

Thanksgiving Sunday

October 13, 2024

Organ prelude: Variations on "Come ye thankful people come"
Bruce Nasmith

***Hymn: We thank you, Lord, for you are good**

No. 97

1. We thank you, Lord, for you are good;
your mercy lives forever.
Your kindness from of old has stood;
your love will keep us ever.
O God of gods, O sovereign Lord,
we bless you now with one accord:
your love is everlasting.

2. You, Lord, alone did wondrous deeds;
your mercy lives forever.
From you alone all good proceeds;
your love will keep us ever.
Your wisdom made the heavens to be;
you formed the earth above the sea:
your love is everlasting.

3. You made the starry lights to rise;
your mercy lives forever.
Your glories shine in radiant skies;
your love will keep us ever.
Your glowing moon enhances night.
Your sun brings forth each morning's light:
your love is everlasting.

4. You rescue us from every foe;
your mercy lives forever.
You feed your creatures here below;
your love will keep us ever.
We give you thanks, Creator, Lord;
we sing the glories of your word:
your love is everlasting.

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come here, some of us, as people who want more out of life. We come here, some of us, as people who sometimes settle for less.

Some of us have far too many attachments and need to let some of them go. Others of us lack sufficient commitment to people and practices that can more truly enrich our lives.

Even though many of us have much by the world's standards, we can feel empty.

Some of us can get our priorities a little mixed up, and our relationships can use greater care and attention.

And so we come to worship God, to get re-ordered, to find new fullness and direction, purpose and passion, strength and inspiration to live as God has made us to live.

ALL: On this thanksgiving Sunday, let us find our way again. Let us worship God, together!

***Hymn: For the fruits of all creation**

No. 802

1. For the fruits of all creation thanks be to God;
for the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

2. In the just reward of labour, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

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, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & The Lord's Prayer

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,

the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Peace of Christ be with you all;

And also with you

(Children are invited to join in programming following the Passing of the Peace)

Choir: O sing joyfully

Adrian Batten

O sing joyfully, O sing joyfully unto God our strength: Make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob. Take the song, bring hither the tabret : the merry harp with the lute. Blow up, Blow up the trumpet in the new-moon, even in the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast-day. For this was made a statute for Israel : and a law of the God of Jacob.

Scripture Readings:

1 Kings 21: 1-16,
Mark 10: 17-27

Pam McCarroll

INTRO: Our first reading is taken from the Old Testament book of 1st Kings, chapter 21, verses 1-16. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel rule Israel with ruthless corruption and self-interest. What happens when an innocent man stands in the way of more of what they want? Listen:

1 Kings 21. 1-16:

21Later the following events took place: Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. 2And Ahab said to Naboth, 'Give me your vineyard, so that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house; I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money.' 3But Naboth said to Ahab, 'The Lord forbid that I should give you my ancestral inheritance.' 4Ahab went home resentful and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him; for he had said, 'I will not give you my ancestral inheritance.' He lay down on his bed, turned away his face, and would not eat.

5 His wife Jezebel came to him and said, 'Why are you so depressed that you will not eat?' 6He said to her, 'Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, "Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard for it"; but he answered, "I will not give you my vineyard."' 7His wife Jezebel said to him, 'Do you now govern Israel? Get up, eat some food, and be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.'

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal; she sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who lived with Naboth in his city. 9She wrote in the letters, 'Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth at the head of the assembly; 10seat two scoundrels opposite him, and have them bring a charge against him, saying, "You have cursed God and the king." Then take him out, and stone him to death.' 11The men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. Just as it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, 12they proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the assembly. 13The two scoundrels came in and sat opposite him; and the scoundrels brought a charge against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, 'Naboth cursed God and the king.' So they took him outside the city, and stoned him to death. 14Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, 'Naboth has been stoned; he is dead.'

15 As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, 'Go, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead.' 16As soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab set out to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. Amen.

INTRO: Our second reading is taken from the gospel of Mark, chapter 10, verses 17-27. Being rich is not a sin. But what happens if you make

your money within a system and a world where there is great inequality of opportunity and circumstance? How do our attachments to things like money become a barrier to greater fulfillment in what truly matters before God and in life? Jesus encounters a rich man who comes to him looking for more in his life. What does Jesus tell him? Listen:

Mark 10. 17-31:

17 As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' 18 Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. 19 You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' 20 He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' 21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' 22 When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' 24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' 26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' 27 Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

We are listening, O God; Speak to us!

Sermon: WHAT'S WRONG WITH WEALTH?

Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis

(Silent Meditation)

Solo: "Thank you"

Ray Boltz

Soloist Chris Tanaka-Mann

*I dreamed I went to heaven
And you were there with me
We walked upon the streets of gold
Beside the crystal sea
We heard the angels singing
Then someone called your name
You turned and saw this young man
And he was smiling as he came
And he said friend you may not know me now
And then he said but wait
You used to teach my Sunday School
When I was only eight
And every week you would say a prayer
Before the class would start
And one day when you said that prayer
I asked Jesus in my heart*

*Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am so glad you gave*

*Then another man stood before you
And said remember the time
A missionary came to your church
And his pictures made you cry
You didn't have much money*

But you gave it anyway
Jesus took the gift you gave
And that's why I'm here today

Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am so glad you gave

One by one they came
Far as the eyes could see
Each life somehow touched
By your generosity
Little things that you had done
Sacrifices made
Unnoticed on the earth
In heaven now proclaimed

And I know that up in heaven
You're not supposed to cry
But I am almost sure
There were tears in your eyes
As Jesus took your hand
And you stood before the Lord
He said, my child look around you
For great is your reward

Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am so glad you gave

*Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am so glad you gave
I am so glad you gave...*

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

***Hymn: Now thank we all our God**

No. 457

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

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

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

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Variations on "Now thank we all our God"

Bruce Nasmith

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We invite you to join us for coffee hour and light refreshments in our adjacent hall after the service.

All are welcome!

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OUR PURPOSE AS A CHURCH:

To become the hands, feet, voice and heart of Christ for each other and in the world.



Ministers

Ministers-in
Association
Minister Emeritus
Clerk of Session
Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement
Christian Ed.
Coordinator
Music Director

The Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis, hathan1964@hotmail.com
The Rev. Rebecca Jess, rebecca@armourheights.org (On Maternity Leave)
The Rev. Dr. Carol Loudon,
The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll & The Rev. Dr. Glynis Williams
The Rev. William Middleton
Michael Nettleton, clerk@armourheights.org
Erin Stone, estone@armourheights.org
Hannah Athanasiadis, education@armourheights.org

Bruce C. Nasmith, brucenasmith@gmail.com

Coming Events

Sunday, October 13

Thanksgiving Sunday
Intergenerational Band Rehearsal

Monday, October 14

Dance fitness, 10:00am

Wednesday, October 16

"Where Is God in the Face Of Human
Suffering & Injustice? The Biblical Book of
Job: A Study" 7:30pm

Friday, October 18

Intergenerational Dinner and Games Night
at AHPC! 6pm Dinner and 7pm games (see
poster for details)

Sunday, October 20

Intergenerational Sunday
EHM Walk to End Homelessness, 2:00pm
after worship (speak to Erin for details)

Monday October 21

Dance Fitness, 10:00am

Wednesday, October 23

"Where Is God in the Face Of Human
Suffering & Injustice? The Biblical Book of
Job: A Study" 7:30pm

Friday, October 25

Halloween Activity - Youth Group - 7pm-
9pm (see poster for details)

Sunday, October 27

Reformation Sunday
Join us following worship for lunch and a
presentation from our refugee
sponsorship family - the Ahmadis. A
sharing of their story out of Afghanistan

Monday, October 28

Dance Fitness, 10:00am

Tuesday, October 29

Literary Society, "Dazzle Patterns" by
Alison Watt, 7:30pm In Person and Online

Wednesday, October 30

"Where Is God in the Face Of Human
Suffering & Injustice? The Biblical Book of
Job: A Study" 7:30pm

Sunday, November 3

Communion of Saints Sunday

Monday, November 4

Dance fitness, 10:00am



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"Discover the vitality of faith"