

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

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*We Worship, We Love, We
Serve -
No Matter What!*

Thanksgiving Eve Service

**November 23, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

The Order of Worship

~ We Worship ~

*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton! We are a place where love can grow!

As the music begins, please find your place and begin

to center your spirit for our worship of God together

Prelude

Song of the Wanderer

by Dan Forrest

Ensemble: Jeffrey Raab, Andre Scott, Julie Mertus,

Emily Szuter, Amanda Devaney

Violinist: Stephani Bell

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

***Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

***Call to Worship**

DonnaLee Yeatts & Gary Black

from "Faithward" by Rev. Kathy Jo Blaske

Chaplain, Reformed Church in America

One: Generous God, for the abundance of your blessings to us day by day and year by year,

All: We give you our thankful hearts.

One: For the simple pleasures of life: for garden harvests, coffee conversation, and familiar surroundings; for health and strength to appreciate the wonder of life, for needs met and desires fulfilled,

All: We give you our thankful hearts.

One: For foods distributed to nourish body and spirit, for homes which supply shelter, which nurture order and beauty, and offer hospitality,

All: We give you our thankful hearts.

One: With hearts that forgive as freely as you have forgiven, with enthusiasm of spirit for the gift of life, with music which declares your everlasting goodness, with prayers or mutual understanding and peace,

All: We worship you with joy.

One: With creative pursuits which contribute our God-given talents, with words which honor you as Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit; with time volunteered and dedicated to service in church and community, with years committed to extending the love of Jesus Christ,

All: We worship you with joy.

One: With gifts of money which reach farther than we can manage ourselves, with deeds done in service of neighbor and stranger, with holy days set apart to celebrate your goodness and grace, with family and friends distant and nearby,

All: We worship you, God, with grateful hearts and joyful spirit. Alleluia! Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“Let All Things Now Living”
All Verses

Hymn found on Pg. 3

Prayer of Confession

Carole O’Connell
Visitation Committee

One: You are the God of Abundance, Provision, and Plenty, yet, so many do not have enough, so many are burdened by far too much, so many squander what they have, so many do evil to get more.

All: The “many” include me. Lord, have mercy. Help me choose collaboration over competition, gratitude over greed, rest over hustle, generosity over fear of scarcity. Help me choose You and Your ways, always.

(Time for Silent prayer)

Let All Things Now Living



1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing
2. His law he en - forc - es, The stars in their cours-es,



To God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
The sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine,



Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,



By guid - ing us on to the end of our days.
The depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us,
We, too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing



A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:
With glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise:



Till shad - ows have van - ished And dark - ness is ban - ished,
Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing,



As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.
To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980. © 1939, 1966, E.C. Schirmer Music Co.
Tune: ASH GROVE, 66 11 66 11 D; Welsh; harm. by Gerald H. Knight, 1908-1979

Words of Assurance

Carole O'Connell
Visitation Committee

One: Every good and perfect gift comes from the heart of God for us all. God is with us, ready to create within us exceedingly, abundantly, above all we ask or think.

All: Thanks be to God, for God's faithfulness and love which endures forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Rev. David Quinn

Hymn

"We Gather Together"
Verses 1 and 2

Hymn can be found on Pg. 5

*Scripture Reading

Luke 17:11-19
Regina Mohr

*Please stand in body or in spirit for the reading of God's Word.

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon

Rev. David Quinn

Heart of Thanks

Making Thanks Giving Into Two Words Again

Chancel Choir Anthem

"For the Autumn Sky"
Ruth Elaine Schram

81 We Gather Together

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, our lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
 and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be;

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning:
 let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion:

sing prais - es to his name: he for - gets not his own.
 thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine!
 thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

WORDS: Netherlands folk hymn; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934)
 MUSIC: *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626; arr. Edward Kremser (1838-1914)

KREMSE
 12.11.12.11.

~ We Love ~

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

God of many names, in faith we come before you tonight, knowing you as our God of justice and mercy. We humbly consider the first Thanksgiving meal, a time of celebration and unity, yet our world, country and lives are filled with division. All too often, we do not do the difficult work of building bridges and seeking unity.

In this season of thanksgiving, remind us of the truth that every good and perfect gift comes from You. God, we admit that even in our moment of gratitude, we fall short. We feel thankful for the gifts without acknowledging the Giver. We praise the beautiful creation around us without drawing close to the Creator. We sing about our salvation without glorifying You – our Savior.

Remind us, God, that any good we experience is only a glimpse of Your character; that any blessing is only a foretaste of what You have in store for those who put their hope in You. Thank you for the grace to experience that even our lives, the very breath in our lungs, is a reminder of Your Spirit and deep love for us. God, reveal Yourself to us in every good gift, and give us eyes to see You in them. We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Christ, whose heart of love and grace draws us together to pray, saying...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Praise Response

All That We Have
Gary Ault

*All that we have, and all that we offer,
comes from a heart both frightened and free;
take what we bring now and give what we need.
All done in His name.*

Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God

Thank you for your generosity and
faithfulness in
supporting the ministry of
St. John's UCC!



*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

*Prayer of Dedication

Sandi Nagy
Visitation Committee

**Loving and giving God, we offer these gifts and our lives,
our heart of thanks for all that you bring to us. Receive all
we share as we dedicate ourselves to you. Amen.**



Presentation to Pastor Dave
Brian Fisher, Consistory President
Paul Raszler, Personnel Chair
Rev. Davis

**Honoring Pastor Dave's Ministry,
Releasing and Farewell**

Brian Fisher: Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved one and friends among us come to the end of their journey in faith with us and some to the end of their earthly lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, beginning new faith in new places, with new experiences and opportunities. All of these things happen because we choose to be in relationship and to be the beloved community of God together.

Paul Raszler: For the last 6 years, Pastor Dave has served this congregation as our Visitation Pastor. Today, we express our gratitude and thanks for his leadership.

Pastor Dave: I thank St. John's UCC, Fullerton, the many members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last 6 years.

I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been received. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have experienced here.

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer our forgiveness, and accept that you now leave us to continue ministry in new places. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us as your departure. You will not continue as our pastor, yet will always have a place in our hearts as our friend.

Pastor Dave: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Prayer in Releasing

Rev. Davis & People

Rev. Davis: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we have shared together saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories and move in new directions, until that time comes when we are completely one with you and with each other.

People: We offer our encouragement for Pastor Dave's ministry, and with your help, loving God, we release ourselves and this church from our dependence on him and pledge to continue here in these relationships, with the help of God, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

~ *We Serve* ~

***Hymn #423**

"Great Is Your Faithfulness"
Verses 1 and 2

***The Benediction**

Rev. Quinn

When the altar candles have been extinguished, our time of worship is concluded and our service in the world continues.

The Benediction and Postlude send us out to be the people of God in our community.

Postlude

Variation on Faithfulness
Noel Rawsthorne

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Thank you for sharing part of your
Thanksgiving celebration with us!

In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill or are in our area hospitals: Richard Baatz, Carl Case, Shirley Downing, Milton Focht, Sally Gibson, Tracey Glass, Ron Glass, Ginny Hess, Ted Hess, Travis Kaintz, Geraldine Keim, Alan Miller, Karen Moyer, Eleanor O'Donnell, Jack Ohl, Brenda Pascoe, Joey Raszler, Charleah Sandt, Marietta Seyfried, Madeline Slivka, Cheryl Weaver and Nancy Weaver.

We continue to pray for all those serving in our nation's military and for their families for their sacrifices on behalf of our freedom.

If you or a family member is admitted to the hospital, tell them you are a member of St. John's or use the church code, 473.

If you have someone for us to remember in prayer, please contact the church office.

Serving in Worship Leadership

November 23 (Thanksgiving Eve)

Ushers: Tom Moyer & Brian Fisher

Worship Tech: Bill Castello & Elijah Fox

November 27

Ushers 8:15 - Kim Hillegass & Carole O'Connell

10:45 - Austyn Venanzi, Sharon Czekner & Bob Czekner

Worship Tech 8:15 - Bill Castello

10:45 - Bill Castello & Elijah Fox

ONLINE GIVING UPDATE

Your donations can be made any time with same day reconciliation with your bank. Recurring contributions can be scheduled weekly, twice monthly or monthly. We hope this helps us all share our gifts consistently and with ease.

HAPPY FRIENDSGIVING

The Lady PEEPS Women's Group will be celebrating Friendsgiving Day on Tuesday, November 29th at 6:30 PM in Fox Hall. Ladies, come join us as we spend a relaxing evening together playing games, making an easy art project and growing friendships. Refreshments will be served. Please use the elevator entrance to join us and I will see you there!

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

Donations are needed for the Christmas holiday meal. We need boxes of stuffing or filling mix. Monetary donations will also be used to purchase gift certificates for turkeys. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations.

OPERATION SANTA - MITTEN TREE

You can find the Mitten Tree at the rear of the sanctuary. Please remove a mitten if you wish to make a monetary contribution for seniors at Phoebe Ministries (red mitten) and/or children and teens at Valley Youth House (yellow mitten). From your donations, gifts will be purchased by the staff at both locations. **Deadline is Sunday, November 27.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The Men's Breakfast Group of St. John's meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Hamilton Family Restaurant located at 2027 Hamilton St. in Allentown. Our next meeting is on December 3 at 8:30 am. We would be pleased to have you join us. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Bob Bold at 610-393-6123 or email at QVRRBold@aol.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - SERVICE OF THE NATIVITY

Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 pm, St. John's will be holding our first ever Service of the Nativity. If you are interested in participating or would like more information on how to become involved with this wonderful service, please contact Patrick Sandt at Sjfmusic@sjucf.org or through phone at 484-241-0250.

Church Calendar for Nov 24 - Nov 27, 2022

Thurs, 11/24	Office Closed - Thanksgiving Day
Fri, 11/25	Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
Sat, 11/26 9:00 am	Decorating for Advent
9:30 am	Zumba
Sun, 11/27 8:15 am	Worship Service
9:30 am	Faith Formation/Confirmation (open)
10:45 am	Worship Service