

We Approach God

*Hymn of Praise

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

#560

The children are invited to come forward during the singing of this song.

**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 wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;
Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For thyself, best gift divine, to our race so freely given;
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

Children’s Blessing

Cheryl Johnston

Confession

Joel Russell-MacLean

Assurance of Pardon

We Listen to God

*Hymn of Approach

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

#43

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Old Testament Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-12

Responsorial Lesson: Psalm 126

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

All: Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy;

Leader: Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

All: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the desert. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

All: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

*Gloria Patri

#623

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

New Testament Lesson: James 1:17-18

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Called to Feast"

Joel Russell-MacLean

We Respond to God

*Hymn of Response

“Now Thank We All Our God”

#556

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

Prayers of the People

Chris Senger

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Our Gifts and Offerings

Chris Senger

We Depart to Serve God

*Hymn for Departing

“Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son. (2x)

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am rich,”

Because of what the Lord has done for us. (2x)

Give thanks, give thanks.

*Benediction

Joel Russell-MacLean

Music for Departing

“Now Thank We All Our God”
(Chesterton)

Mark Anderson

Following the worship service, you are invited to the lower hall for “A Time for Friends”—an opportunity to fellowship with one another while enjoying some refreshments together.

For those of you on Zoom, after the Music for Departing, a few smaller breakout groups will be formed. There is no obligation to stay if you need to be going. If you wish to take part, simply remain on Zoom to be invited to a group and hear how others are doing.