



*Thanksgiving Celebration*  
November 21, 2021

**Prelude**

*Come, Ye thankful People, Come/We Gather Together*

**We are Called to Worship** – Be glad and rejoice in the Lord our God. [We hear a witness from the Psalms]: God has blessed us with abundant rain. The trees bear their fruit. The threshing floors are full of grain. The vats overflow with wine and oil. We will eat in plenty and be satisfied. The earth provides all we need to live. God has done great things for us. Be glad and rejoice in the Lord our God.~

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

*You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.*

**A Time of Prayer**— Maker of heaven and earth, you enliven your creation: causing the skies to rain, the soil to be rich and fertile, the fields to yield abundant crops, and the trees to bear fruit. Enliven us once more, Holy One. Call us forth into the joy of your harvest: from tears to shouts of joy, from calamity to plenty, from worry to faith, and from what is false to what is true. You are our God, there is no other. We praise your name, for you have dealt wondrously with us and will do so again...~

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison)—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.

## Chimes

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*  
Collin Bennington, Violin

### We Hear God's Word

*Psalm 126 (CEB)*

126 When the LORD changed Zion's circumstances for the better,  
it was like we had been dreaming.

<sup>2</sup> Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter;  
our tongues were filled with joyful shouts.

It was even said, at that time, among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for them!"

<sup>3</sup> Yes, the LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are overjoyed.

<sup>4</sup> LORD, change our circumstances for the better,  
like dry streams in the desert waste!

<sup>5</sup> Let those who plant with tears  
reap the harvest with joyful shouts.

<sup>6</sup> Let those who go out,  
crying and carrying their seed,  
come home with joyful shouts,  
carrying bales of grain!

*Matthew 6:25-33 (CEB)*

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? <sup>27</sup> Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don't wear themselves out with work, and they don't spin cloth. <sup>29</sup> But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn't dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it's alive today and tomorrow it's thrown into the furnace, won't God do much more for you, you people of weak faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore, don't worry and say, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' <sup>32</sup> Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that

you need them. <sup>33</sup> Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

## **Meditation**

*Inventory*

### **We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation**— Be glad and rejoice! Just as summer brought green forests and sunny days, so now fall [has given] abundant fields and changing leaves. As the rain falls upon us, may we remember that the seasons, the fertile earth, and the blessings they yield, are gifts from God—gifts to be shared with those in need.~

**A Blessing of Our Pantry Gifts**—For over 10 years, God's Bounty Food Pantry has been serving the Wanamaker area, providing staple items for our neighbors facing food insecurity. It is a ministry of the Franklin Township Ministerial Association and a way for local churches to come together as one to do Christ's work. We give thanks for the donations folks have brought in and pray that they help make this holiday season a little brighter for our neighbors.

## **Special Music**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, Chimes  
Collin Bennington, Violin

**November Benevolence**— Our Church's Wider Mission is the main offering that goes to support the ministry of the United Church of Christ, both at our local conference level and for the whole denomination. Your generous gifts to this ministry enable to the UCC to love and serve like Jesus (Indiana-Kentucky Conference Mission) and to create a just world for all (UCC Vision).

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at [www.zionuccindy.net/donate](http://www.zionuccindy.net/donate)

## **Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**— God we give you thanks that your goodness and mercy never fail. You watch over us with steadfast love, and all around us there are

reasons to give thanks. We give you thanks for the gifts that have been brought for this day—gifts of time and talent, and gifts for our food pantry. We pray that you bless the work that God’s Bounty does, as we partner with our neighboring churches to do your work. We lift up to your tender care our neighbors facing food insecurity and pray that these humble gifts we bring might offer nourishment and strength. Thank you, God, that we are able to share out of the abundance we have received from you. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

## **Hymn**

*Now Thank We All Our God, #14*

**We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing**— Go home with hearts filled with hope! For God, who has restored us in the past, will do so again...Go home with shouts of joy! For God, who knows our tears, will not leave us comfortless...Go home with souls touched by grace! For God, who knows our needs and daily cares, will provide us with the blessings of life...~

## **Postlude**

*Beautiful America*

+ UCC Worship Ways. The New and Living Way of Christ: Service Prayer for the 25th Sunday after the Pentecost were written by the Rev. Quentin Chin, member of Church on the Hill in Lenox, MA.