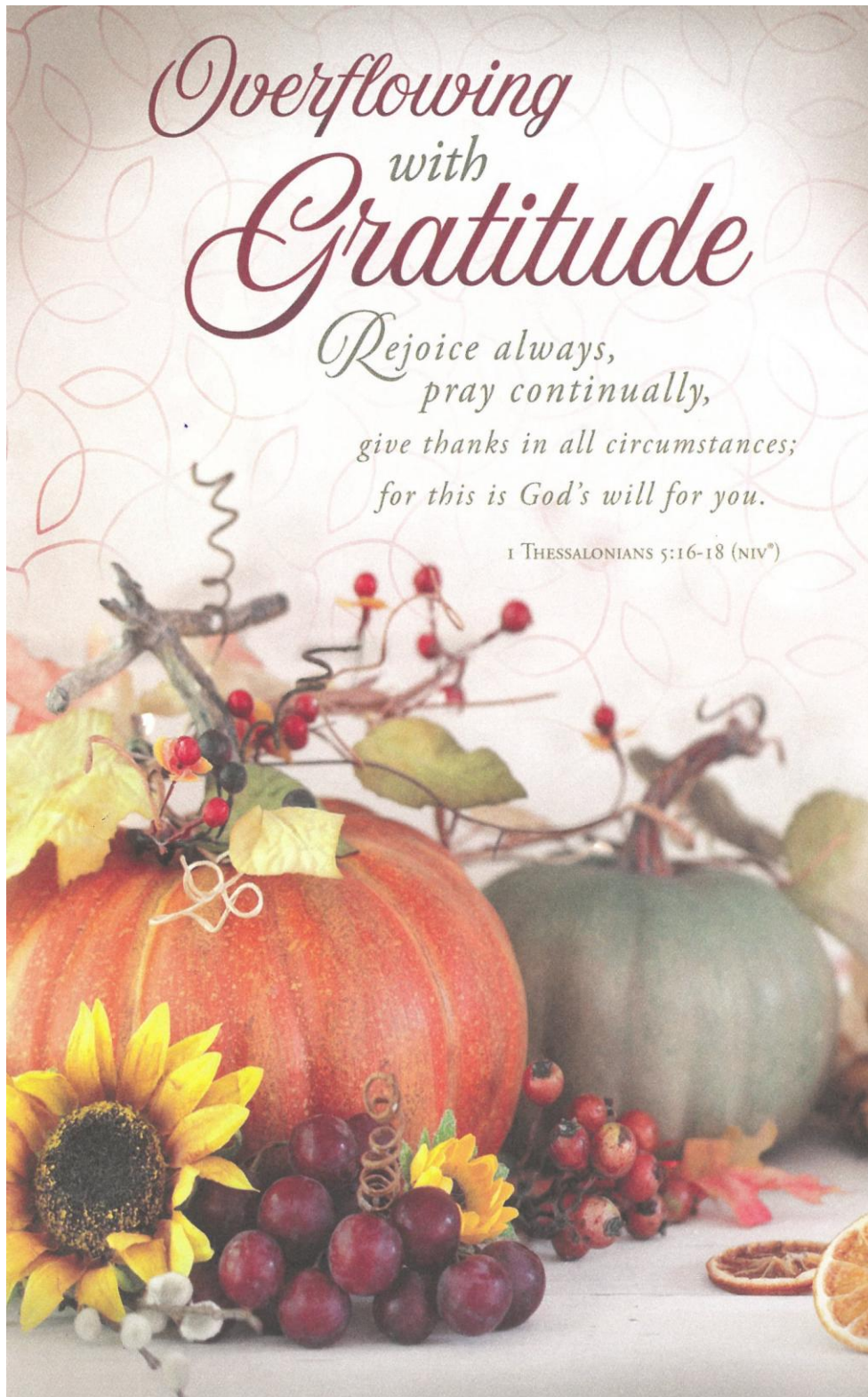


Overflowing with Gratitude

*Rejoice always,
pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you.*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 (NIV®)



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
November 23, 2025 10:30 a.m.
Christ the King/Reign of Christ

THE CHURCH GATHERS IN WORSHIP

PRELUDE *"Now Thank We All Our God/
Let All Things Now Living"* **Adams**
Vernon Humbert, Cello and Sonja Lewis, Piano

PASTOR'S WELCOME

† THE PEACE OF CHRIST *"Give Thanks"* **#647**

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. (2x)*

*And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" (2x)*

Give thanks. Give thanks.

† CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Col. 1:14-20)

Leader: In Christ, all things hold together.

People: In Christ, we find our center and our peace.

Leader: Through his love on the cross, we are reconciled to God -

People: made holy, blameless, and new.

All: Let us worship God!

† OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly God, in your goodness you have called us to this time of worship. Help us to set aside every distraction, that we may open our hearts to your grace. May that grace wash us clean, renew our spirits, and make us ready to serve you with grateful hearts. We pray in the name of your Son, the Risen Lord, Amen.

† HYMN *"This Is My Father's World"* **#370**

† CALL TO CONFESSION (from Romans 3:23)

Everyone sins and falls short of the glory of God. Let us confess our sins and receive God's grace as a free gift from heaven.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, you have shown us the way of life in Jesus, your Son. We confess that we are slow to learn and reluctant to follow. We trust our own wisdom and carry needless burdens of worry, troubles, and longings. Forgive us, we pray. Give us a calm and confident trust in the love that bore our sin on the cross. Let us feel Christ's love so deeply that we find peace in simple obedience, today, tomorrow, and in all of our days. We pray this in his name.

† SILENT PRAYER

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

Leader: Through the cross of Christ, may God have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

† GLORIA PATRI

#581

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (from Gen 1:3, John 1:9, 14)

Gracious God, at the beginning you said, "let there be light," and there was light. In the fullness of time, you sent the true light into the world, Jesus your Son. As your written word is read and proclaimed, we ask that you send your Spirit to show us your glory, so that the peace of Christ may rule in our hearts. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 23:33-43
Colossians 1:11-20

N. T. p. 89, Children's Bible p. 274
N. T. Page 200

SERMON

"Holding It Together"

Rev. Sandra Hedrick

† HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

#450

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Heidelberg Catechism, Q1

What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

That I belong - body and soul, in life and in death - not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me whole heartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

Offering Music

“Hymn of Grateful Praise”

Schram

**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.**

† Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

#606

THE CHURCH MEETS CHRIST IN THE WORLD

† HYMN

“Let All Things Now Living”

#37

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

Welsh Melody

† All those who are able, please stand.

Worship Assistant: Emelie Kinlaw

Ushers: Wayne and Cindy Ezell, Dave and Kathy Morrison

Deacon Greeter: Betty Wengert

Last Sunday's Attendance: 92

Rev. Sandra Hedrick, Pastor, pastorsandra@oppresby.com

Orange Park Presbyterian Church

1905 Park Avenue, Orange Park, Florida 32073

(904)-264-0536, www.orangeparkpres.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CCLI #2196224 and #2196221

OneLicense #A-741799

COMMUNITY CORNER

WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP: Welcome to worship at Orange Park Presbyterian Church! There are Connect Cards in the pews for visitor information, communications, and prayer requests (once completed, place in the offering plate). If you would like to talk with Pastor Sandra about becoming a church member, please note that on the card, and she will reach out to answer your questions.

ANGEL TREE: For many years we have helped the Salvation Army to provide gifts for struggling families. Look for our Angel Tree at the back of the sanctuary today, where YOU may take and “sign out” a tag showing a child’s specific needs. Return your gifts by Sunday, December 7. Thank you for blessing a family in need!

GREENING OF THE CHURCH: Come and be a part of the “Greening of the Church” on Thursday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. This joyful activity makes our sanctuary ready for Advent and Christmas, when we will welcome the Christ Child! Also, join us in the Gathering Place at 1:30 on Tuesday, December 2, as we prepare the decorations for the Greening. Refreshments will be served.

BIBLE WHERE????: This monthly event features food, fellowship, and discussion of a Bible lesson. Our next gathering is on Monday, December 1, at 6:30 p.m. at Hurricane Grill & Wings, Fleming Island.

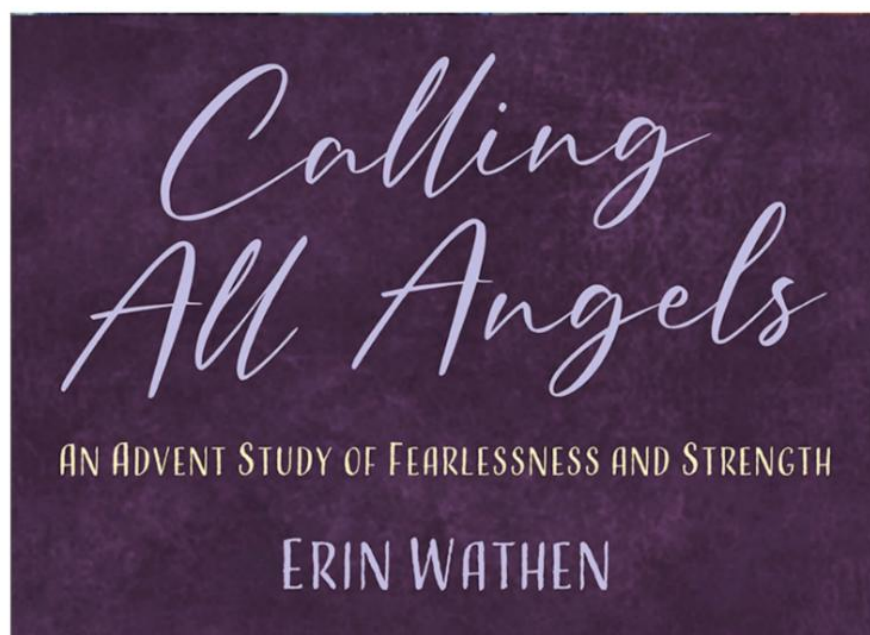
CHOIR PRACTICE: The next choir rehearsals will be on December 3 and 10 at 6:30.

WOMEN’S RETREAT: If you have ever wondered how YOU fit into God’s grand and beautiful plan, then come to the 2026 Women’s Retreat, where we will explore “Our Sacred Story in God’s Divine Plan” while enjoying a time for renewed spiritual focus, relaxation, fellowship, and laughter. The retreat will be held on March 13-15 at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island. The fee is \$300 for a double accommodation (\$50 deposit due by December 1). Registration forms are available in the narthex, and church office. Questions? Contact Cindy Ezell.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH AND NURSERY: Children’s Church is for ages 4 through 13 and takes place right after the children’s message. Our nursery is open for the younger ones. To help with one (or both) of these ministries, talk with Nursery Coordinator Laura Wilson or Children’s Church Coordinator Laura Maierhoffer.

ADVENT STUDY (beginning November 30): Join us for our all-church Advent study, “Calling All Angels” by Rev. Erin Wathen. We’ll meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings from November 30 through December 21. Enjoy breakfast snacks at 9:00 a.m., followed by discussion at 9:15, as we journey together through the season of Advent.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (through November 23): Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m., the Adult Forum meets in The Gathering Place, Room 3, using “Feasting on the Word,” a scripture study based on the Lectionary (Debbie Pendry). Travelers’ Class meets in The Gathering Place, Room 4, and is using a video series “God Never Gives Up On You” by Max Lucado (Cathy Sanders). The Seekers meet in the church office library and are using “The God We Can Know” by Rob Fuquay (Ricky Kirby).



This Advent Study Is for Everyone!

**Sundays in the Fellowship Hall
November 30 through December 21**

9:00 Breakfast Snacks, 9:15 Study Begins

From the Publisher: Life can be daunting, filled with uncertainty and fears. It wasn't any different two thousand years ago when Jesus was born. An aged priest is told he is about to become a father for the first time. A young woman is told she is going to give birth – outside the protection of marriage. A simple carpenter is asked to believe the impossible. A group of shepherds' night on a hill is interrupted by a bright host of angels in the sky.

Yet, each of these encounters begins with the same refrain: do not be afraid.

Those words, though, are not just words of comfort; they are an invitation and a calling from God. In this captivating Advent study and devotional, pastor Erin Wathen challenges us to take this timeless message and apply it to our lives today. *Calling All Angels* asks us to contemplate what would change in our relationships, vocations, congregations, and communities if we have the courage to overcome our fears like Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, and the Shepherds in the story.