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Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost – November 19, 2023

THE GATHERING

Please let us know you're here by texting FCC to 77411.

Chimes

Prelude

Debbie Watson

Welcome

Claire Baer

Call to Worship

Claire Baer

Leader: Come into the presence of the Lord with thanksgiving!

People: Serve the Lord with great gladness!

Leader: Know that God is truly with you!

People: Rejoice!

Leader: Come, let us worship the ever-present God!

People: Let us celebrate with song and prayer God's love for us.

Opening Hymn

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

No. 718

***Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.***

***All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield,
all the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,
all the spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'er flowing stores.***

***These to thee, our God, we owe, source whence all our blessings flow;
and for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.***

Opening Prayer

Brooke Reid

THE PROCLAMATION

Scripture Reading	<i>2 Corinthians 8:1-15</i>	Tim Williamson
Children's Message		Claire Baer
Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer		Dr. Mark Bender
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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.		
Anthem	<i>Sing Thankful Praise - Nix</i>	Chancel Choir
Sermon	<i>The Habit of Generosity</i>	Dr. Mark Bender

THE RESPONSE

Communion Hymn	<i>We Gather Together – vs. 1 & 2</i>	No. 276
<i>We gather together to ask for God's blessing, to turn to a wisdom surpassing our own; the pow'rs that oppress us now cease to distress us. O God, be present with us, and make your will known.</i>		
<i>Beside us to guide us, O God, we perceive you ordaining, maintaining the power of life. Yes, yours be the glory; let all tell the story. Our God, be ever with us, in gladness and strife.</i>		

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table and Words of Institution		Fred Gentry
Prayers for the Bread & Cup		Linda C. Carr & Chris Showalter
Partaking of the Bread and Cup		
<i>All believers are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.</i>		

Common Confession

I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

THE OFFERING

Moment for Mission		Dr. Mark Bender
Offertory	<i>Sing to the Lord of Harvest - Wetzler</i>	Chancel Choir
Doxology		No. 46

***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.***

Offertory Prayer

THE SENDING

Sent from the Table & Invitation to Discipleship

Brooke Reid

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

***All praise and thanks to God our Father and our Mother,
to Christ and to the One who binds us to each other,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.***

Benediction

Brooke Reid

Postlude

Debbie Watson

CCLI License #504653

Memorials and Honors

In memory of David Gately given by Joanne Zellner, Chris & Jeanette Showalter, Bart & Lee Bybee, Imma Jeanne Alexander, Mark & Debbie Turnbow, Ann Hunter, William & Joyce Hinds, Liz Vernon, Sally Wilson.

In memory of Ted Lauck given by Mike & Diane Spiller, Nick & Linda Gipson, Larry & Linda Carr, Chris & Jeanette Showalter, Ann Hunter, Billy & Melody Jennings, Lynette Gill, Bart & Lee Bybee, Glenn & Linda Tole, Pat Duncan, Imma Jeanne Alexander, Dan & Carole Davis, Mark & Debbie Turnbow, Kerry & Sharon Roach, Larry & Treva Spradley, William & Joyce Hinds, Mary Ann Henry, Liz Vernon, Julie Casper, Sally Wilson.

In memory of Al Showalter (father of Chris Showalter) given by Bart & Lee Bybee.

The cornucopia arrangement was created by Ann Hunter, Emily Wilson, Polly Tonemah, and Roma Prassel, giving thanks for our families and our church.

Sermon Notes

1. Forced choice

2. Rich in every way

3. Being Realistic

4. Demands

5. Habit forming

Announcements

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CALENDAR

Sunday, November 19 Commitment Sunday / Thanksgiving Offering		
8:40 am	Worship Service	Parlor
9:30 am	Sunday School / Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)	
10:45 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary/ Livestream
12:00 pm	Commitment Sunday Fellowship Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm	Pickleball	Gym
3:45 pm	Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults)	Stratten Hall
5:00 pm	Young Disciples Choir (Grades K-5)	Stratten Hall
5:00 pm	Youth Fellowship (Grades 6-12)	Room 403/Gym
5:45 pm	Young Disciples (Grades K-5)	Room 402
Monday, November 20		
7:30 am-6:00 pm	Children Come First "CCF" (M-W)	
	Young Ages Preschool "YAS" Closed This Week	
9:00 am	CCF Chapel	Chapel
10:00 am	Grady Ross Service	Sanctuary
1:00 pm	Christian Women's Fellowship Group 1	1723 Shoal Creek
4:00 pm	College Bible Study	Room 305
6:00 pm	Leadership Development Committee Meeting	Room 310
7:30 pm	Boy Scouts Troop 15	Room 405
Tuesday, November 21		
9:30 am	FCC Staff Meeting/Worship Planning	Room 310
6:00 pm	Faith Formation Ministry Meeting	Parlor
6:00 pm	Stewardship Ministry Meeting	Room 310
6:30 pm	Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups Anger Management, Parenting, Rebuilding Your Life	Rooms 304, 306, 308
Wednesday, November 22		
7:00 am	Elders' Breakfast	Room 405
9:00 am	CCF Spanish	Room 300
	NO Wednesday Evening Activities	
Thursday, November 23 Thanksgiving		
	Church Building, Offices & All Programs Closed	
Friday, November 24		
	Church Building, Offices & All Programs Closed	
Saturday, November 25		

Christmas Mission Market

Do you have someone who is difficult to shop for? Someone who seems to have everything already? Why not give them the gift of transformed lives? On Sunday, December 3, at 9:30 am we will be holding our third annual Christmas Mission Market and All Church Sunday School Class in the Fellowship Hall. That morning, you will have the opportunity to make donations to one of the following outreach partners of First Christian Church in honor of your loved one: James V. Allred Prison Chapel, Disciples Crossing Camp, Faith Mission/Faith Refuge, Heifer International, Interfaith Outreach Services, Wichita County Meals on Wheels, and Wichita Falls Area Food Bank. And while you do, your donations will go to support the work of these organizations in the coming year.

Fain Sock Tree

It's time to be thinking about gathering socks, scarves, hats, and gloves for the children at Fain School. NO pj's this year. The Christmas tree will go up in the church office next week, and we need to remember to "decorate" the tree with these items. The kids will get out for Christmas break on December 15th, so we will deliver these items on December 11th.

Our congregation always comes through to help these children. They get so excited when the tree is put up at Faith and decorated with all of these items.

**Faith. Education.
Leadership
Development.**



**15 Colleges & Universities
7 Seminaries &
Divinity Houses**

DONATE HERE!



**Your Thanksgiving Offering
will be Part of a 129 Year
Legacy of Educational Support**



The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students and it makes a difference in the world.