



## PASTOR'S PAGE

Gerard Tersteegen was a German reformed writer who died in 1769. He is famously quoted as saying, "A God comprehended is no God." I think what he was meaning by this is that if we will only allow for a God who fits conveniently within the human capacity to reason, we have not only eliminated the possibility of an infinite personal God, but rather we have become gods ourselves. Another way of saying this is that a God comprehended will never be able to act outside of our ability to understand Him.

Rudolf Otto, another German theologian, wrote a book entitled, *The Idea of the Holy*. In this book, he makes a useful distinction between the words, irrational, and non-rational. Simply put, what he means by irrational is that which is against reason. But what he means by non-rational is that which is beyond reason. If we do not allow for those things which are beyond reason, the non-rational, then we must disallow the existence of a God who operates outside of the human capacity to understand His divine nature, and omnipotent power.

Let me offer Isaiah 43:13 for your consideration. Here we read, "Even from eternity I am He." I don't know if you've ever tried to wrap your mind around eternity, but if you have you soon realize that it's beyond your ability to comprehend. Everything we experience has an end. There is an English idiom attributed to Chaucer in the 1300s which we've all heard, "All good things must come to an end." That statement stands up to human reason, but what if it also explained the nature and existence of God? We would be back to Tersteegen's axiom, "A God comprehended is no God."

Again from the book of Isaiah considered the sixth chapter. When Isaiah said, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, his immediate response is recorded in verse five; "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." A comprehensive study of scripture reveals that when you step into the presence of a Holy God, you not only understand who He is, but you also understand who you are. When Moses met God in the burning bush, his first response was to hide his face. When the disciples went up onto the mount of transfiguration with Jesus, they fell down and became like dead men. Hebrews 10:13 says, "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

We have deemphasized the existence of a Holy God. I think the primary reason is that when we embrace a Holy God, it exposes who we truly are. All of Job's arguments made perfect sense from a rational point of view. But when the Lord of glory entered the conversation, Job's response was silence. He said, "Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to Thee? I lay my hand on my mouth." Perhaps this is what the Psalmist meant when he said, "Be still and know that I am God." If you only allow for a God that makes perfect sense then your life never will.

*Pastor Tim*

# Behind the Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

*For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth,  
Over and around us lies;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

"For the Beauty of the Earth," written by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint in 1864, celebrates the beauty of creation and expresses gratitude for God's gifts.

Author and Inspiration

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint was a British poet and teacher who composed this beloved hymn at the age of 29. The hymn was inspired by a spring morning view of his native city, Bath, England. Pierpoint was moved by the natural beauty surrounding him, which led him to write verses that reflect his gratitude for the earth, human love, and the divine.

## Original Context

Originally titled "The Sacrifice of Praise," the hymn was published in 1864 in a collection called *Lyra Eucharistica*, which focused on the Eucharistic hymns. The refrain, "Christ, our God, to Thee we raise / This our sacrifice of praise," connects the hymn to the themes of the Lord's Supper and thanksgiving. The hymn was intended for communion services, emphasizing the relationship between creation and the divine.

## Evolution and Themes

The hymn originally consisted of eight stanzas, but many hymnals today include only four to six. Each stanza highlights different aspects of God's creation, such as the beauty of the earth, the joy of human love, and the church. Over time, the hymn has been adapted for various liturgical occasions, making it accessible to a broader audience. The original themes of gratitude and praise remain central to its message, resonating with worshippers across denominations.

## Discipleship Ministries+3

## Musical Setting

The most commonly used tune for "For the Beauty of the Earth" is known as "Dix," composed by Conrad Kocher in 1838. This melody has become closely associated with the hymn, enhancing its lyrical beauty and emotional impact.

## Diana Leigh Matthews

In summary, "For the Beauty of the Earth" is a hymn that beautifully encapsulates the theme of gratitude and appreciation for God's creation, reflecting Pierpoint's deep connection to the natural world and his faith. Its enduring popularity in worship settings speaks to its powerful message and the universal human experience of wonder and thankfulness.

## **Church Council**

September 16, 2025

**Present:** Pastor Tim, Virginia Roberts, Dale Cramer, Colleen Vandegrift, Steve & Eileen Johnson, Amy & Tyson, Betty Jorgensen, Wanda Warwick

**Prayer:** Pastor Tim led the council in prayer.

**Minutes:** Minutes were left for the council to read. Colleen made a motion to accept them as presented. The motion was seconded by Tyson and it carried.

**Financials:** Betty left the statements for council to study. Colleen made a motion to accept them with a second from Amy. The motion carried.

**Directory:** Council will table the item for the time being.

**Eric Nelson:** Eric will be here on the 21 of this September. Grace Bible has been invited and an article was placed in the local newspaper to invite any others interested. An open invite was also placed on the Facebook page.

**Mission Giving:** We are done through October and for November the council voted to give \$500 to the Lion's Club. Colleen made the motion with a second from Dale and it passed.

**Wednesday Nights:** Discussion was held about activities being scheduled on Wednesday nights as it interferes with Church activities. Thoughts were presented about asking Margo and Clay. Council left it in the hands of Amy.

**Security:** Grants are available to have surveillance cameras on the outside of the building. Pastor is looking into the grants.

**Marquee:** Council is asking about colors and how it will look. Daren has painted it matte black. There will be a brick veneer on the base and that can be selected when the sign is installed.

**Jason Benson:** Larry Maatsch is retiring this year from the lawn. Jason is interested in mowing in the coming year. Thank you, Larry, for your years of work in the yard and thank you Jason for taking on the job!

**Next Meeting:** November 18 at 7 pm

***Give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

## **Sisters in Christ**

Pam Downer led the group in repeating The Purpose, when Sisters in Christ met on October 8, 2025. Five members and guest Julie Hansen were present. Charlene Colson gave Devotions. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Correspondence included a thank-you from the Southwest Elementary School for the Backpack donation. A children's Christmas Shoebox was on display, reminding that Christmas Giving decisions will take place at the next meeting on November 12.

A discussion began with talks about birds, including bird watching, feeding, or recording life-long bird lists. This led into thought about ravens! A picture of a raven was compared to a blackbird. All recalled the poem by Edgar Allen Poe! However, did you know the legend of the six ravens who live in Windsor Castle? Those who have visited the Castle, tell the myth, that if all six resident ravens leave, the Kingdom will fall! Scripture shared was from First Kings 17:2-4 telling of the Prophet Elijah being kept alive and fed by the ravens. Ravens are interesting birds!

Next meeting at 2 pm on November 12.

**November 23**

Save the date! Cambridge will celebrate November potluck after services on November 23. Potluck will be soup and sandwiches. After enjoying this light meal together, we will then prepare the church for the season ahead - Hanging of the Greens! Watch the upcoming bulletins for more information. Please come prepared to enjoy time together as a church family!

Kemper will decorate after services on the same day during fellowship! Please come and help make our churches beautiful!



He is retiring again! First as a teacher, then as an EMS, now from mowing the lawns. Can't say you don't deserve the time off Larry, but we will miss seeing you out here at work! Best of luck in the third retirement!





Bartley church is very thankful for our Gal, Hillary Schults, who keeps the Church clean and fresh!!

Kudos to the 3M Mowing team, that kept the church grounds in top conditions

Elizabeth Circle,

Thank you so much for the prayer blanket and for thinking of me after my shoulder surgery. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

Dick Potts

**Lord, Thank You That you Are;**

**Strong** when I am weak.

**Present** when I feel alone.

**Wisdom** when I don't know what to do.

My **guide** when I feel lost.

**Hope** when I lose confidence.

**Faith** when I have none.

**Peace** in the midst of the storm.

**Manna** when I am hungry.

**Rest** when I am restless.

My **defender** when I am accused.

My **protector** when I am attacked.

My **strong tower** when I am overwhelmed.

My **provision** when I am broke.

My **healer** when I am sick.

My **friend** when I have none.

My **comforter** when I am afraid.

**There** when I call.

Thank you that you are **my everything**.

## The Story of Operation Christmas Child

### How did an idea about a shoebox turn into a worldwide gift-giving sensation?

As we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Operation Christmas Child is also marking a birthday. This year marks 31 years since Samaritan's Purse began collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts for hurting children around the world.

In 1993, a man in England asked us to collect Christmas gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia. I called a church in Charlotte, where Pastor Ross Rhoads invited his congregation to fill shoeboxes with children's gifts, and they overwhelmed us with 11 thousand boxes – so many that the church ran out of room to store them. I'll never forget Ross telling me, "Franklin, this is obviously something the Lord has blessed."

From the start, Operation Christmas Child has always dedicated to sharing the Gospel, and the Lord has blessed us with an abundance of gift boxes – 209 million over 30 years.

Around the world, a whole generation of children have grown up after coming to know Jesus through Operation Christmas Child.

The boxes that are collected are shipped to many countries around the world. Each box will have a book about Jesus for the children to learn and study. Many of the recipients will remember these gifts for years to come.

After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Samaritan's Purse—to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.



*Franklin Graham*

How many children can we offer the love of God to this year?



## *A Place for Those Who Grieve* DEDICATION

NOV. 2, 2025 1:30 p.m.

Fairview Cemetery – Cambridge, NE

*All are invited to this place of peace and  
prayer at the burial site of the Pioneer  
victims of the flash flood of 1885.*

*Southwest side of the beautiful  
Fairview Cemetery.*

1:30 – Dedication Ceremony

*Gather at Trinity Community Church after the dedication for  
Refreshments  
and Fellowship*

# Happy Thanksgiving

## November 2025

<b>2</b> Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am  Daylight Saving Time ends.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Bible Study 5pm Youth Group 7pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am	<b>10</b> Elizabeth Circle at 12 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Sisters in Christ 2pm  Cambridge Circles at 4 pm  Bible Study 5pm Youth Group 7pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am	<b>17</b> Outreach at 9:30am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bible Study 5pm Youth Group 7pm Lois Circle at 7pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
Shoe Box Collection Nov. Monday 17-24						
<b>23</b> Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am  Soup & Sandwiches Hanging of the Greens after services	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Bible Study 5pm Youth Group 7pm	<b>27</b> <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b> 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

**30**  
Fellowship 10 am  
Sunday School 10 am

**Daylight Saving Time Ends!!!**  
***Remember to reset your clocks***  
***November 2***  
***Fall behind!***







### Mission Giving

Trinity is glad to announce that the church will donate to the Lion's Club to help with the annual Christmas program!

## Worship Services

### Trinity Community Church

620 Penn Street  
PO Box 310  
Cambridge, NE 69022  
(308) 697-4352  
[trinityoffice@swnebr.net](mailto:trinityoffice@swnebr.net)

Pastor Tim's e-mail:  
[Trinitypastor@swnebr.net](mailto:Trinitypastor@swnebr.net)

10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship

### Kemper Memorial Methodist Church

9:45 am Worship  
Followed by Fellowship



### November

2	Cody Vandegrift	17	Jenna Ebbers
3	Donna Pearson	19	Charlene Colson
	Alec May	20	Pam Downer
	Debbi Runner	21	Lindsey White
	Reese tenBensel		Braden Jones
	Gavin tenBensel	22	Daryl Brown
5	Carla Potts	25	Jim Jackson
	Lexie Sines	27	Tyler Brooks
6	Keller Ruf		
10	Burton Burton		
	Kim Cramer		
	Keegan Benson		
13	Dale Cramer		
	Ryan Cramer		

### Happy Anniversary

November 20  
Don & Aneta Harding

November 23  
Ken & Georgia Dutt

November 25  
Rod & Suzi Mollring

November 26  
Dale & Jan Cramer

November 28  
Dean & Gloria Liess