

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 90 (selected verses)

dwh

Lord, you have been our refuge in every generation.

**Before the mountains were brought forth
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

*Our years come to an end;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.*

**So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.**

HYMN *O Worship the King, All-Glorious Above* **73**

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.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14–30

Pastor

EPISTLE READING

1 Thess. 5:1-11

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

GBOD/DM

**Faithful God, we confess that we do not
give attention to the things that are of you.**

**We listen to rumors and gossip
instead of what is true and honorable.**

We do not hold fast to justice.

**We do not train our hearts on
what is pure and pleasing to you.**

**In our words and our deeds, we stray from all that is
commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise.**

**We do not attend to all we have received and learned
of your good news, and so we do not live in peace
with you or with our neighbors.**

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us to live as your grateful people.

CHOIR

Joyful, Joyful

89

SERMON

HYMN

God Hath Spoken by the Prophets

108

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

**God, we delight in your creation. We thank you
for soft breezes, crisp apples, and changing seasons
that remind us of your presence and provision.**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

**God, we delight in our connectedness.
We thank you for friends who check in,
for church family who lift one another up,
for neighbors who show up in the good & challenging times.**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

**God, we delight in your peace that dwells among us.
We give thanks for neighbors who offer
help in times of trouble, gentleness in the midst of pain,
and acts of kindness during seasons of struggle.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INTERCESSIONS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER

(Philippians 4:4-13)

GBOD/DM

**Lord of peace and serenity, receive the gifts we bring this
day as we present them in thankfulness and joy.
We bring ourselves as our offering,
that in living lives of truth, justice, honor, and excellence,
we might please you and be worthy of
your never-failing love and presence with us.**

**Grateful that Christ and the Holy Spirit might dwell in us,
we pray in Jesus’ holy name. Amen.**

HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People Come

694

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

GBOD/DM

*May God’s peace follow you wherever you go,
guiding and guarding you,
that you may live in joy and thanksgiving
with God, self, neighbor, and all creation.*

Amen

POSTLUDE

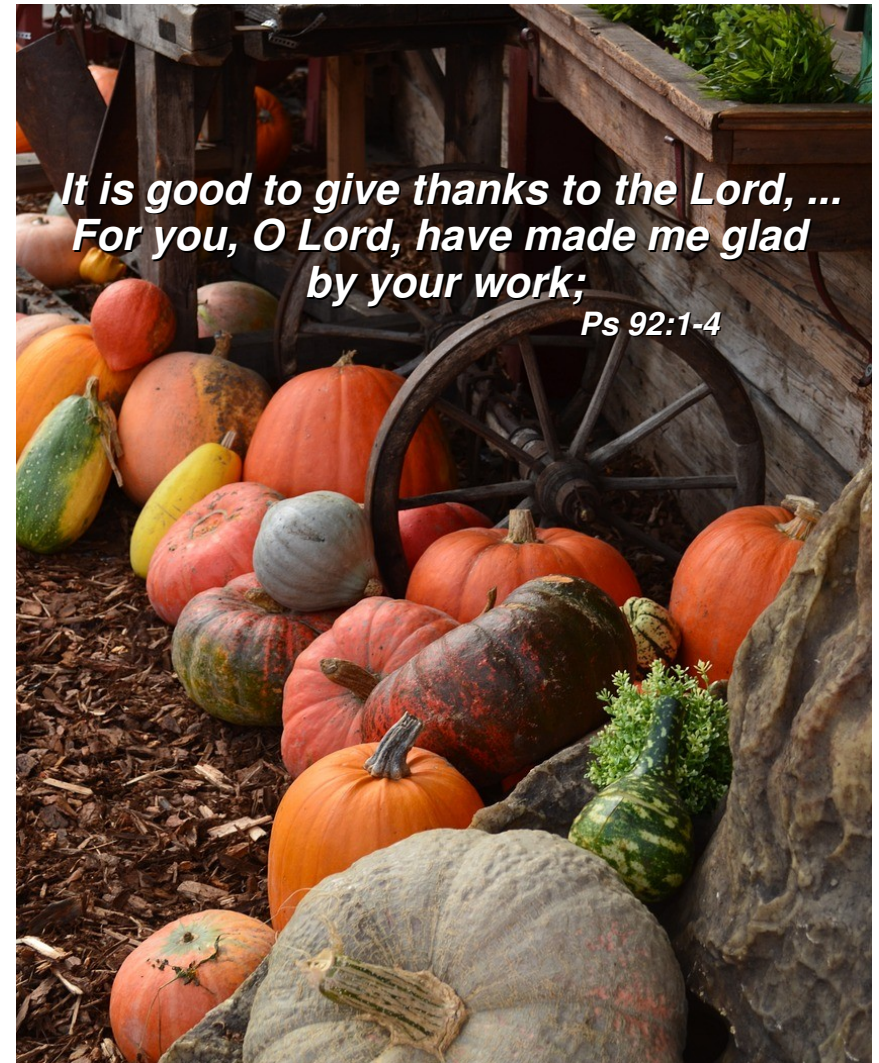
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Developing the Discipline of Gratitude

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. 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.
- Nov. 21: Identify one quality that you admire about each person coming to your Thanksgiving meal. Using decorative script, stickers, and drawings, create place cards illustrating these qualities. If possible, include children in this project.
- Nov. 22: As you begin to prepare the food for Thanksgiving Day, share stories with other cooks of memorable feasts you have enjoyed.
- Nov. 23: (Thanksgiving) Say grace before your Thanksgiving meal. Give thanks for the food, the fellowship of the company around the table, and the presence of Spirit among you.
- Nov. 24: As you are moving around your community today, notice and acknowledge the many blessings you receive from living there.

Related:
<http://www.tammydphotos.com/9-ideas-to-give-back-express-thanks-at-thanksgiving/>



**It is good to give thanks to the Lord, ...
For you, O Lord, have made me glad
by your work;**

Ps 92:1-4

November 19, 2023 - 11:00am

Clarksburg United Methodist Church

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Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures

*As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary
Year A – Season after Pentecost; Nov. 19, 2023*

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Scriptures *Semicontinuous*

Judges 4:1–7

Psalm 78:1–7

Epistle

Gospel

Complementary

Zephaniah 1:7–18

Psalm 90:1–12

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Matthew 25:14–30

Questions for Reflection

Human beings have been graced with the gift of persistence, imagination, and the capacity for extraordinary accomplishment. We have even been given life-giving gifts. Yet, as the psalmist reminds us, we are finite beings.

When is our refusal to accept human limits productive, and when does this hinder our creaturely stance before God?

Is knowing that God is God, and we are not, a message of eternal grace that we can hear?

And in the face of tragedy and death, can we bear that grace in confidence and peace?

If we believe in the kingdom to come, we need not fear, in life or in death. How does that change the way we live?

Morning Prayers:

1 Thess. 5:1–11; Matt. 25:14–30

Good morning, Lord. I welcome the new day, for it is a gift from you.
My petty fears are nothing in the face of your love;
in the warmth of your wisdom my anxieties melt away.
Make me more faithful than I could be on my own,
and use me to reflect your light,
for there are so many who need to know of your grace.
Walk with me, and show me your way, for I would follow you. Amen.

I give thanks this day for the gift of Christ
and the privilege to follow in his way.
This is the greatest life-giving treasure that I am called to steward;
may I share this as freely as I have received it
from the One who gave himself for the life of the world.
May I be continually awakened to your love this day. Amen

Evening Prayers:

Good evening, Lord. Thank you
for bringing me through this day, its trials and its joys.
You surprise me with wonder and overwhelm me with love.
Keep me in your embrace tonight; inhabit my dreams.
If you choose to grant me another day of life,
awaken me as one who is eager to serve you well. Amen.

Ps. 90:1–8 (9–11), 12

God, I do not like to confront what I cannot control;
I shrink before my own limitations and human frailty.
Help me to trust in your steadfast constancy
and know that your sovereign goodness is all that I need.
Teach me to number my days so that I may grow wise in heart,
knowing that, no matter their length, I dwell in you eternally. Amen.