

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*by Janice Jean Springer*

*via GBoD/DM*

*God is great, and greatly to be praised!*

We thank you, God, for families and friends.

We thank you for the warmth of kitchens, quilts,  
and good neighbors.

*God, how great is your name throughout the earth!*

We thank you, God, for newborn kittens and faithful dogs,  
for pine trees and sunlight and crisp, clean air.

*Blessed be God, the rock of our salvation!*

We thank you, God, for the sound of laughter  
and the touch of love,  
for brand new mornings and for dreams held close.

*Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;*

*let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise.*

*Come! Let us worship God.*

**HYMN**

*Rejoice, the Lord Is King*

**715**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*dwh*

Gracious God, by your Spirit work in and among us  
that we might hear what you would have us hear  
and be transformed into the likeness of your Son,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING** Joshua 24:1-25 & Amos 5:18-24 *Pastor*

**UNISON READING** Psalm 78:1-4 **UMH #799**

**EPISTLE READING** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**HYMN** *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* **540**

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE** *(Amos 5:21-24)* *FotW*

Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you  
by not honoring you or loving one another.

When we ignore injustice in the world  
our worship brings you no delight.

Make haste to help us, that we may stand in right relationship  
with you and the whole of your creation

and sing your praises through the mercy of Christ,  
our resurrected Savior. Amen.

**CHOIR**

*Near to the Heart of God*

**SERMON**

**HYMN** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

**117**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**884**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**INTERCESSIONS**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER**

*(Psalm 100)*

*GBoD/DM*

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.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**HYMN**

*Blessed Assurance*

**369**

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

*— Henri-Frédéric Amiel*

*"Life is short. We don't have much time  
to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us.  
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind."*

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2023*

*As you prepare to cross the threshold from this place out into the world  
and as you encounter doorways and thresholds throughout your week,  
repeat this blessing:*

May gratitude abound

as I meet God and neighbor in this place. Amen

**POSTLUDE**

**Bulletin Credits:** *Some of the Liturgy is by the pastor (dwh)*

*That which is by others is used with permission.*

*or via Discipleship Ministries (GBoD), from the Worship Website.*

*https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning*

*or from Feasting on the Word (eg FotW - see also insert)*

*or from Janice Jean Springer, found in*

*Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship,  
Updated, eds. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi  
(Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2012), 103-104.*

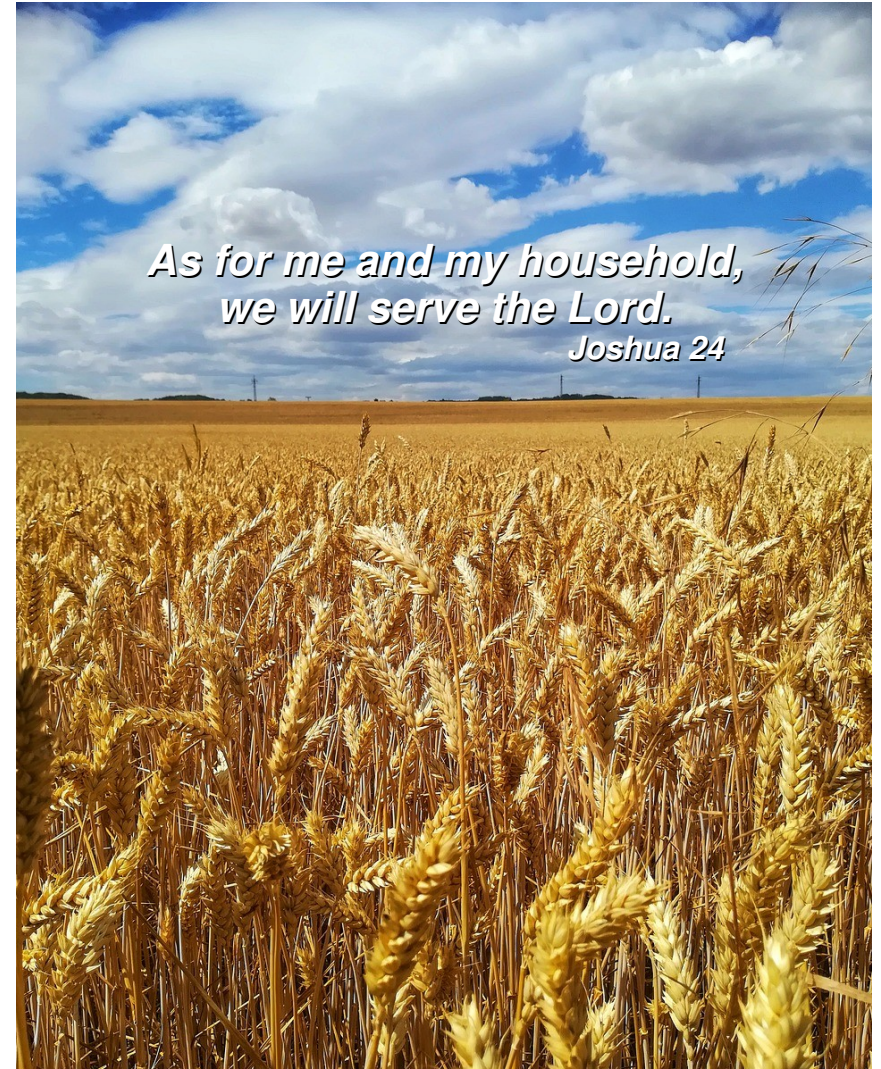
*or from Baron Mullis, via Presbyterian Outlook,*

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## Developing the Discipline of Gratitude

From: Spiritual Practice Feature by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat  
<https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/practices/features/view/28813>  
24 Ways to Practice Thanks-giving

- Today: Nov. 12: Pass on a gift that you have received but that is sitting unused in a closet. Keeping gifts in circulation is a sign of gratitude.
- Nov. 13: After seeing a movie or watching a TV program that touches your soul, say a prayer of thanks for the writer, director, actors, and actresses.
- Nov. 14: Write a letter to a relative in which you acknowledge the special role he or she plays in your family circle. If possible, include an invitation to Thanksgiving dinner.
- Nov. 15: Write a tribute in your journal to the person — living or dead — who has lifted your spirits and helped you understand that you are a child of God.
- Nov. 16: Write in your journal about a difficult person (even an enemy) who has taught you something you needed to know about yourself and/or your community. End your entry with an expression of gratitude for this insight.
- Nov. 17: In gratitude for the good service of a grocery store, a cleaners, or a gas station, tell your friends about the place so that their business can grow.
- Nov. 18: Show activists in your community that you are thankful for their efforts by showing up at a meeting or volunteering time in their offices.
- Nov. 19: Send a check to a charity or a nonprofit organization with a note mentioning your support of the good work they are doing.
- Nov. 20: To express your gratitude to a good friend for always being there for you, make a playlist of your favorite songs or a book that has changed your life.



**November 12, 2023 - 11:00am**

**Clarksburg United Methodist Church**

23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland  
<https://www.facebook.com/clarksburgmdumc/>

Accompanist: Rick Beede  
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## Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures

As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary  
Year A – Season after Pentecost; Nov. 12, 2023

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<b>Scriptures</b>	<i>Semicontinuous</i>	<i>Complementary</i>
	<i>Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25</i>	<i>Amos 5:18–24</i>
	<i>Psalms 78:1–7</i>	<i>Psalms 70</i>
<i>Epistle</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians 4:13–18</i>	
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Matthew 25:1–13</i>	

These were offered as “alternative lessons” last week.

That was a mistake: I had copied from the wrong week.

### Questions for Reflection

How would it change your life if you were to wait expectantly  
for the return of Christ?

In our fast-paced world, daily encounters with delay are sometimes  
difficult to accept. How can we be intentional in practicing the  
presence of God, cultivating steadiness and peace in our lives  
and the world while extending God’s hospitality and love?

How can such spiritual attributes empower us to be better advocates  
in working to create a more just and equitable world?

### Morning Prayers:

Creator of all, I awake to the day you have made  
with praise on my lips, for your Spirit gives me breath.  
May I live this day for the sake of Jesus,  
the light of the world, the apple of my eye,  
my beginning and end. Amen.

I give thanks for the gift of life this day  
and for the privilege of loving you by serving others.  
Give me an opportunity to grow in right relationship with you  
by promoting justice in the world today  
though my life, my choices, and my witness. Amen.

### Evening Prayers:

Creator of all, you make the night for peace and rest.  
In the moon and stars we see the reflection of your eternal light,  
so whether we live or whether we die, we know that we belong to you.  
Keep watch over those who work through the night;  
give peace to those who cannot sleep.  
Let me surrender all anxiety and fear to your loving embrace,  
that I may awake to serve you with joy. Amen.

It is evening, and it is time to sleep.  
Throughout this day, I have endeavored to serve you  
by making a difference in the world.  
Thank you for all caregivers and workers  
who devote themselves tonight to the well-being of so many.  
Help me to rest in peace this night  
and rise tomorrow ready to serve your justice. Amen.