

THANKSGIVING EVE

November 25, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Highlands Presbyterian Church
1902 W. 59th Street
LaGrange, IL 60525
highpres.org
Rev. Mark Zimmerly, Pastor

Lyonsville Congregational UCC
6871 Joliet Road
Indian Head Park, IL 60525
lyonsvillechurch.org
Rev. Sean Williams, Pastor

Burr Ridge UCC
15W100 Plainfield Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
brucc.org

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

WELCOME

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us celebrate
the wondrous gifts that God has given us.

**Throughout all our lives,
God has blessed us with love and hope.**

Praise be to God who provides for us.

**May our hearts be truly grateful,
and may we show our gratitude
by the ways in which we live and care for others.**

Hallelujah!

Amen.

THANKSGIVING OPENING PRAYER

Gift-giving God, it is the time of year to gather in the produce of the earth. And so we give thanks for the gifts of food. It is the time of year when we admire the bright colors of the season. And so we pause to give thanks for the beauty of the earth. In our time of worship this evening, move within and among us, awakening us to your presence, moving our hearts to respond to your grace.
Amen.

HYMN

“We Gather Together”

Kremser

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
And humbly confessing our faith we now sing.
Our anthem ascending speaks gratitude unending;
To thee, O Lord of Life, glad praises we bring.

2. We worship thee, Spirit triumphant, we bless thee;
Through life's storm and tempest our Guide hast thou been.
When perils overtake us, a refuge thou wilt make us,
That on the greater journey, Lord, we may begin.

3. With voices united our praises we offer,
And gladly our song of thanksgiving we raise;
Let thy benediction confirm our conviction
That love and light are thine; to thee ever be praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,
the spiritual blindness that prevents us
from appreciating the wonder that is this world.

For the times that we have behaved irresponsibly towards your gifts of creation:

Forgive us.

For the times that we have ignored the spiritual and material needs
of those who are not so fortunate as ourselves:

Forgive us.

For the times that we have failed to proclaim your gospel
through indifference, selfishness, or bad example:

Forgive us.

Forgive us, oh God, for taking without giving
And reaping without sowing.

Open our eyes to see,
our lips to praise,
our hands to share.

May our feet touch lightly on the path we tread,
and our footsteps be worthy of following,
for they lead to you.

SILENT PRAYER

(In silence, let us name some of the ways in which we fail to follow God's grace.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God proves God's love for us in that
while we still were sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:

Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE #579

Greatorex

*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.*

PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As forgiven and renewed children of God, let us pass the peace of Christ to one another.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

- Inspired by Philemon 4-7

God of extravagant grace,
may your Spirit refresh our hearts
through the reading of the scriptures,
that we may perceive all the good we can do for Christ
and so grow in our faith toward our Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 8:7-18 (CEB)

⁷Because the Lord your God is bringing you to a wonderful land, a land with streams of water, springs, and wells that gush up in the valleys and on the hills; ⁸a land of wheat and barley, vines, fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; ⁹a land where you will eat food without any shortage—you won't lack a thing there—a land where stone is hard as iron and where you will mine copper from the hills. ¹⁰You will eat, you will be satisfied, and you will bless the Lord your God in the wonderful land that he's given you.

¹¹But watch yourself! Don't forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commands or his case laws or his regulations that I am commanding you right now. ¹²When you eat, get full, build nice houses, and settle down, ¹³and when your herds and your flocks are growing large, your silver and gold are multiplying, and everything you have is thriving, ¹⁴don't become arrogant, forgetting the Lord your God:

the one who rescued you from Egypt, from the house of slavery;

¹⁵the one who led you through this vast and terrifying desert of poisonous snakes and scorpions, of cracked ground with no water;

the one who made water flow for you out of a hard rock;

¹⁶the one who fed you manna in the wilderness, which your ancestors had never experienced, in order to humble and test you, but in order to do good to you in the end.

¹⁷Don't think to yourself, My own strength and abilities have produced all this prosperity for me. ¹⁸Remember the Lord your God! He's the one who gives you the strength to be prosperous in order to establish the covenant he made with your ancestors—and that's how things stand right now.

THE SERMON

Rev. Sean Williams

HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.

2. In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.

In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Tryggare Kan Ingen Vara

1. Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.
2. God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish;
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.
3. Praise the Lord in joyful numbers:
Your Protector never slumbers;
At the will of your Defender
Every foeman must surrender.
4. Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
May he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the broad expanse of God's love
and the abundance of his riches in glory,
shape your perspective on your own life and needs,
including those things which disappoint you.

May the eyes of your heart be open
to all the blessings which surround you;
may this awareness produce a harvest of generosity in your spirit.

May thankfulness rise up within you,
not just during this short season,
but day after day,
from the early morning watch until you retire for the night.

May your prayers reflect gratitude,
while also acknowledging the needs of others
whose situations are so drastically different.

May thoughts of Jesus fill your mind,
and hunger for God drive your soul,
and love for the Lord guide your speech and your actions.

And finally, may the grace, peace, and love of the triune God
protect, defend, and empower you
to run with perseverance the race marked out for you.
Amen.

POSTLUDE

~~~~~

Attributions: Call to Worship – posted on the Worship Connection page of **Ministry Matters** website; Thanksgiving Opening Prayer – written by Rev. Gord, and posted on **Worship Offerings**; Prayer of Confession - adapted from a prayer written by John Birch, and posted on his **Faith and Worship** website; Prayer of Illumination – from a collection of prayers posted on the **Worship@North** website; Commission and Benediction – written by Joe Sherer, pastor of the Mount Joy Mennonite Church, and posted on **A Daily Prayer**; Hymns covered by C.C.L.I. #2611824



Highlands Presbyterian Church  
1902 W. 59<sup>th</sup> Street, La Grange, IL 60525 - 708.246.1911  
[www.highpres.org](http://www.highpres.org); Sermon Podcast URL: [anchor.fm/highpres](http://anchor.fm/highpres)