

# November 22, 2020

## Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Gruening

Minute for Stewardship

Prelude

We Gather Together

Arranged by Albert Zabel

Candlelighting

Call to Worship

Leader: God of the past, who has created and nurtured us

**People: we are here to thank you.**

Leader: God of the future, who is always ahead of us,

**People: we are here to thank you.**

Leader: God of the present, who is here in the midst of us,

**People: we are here to thank you.**

Leader: God of life, who is beyond us and within us,

**People: we rejoice in your glorious love.**

Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms has 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 God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world and in the next.

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

Call to Confession

Leader: We are often oblivious to God's near presence, consumed by our own interests and unable rightly to see and treat others. Our God is merciful, eager to forgive, seeking us out and able to transform. Confident in the character and power of God, we boldly confess our sin.

## Prayer of Confession (**unison**)

**Lord of all, we confess that we have often put other priorities ahead of our loyalty to you. We focus on ourselves and become unable to tend to those in need. We obsess on our own desires to the detriment of your creation. We dismiss those without earthly status and seek out those we think can benefit us. We forget that following you means caring for those most in need of compassion and relief. Forgive us, merciful Lord. Free us from a past we cannot change. Turn us toward you. Shape us into a people who better resemble you, Jesus Christ our servant Lord. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant;  
I formed you, you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.  
I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

## Prayer for Illumination

### First Scripture Lesson

1 Chronicles 29:5b-13

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

## Virtual Passing of the Peace

### Second Scripture Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

## Sermon:

“Freely and Willingly”

Rev. Gruening

## **Dedication of 2021 Pledges**

Leader: Let these gifts stand as a protest against all that is evil and ugly and greedy, trivial and wretched and tyrannical in our world and in ourselves.

**People: Let these gifts stand as a blessing upon all that is faithful and beautiful and generous, meaningful and gracious and freeing.**

Leader: Let these gifts stand as a powerful sign of our commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ. Let them stand as an enabling force for the work of the Kingdom of God. Let these gifts stand as a token of our gratitude for what God through Christ makes possible for us.

**People: We declare our giving commitments set aside for holy use, through this church. We pray, Lord, that you would grant us the vision it takes to steward these gifts as Christ would have us do, and the courage as well, to faithfully participate in your economy of blessing and generosity. Amen!**

Offering

Offertory

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Arranged by Albert Zabel

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.

Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

Benediction

Postlude

Nun danket alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)

from Cantata 79 J.S. Bach arr. E. Power Biggs

Worship Leaders:

Liturgist:	Ted D
Moment for Stewardship:	Barry S
Hymn leadership:	Sean S
Bell Group:	Nancy and Rich V Heather Palframan and Marcello Velame
Organ:	Kathleen H
Zoom Host:	Sue S
Video Editing:	Rich V