



Thanksgiving Worship

ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH + ZION MENNONITE CHURCH

November 2020

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Nun Danket Alle Gott”

arr. C. Callahan

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eternal God of every season,

You remind us that we too live in the rhythm of the Earth.

Patient God of Winter,

You remain, offering an embrace of hope and warmth to our long nights and chilled spirits.

Lifegiving God of Springtime,

You open your hand, restoring our lives with all good things and renewing the face of the earth.

Nourishing God of Summer,

All that we have is a sign of your love; all that we are is a gift from your grace.

Glorious God of Autumn,

With people of every language and nation we bring the fruits and pains of our own labors. Let the sharing of these gifts proclaim our joyful hope even in the midst of uncertainty and change. Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we humbly thank you for your goodness to us and to all that you have made. We give you thanks, for in the beginning you called light into being. We praise you for your creation, for keeping us and all things in your care, and for all the blessings of life. Above all we bless you for your immeasurable love in redeeming the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such awareness of your mercies that with thankful hearts we praise you, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service and by living in your gifts of holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all worship and praise, now and forever.

Amen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 4:2-6

²Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. ³At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, ⁴so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should.

⁵Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

SUE SHORT, PASTOR, ZION MENNONITE CHURCH

*Oh, give thanks to the
Lord for he is good
and his mercy endures
FOREVER*

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Creating God, we thank you for making the fruitful earth produce what is needed for life.

Bless those who work in the fields; grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness.

Gracious God, when you open your hand, you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Bless the land and the waters and give the world a plentiful harvest.

Let your spirit go forth to renew the face of the earth.

Bless us all so that, as you show us your love and kindness in the bounty of the land and sea, your spirit might save us from the selfish use of your gifts.

Glorious God, according to your wisdom the deep waters are opened up and the clouds drop gentle moisture.

We praise you for the return of planting and harvest seasons.

For the fertility of the soil,

For the harvesting of the crops,

And for all the other blessings which you in your generosity pour out for your people.

Silence for reflection

Bless all of us gather near.

Bless those who cannot gather.

Bless those who face transition.

Bless those who fear newness.

Bless those in times of stress.

Bless us when we lack and yearn.

Bless those in times of grief

Bless those struggling to find a way through these times.

Loving God, bless us in all of our seasons and give us a full understanding of our mercy.

And bless the world so that your children everywhere may give you thanks, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of Almighty God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Autumn” from the Four Seasons

Antonio Vivaldi – arr. by S. D Wolff

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We extend a Christian greeting to our friends from Zion Mennonite Church for their presence and collaboration in worship. We have held these Thanksgiving worship services together since 2005. Thanks be to God for our continued partnership in the Gospel, and we look forward to future gatherings.

Worship Participants:

Pastor Sue Short, Zion Mennonite Church

Pastor Paul Reichert, St. Martin’s Lutheran Church

Deacon Steve Basselman, Organist, St. Martin’s Lutheran Church