

Knox & St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – October 8, 2023

Responsive Call to Worship

On this Thanksgiving weekend, we gather for worship.

To give thanks for the gifts of the land, the gifts of God.

On this Thanksgiving weekend, we gather for worship.

To celebrate God's presence, to open ourselves to God's wisdom.

On this Thanksgiving weekend, we gather for worship.

To enjoy the fruit of community and the company of God's people.

Hymn 807 We plough the fields and scatter

**1. We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
you send the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.**

Refrain:

**All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord
for all your love.**

**2. You only are the Maker
of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star;
the winds and waves obey you;
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give our daily bread.**

Refrain:

**All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord**

for all your love.

3. We thank you, our provider,
for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts,
but that which you most welcome:
our humble, thankful hearts.

Refrain:

All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord
for all your love.

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 495 **The heavens declare your glory, Lord**

1. The heavens declare your glory, Lord!

In every star your wisdom shines,
but when our eyes behold your word,
we read your name in clearer lines.

2. Sun, moon and stars convey your praise
to all the earth, and never stand,
so when your truth began its race,
it touched and glanced on every land.

3. Nor shall your spreading gospel rest
till through the world your truth has run,
till Christ has all the nations blest
who see the light or feel the sun.

4. Great sun of righteousness, arise
and bless the world with heavenly light!
Your gospel makes the simple wise;
your laws are pure, your judgements right.

5. Your noblest wonders here we view
in souls renewed and sins forgiven:
Lord, cleanse my sins, my soul renew,
and make your word my guide to heaven.

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

Generous and loving God, we honestly confess that in a world where many do not have enough, we have taken more than we need. In a world where many live in fear, we take peace for granted. In a world where many have lost hope, we are too often indifferent to despair. Forgive us, merciful God, and transform our lives.

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (minister)

Hymn 352 And can it be that I should gain

**1. And can it be that I should gain
God's riches through the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
that thou, my God, should'st die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
that thou, my God, should'st die for me?**

**2. 'Tis mystery all! the immortal dies:
who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore;
let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore;
let angel minds inquire no more.**

**3. He left his Father's throne above,
so free, so infinite his grace,**

emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.

'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me.

'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me.

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off; my heart was free.
I rose, went forth and followed thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free.
I rose, went forth and followed thee.

5. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
alive in him, my living head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Responsive Reading Psalm 19 p. 470 NT & Psalms

¹The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The skies display his craftsmanship.

**²Day after day they continue to speak;
night after night they make him known.**

³They speak without a sound or word;
their voice is never heard.

**⁴Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,
and their words to all the world.**

God has made a home in the heavens for the sun.

⁵It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding.
It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.

**⁶The sun rises at one end of the heavens
and follows its course to the other end.
Nothing can hide from its heat.**

⁷The instructions of the Lord are perfect,
reviving the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

**⁸The commandments of the Lord are right,
bringing joy to the heart.**

**The commands of the Lord are clear,
giving insight for living.**

⁹Reverence for the Lord is pure,
lasting forever.

The laws of the Lord are true;
each one is fair.

**¹⁰They are more desirable than gold,
even the finest gold.**

**They are sweeter than honey,
even honey dripping from the comb.**

¹¹They are a warning to your servant,
a great reward for those who obey them.

**¹²How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?
Cleanse me from these hidden faults.**

¹³Keep your servant from deliberate sins!

Don't let them control me.

Then I will be free of guilt
and innocent of great sin.

**¹⁴May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Exodus 20. 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 p. 60 pew Bible

Philippians 3.4b-13 p. 343 NT & Psalms

Matthew 21.33-46 p. 42 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Thankful for what?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 457 Now thank we all our God

**1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom God's world rejoices,
who from our mother's arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**2. Oh may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with everjoyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all with grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.**

**3. All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
the Father and the Son
and Spirit now be given,
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
for thus it was, is now
and shall be evermore.**

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

**Gracious God, we offer our gifts as tokens of our gratitude
for what we have to share in these challenging times. Bless**

our gifts and our energy so they will bless others in need in our community and around your world, for the sake of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 425 We praise Thee, O God

**1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.**

**We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

**2. We worship you; God ever faithful, we bless you;
through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.**

**When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, life's battles we win.**

**3. With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs of true worship we raise.**

**Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing;
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.**

Choral Blessing

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will be with you each hour of every day.

God will be there, watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude