8).

We come to worship the one who rules justly (2 Samuel 23:34). Come to worship Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, The firstborn of the dead, The ruler of the kings of the earth! (Rev. 1:5). Bread of Heaven, God with us! (John 6:51, Mt. 1:23). Good Shepherd, True Vine! (John 10:11, John 15:1). Eternal Word, Great I AM (John 1, John 8:58). Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace! (Isaiah 9:6). We come to worship Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords! (Rev. 19:16). To him be glory and dominion forever and ever! Amen. (Rev. 1:6)

Prayer of Confession

Compassionate King, we stand with the courage of those who insisted, even in perilous times, that not even the most powerful rulers of this earth hold our eternal destiny in their hands. We are secure in Christ, whose reign is just, whose power is endless, and whose love is vast. We join the chorus of saints who continue to declare that Christ is our King. Forgive us when our hearts are reluctant to be obedient to your voice. Forgive us when our loyalty to your Kingdom falters. We know you are a grace filled King, who loves and serves. Empower us, O Master, to walk with you and to worship you not only with our words, but with our very lives.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of mercy and compassion, what is the offering that pleases you most? Certainly, not the token gift that makes us feel we have done all that is required, but a gift that reminds us that need is all around us, and compassion and love are needed desperately and can be given extravagantly. May the gifts we give through your Church help the hungry, thirsty, the imprisoned; but may our whole self be centered on seeing the opportunities to personally make your love real to a hurting world. Help us follow Christ as the king of our life as we live into His holy and loving way. Amen.

The True Story of Thanksgiving

Article by David Mathis

Come Thanksgiving Day each year, many of us give the nod to Pilgrims and Indians and talk of making ready for a harsh first winter in the New World. But for the Christian, the deepest roots of our thanksgiving go back to the Old World, way back before the Pilgrims, to a story as old as creation, with a two-millennia-old climax. It's a story that keeps going right on into the present and gives meaning to our little lives, even when we're a half a globe removed from history's ground zero at a place called Golgotha.

You could call it the true story of thanksgiving — or you could call it the Christian gospel viewed through the lens of that often undervalued virtue known as “gratitude.” It opens up a few biblical texts we otherwise may be prone to downplay. Here's the true story of thanksgiving in four stages.

Created for Thanksgiving

First, God created humanity for gratitude. You exist to appreciate God. He created you to honor him by giving him thanks. Appreciating both who God is and his actions for us — in creating us and sustaining our lives — is fundamental to proper human life in God's created world. As he describes in Romans 1 what's gone wrong with the world, the apostle Paul gives us this glimpse of the place of appreciation in the created order:

Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Romans 1:21). Part of what the first man and woman were created to do was honor God by being thankful. And part of what we exist to do is honor God by being thankful — and thus the numerous biblical commands enjoining gratitude. Humanity was created to appreciate God. But as we've already seen from Romans 1, ingratitude wasn't far away.

Fallen from Thanksgiving

Second, we all have failed miserably in appreciating God as we should. From all of our beginnings, we keep reliving the Garden story. Satan, he wanted more. More power, more glory. Ultimately, in his essence, Satan is an ingrate. And he sinks his venom into the heart of Eden. Satan's sin becomes the first sin of all humanity: the sin of ingratitude. Adam and Eve are, simply, painfully ungrateful for what God gave. Isn't that the catalyst of all my sin? Our fall was, has always been, and always will be, that we aren't satisfied in God and what He gives. We hunger for something more, something other. Satan the ingrate spawns un-thankfulness in Adam and Eve, who pass it along to all of us. Both before our conversion and after, we are unthankful people. This is so painfully true.

And we not only fail to be thankful like we ought, but we also fail to get the balance right between physical and spiritual. Two obstacles often stand in our way to God-exalting gratitude. You could call them “hyper-spirituality” and “hyper-physicality.” Perhaps hyper-physicality is all too well known in 21st-century Western society at large. A milieu of materialists is so unaware of spiritual reality that even when there is gratitude for the physical, the spiritual is neglected, if not outright rejected. We can be thankful for the temporal, even while we couldn't care less about the eternal. But hyper-spirituality is often particularly dangerous among the so-called “spiritual” types, even in the church. We can be prone to mute God's physical goodness to us out of fear that appreciation for such would somehow detract from our thanksgiving for spiritual blessings.

In our sin, we fail again and again to get the proportions right. Only with divine redemption are we able to grow toward a balance that goes something like this: Christians are thankful for all God's gifts, especially his eternal gifts, and especially the surpassing value of knowing his Son (Philippians 3:8), the Spirit-become-physical.

Redeemed by Thanksgiving

Third, God himself, in the person of his Son, Jesus, entered into our thankless world, lived in flawless appreciation of his Father, and died on our behalf for our chronic ingratitude. It is Jesus, the God-man, who has manifested the perfect life of thankfulness. If you've ever tracked the texts where Jesus gives his Father thanks, you'll know it's quite an impressive list.

- ✠ Matthew 11:25 [also Luke 10:21]: “At that time [note the context of unrepentant and unthankful “cities where most of his mighty works had been done,” verse 20] Jesus declared, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.’”
- ✠ John 11:41: “. . . they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me.’” [Jesus then raises Lazarus from the dead.]
- ✠ Matthew 15:36 [also Mark 8:6]: Jesus “took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples . . . ” [See also John 6:11 and John 6:23 which refer to the location as “the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks.”]
- ✠ Luke 22:17–20 [also Matthew 26:27 and Mark 14:23]: “He took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, ‘Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’” [And so following Jesus’s pattern, Paul in Acts 27:35 “took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it . . . ”]
- ✠ First Corinthians 11:23–24: Our “Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it . . . ”

Jesus is not only God himself but also the quintessentially thankful human. The God-man not only died to forgive our failures in giving God the thanks he’s due, but also lived the perfect life of appreciation on our behalf toward his Father.

Freed for Thanksgiving

Finally, by faith in Jesus, we are redeemed from ingratitude and its just eternal penalty in hell, and freed to enjoy the pleasure of being doubly thankful for God’s favor toward us — not only as his creatures, but also as his redeemed. It is fitting for a creature to be in a continuous posture of gratitude toward his Creator. And it is even more fitting for a redeemed rebel to be in an ongoing posture of gratitude toward his Redeemer. The kind of life that flows from such amazing grace is the life of continual thankfulness. This is the kind of life in which the born-again Christian is being continually renewed, progressively being made more like Jesus. And so the apostle Paul encourages Christians to have lives characterized by thanksgiving.

- ✠ Colossians 1:11–12: May you be “strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”
- ✠ Colossians 2:6–7: “as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”
- ✠ Colossians 3:15–17 [note the hat trick (3x) in this one text]: “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
- ✠ Ephesians 5:20: “. . . giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- ✠ First Thessalonians 5:18: “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Only in Jesus, the paragon of creaturely appreciation, are we able to become the kind of persistently thankful people God created us to be and fulfill the human destiny of thanksgiving. For the Christian, with both feet standing firmly in the good news of Jesus, there are possibilities for a true thanksgiving which we otherwise would never know.

My Hope is Built - Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

B S A D S A B T J H W E B B K P A S T L O F S U U W S G M M
T R T R T C O F A M M K F E G B O Y P R E B U I O Y T J P O
P V E F O V A A V O P P B J R F E F B D R B N O Y T R B M K
A U E E I U M T C E X P C J T A U D A S G K S X K M A P D R
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B R I G H T H P Y K G R A I N M S B E A D E P W S Y A B O F
P O W K J P J W L B K I M E H L R N Q R F J Q A A B R U X S
S Q D H K A G Y W M P J T O T B B Z S E W V Z V S G R S K H
J P A D J U D K N J C N M N M L N C D N L O V E G L I D E J
R J D N A H Y T H G I M L A R R U N I T P V M S O Q M A O E
Y B Q F L Z D Q F E S F V V A O Z K D X O V G V Z O L B N C
Q Y P L B Z Q M X F G L L H W A Q W U M V B E Z R T K G W Y
O W E R A W T J H W B N U Z W I U E H L X E M X H V C G K H
J W L P Z U B A H J N K V R U F Z I C G U L W Z O P Q D G D
S Y O P C E V J C B Q L H O T Y A I T W G Y F I E L D S C D

Find the **37 bold** words or phrases from the Hymn,
We Plough the Fields and Scatter

We **plough** the **fields** and **scatter** the good **seed** on
the land, but it is **fed and watered** by God's
almighty hand. God sends the **snow in winter**, the
warmth to **swell** the **grain**, the **breezes**, and the
sunshine, and **soft refreshing rain**.

You only are the **Maker** of all things **near and far**.
You **paint** the **wayside flower**, you light the **evening**
star. The **winds** and **waves** obey you, by you the
birds are fed; much more to us, your **children**, you
give our **daily bread**.

We thank you, then, **Creator**, for all things **bright**
and **good**, the seed-time, and the **harvest**, our life,
our **health**, our **food**. Accept the **gifts** we offer for all
your **love imparts**, and what you most would
welcome: our **humble, thankful hearts**.

All good gifts **around us** are sent from heaven above.
We thank you, **God**, we thank you, God,
for all **your love**.

STARTING SEPT 1, AND EVERY MONTH THEREAFTER, WE WILL BE COLLECTING
TISSUES AND DISINFECTING WIPES FOR THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
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wipes must be
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and
store brand
accepted



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday November 12th
at 4 pm

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of worship
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the
DUNNS

In Concert at Cherryvale Church