

disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**ALL: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

Leader: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**ALL: 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.**

#### HOLY COMMUNION

*Christ bids you welcome to this holy meal!*

*Tonight we receive the Lord's Supper at the head of the aisle.*

*As you come forward down the center aisle, we will receive*

*Holy Communion by intinction.*

*You may receive the bread in your hand, and then proceed to the chalice to dip the bread in the wine. There is Gluten free bread if you require that. Please ask the server for it.*

#### \*COMMUNION BLESSING

Leader: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray together. Eternal God ....

**ALL: We give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

#### \*CLOSING HYMN

*"To God Be the Glory"*

No. 98

#### \*BENEDICTION

Leader: May the God that loves you, and the grace of Jesus Christ that gives us good hope, bless you and comfort you from this day forward.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: With hearts that are thankful and filled with peace, let us go forth and serve the Lord!

**People: We will! Thanks be to God!**

#### \*POSTLUDE

*"With Thankful Hearts"*

#### Worship Leaders

Rev. Mark Weekley, Pastor of Pleasant Garden UMC

Rev. Michael Swofford, Pastor of Bethlehem UMC

Rev. Melissa Swofford, Deacon at Bethlehem UMC

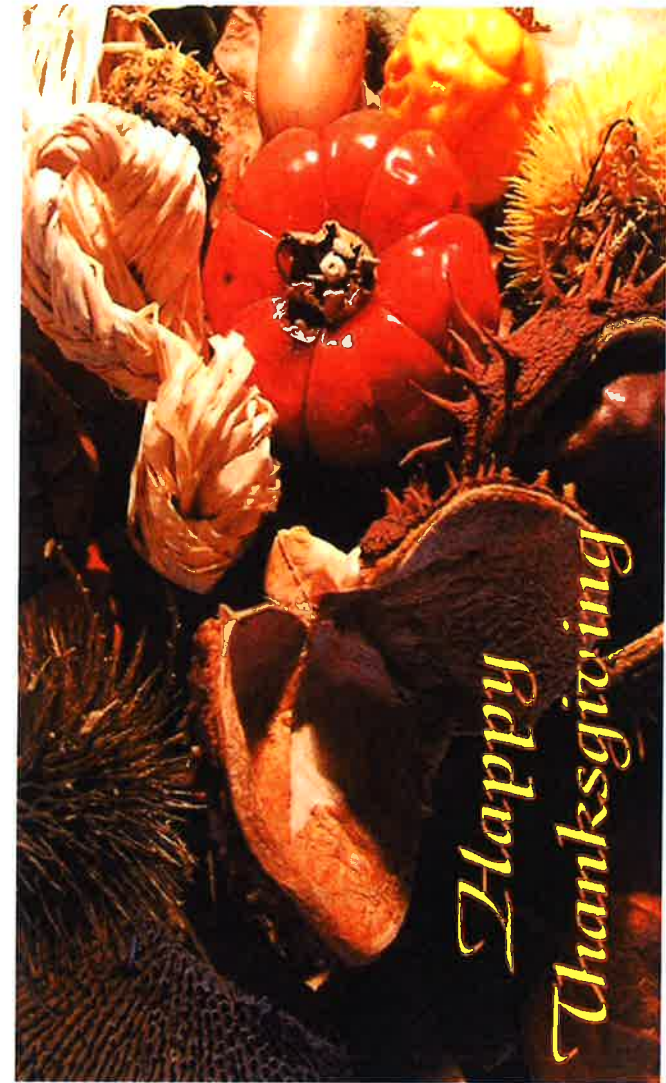
Lucas Cecil, Director of Music at Pleasant Garden UMC

Dr. Cesar Marimon, Director of Music at Bethlehem UMC

Laura Cranfill, Pianist at Bethlehem UMC

Jane Reddick, Organist at Bethlehem UMC

- Please join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following worship.
- Thank you to the choirs, directors, and musicians for tonight's offering of music to God's glory.
- Next year's Community Thanksgiving Worship: November 18, 2018 at Pleasant Garden United Methodist – 7:00 p.m.



**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING  
WORSHIP**

**November 19, 2017**

*Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church  
Bethlehem United Methodist Church*

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*One of the names for Holy Communion is Eucharist. It comes from a Greek word meaning "to give thanks." Food and thanksgiving always go together, for all of life is a precious gift from God. Every meal and every harvest in this rural community is an occasion for giving thanks and for acknowledging that all God's gifts are on loan for us to use as acts of praise.*

*One of God's wonderful gifts to his people is the gift of community. Tonight we worship God who gathers us as family. And tonight we give thanks for the families and the ministries of Pleasant Garden United Methodist and Bethlehem United Methodist Churches as we continue on our journey of faith as God's chosen people through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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**PRELUDE** "My Grateful Spirit Sings"

WELCOME

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Combined Choirs  
"Surely the Lord Is in this Place"

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon the earth.

**People: Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

Leader: The earth has brought forth its increase; may God, our own God, bless us.

**People: Let all the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

**\*HYMN** "We Gather Together" No. 131

RECOGNITION OF MISSION VOLUNTEERS

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray together in Unison.

**All: Most gracious God, you crown the year with your goodness. We praise you that you have ever fulfilled your promise that, while earth remains, seedtime and harvest shall not cease.**

**We bless you for the order and constancy of nature, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea, and for the providence that year by year supplies our need.**

**We thank you for your blessing of the work of those who plowed the soil and sowed the seed, and have now gathered in the fruits of the earth.**

**You show us opportunities where we can help others. We praise you for this privilege and give thanks for these we recognize who have served you through serving and helping others. Please, continue to use us for the good of others.**

**And with our thanksgiving for these blessings, accept our praise, O God, for the eternal riches of your grace in Christ our Lord; to whom, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor and worship, forever and ever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** "We Thank You, Lord" Combined Choirs

**SCRIPTURE READING** I Thessalonians 5:12-18

**SERMON** "Three Simple Ways" Rev. Mark Weekley

**PRAYER**

**\*HYMN** "For the Beauty of the Earth" No. 92

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING** Offerings received this evening will benefit the ministries of both churches which help to provide food for those who need it in our communities during this holiday season.

**OFFERTORY** "Grateful Melody"

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Leader: Gift-giving God, thank you for filling us with good things. Life-giving Spirit, thank you for blessing our lives and drawing us ever deeper into fellowship with Christ. May the offerings we present today bless those who thirst for the living water that only you can provide. In your holy name we pray.

**People: Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. By your appointment the seasons come and go. You bring forth bread from the earth and create the fruit of the vine. You formed us in your image and made us stewards of your world. Earth has yielded its treasure, and from your hand we have received blessing on blessing.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor. When hungry and tempted, he refused to make bread for himself that he might be the bread of life for others. When the multitudes were hungry, he fed them. He broke bread with the outcast but drove the greedy from the temple. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his