

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
October 8th, 2023
Thanksgiving Sunday

Praise Medley: Thank You Lord, I'm A Miracle, Give Thanks,
Hear Your People Singing

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: Jesus, Draw Me Close

Gathering Words:

Thanksgiving!

It's not just a moment.

Thanksgiving!

It's not just a day.

Thanksgiving!

It's not just a season.

Thanksgiving!

Is an action, to be lived always, and to be lived all-

ways.

Thanksgiving!

Is an attitude. Is a promise. Is a life.

So let us enter this place –

giving thanks!

Giving thanks –

**for one another, for all creation, and to the Creator of
All!**

Opening Prayer:

**Holy One, as geese honk overhead, as orange globes fill
the pumpkin patch, as the landscape is painted with reds
and golds, we are filled with gratitude. We are thankful for
the earth that is alive around us, for families and friends
that give us life, for all that makes life good. May we give
our thanks freely, so all around us may feel your presence.
Amen.**

Hymn: For The Beauty of the Earth **VU 226**

Prayer of Confession: (based on the words by Chief Seattle 1855)
Creator God, we confess that we do not always remember you.

We forget that all we have and are comes from you.

We forget that the earth is our mother – we are made from the
earth.

**Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the children of the
earth. We are a part of the earth and the earth is a
part of us.**

We forget that the rivers are our brothers.

We forget that the perfumed flowers are our sisters.

We forget that the air is precious for all of us, and we share the
same breath.

The wind gives our children the spirit of life.

We forget that the earth does not belong to us; we belong to the
earth.

We forget that all things are connected.

We forget that you are the same God whose compassion is
equal for all.

**We forget that we did not weave the web of life that
we are merely a strand in it.**

Forgive us, O Creator, and help us to remember that whatever
we do to the web; we do to ourselves.

Forgive us, and accept our thanks for your gift of life.

(Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

God's grace is boundless; God's forgiveness knows no limits;
God's love overflows in spite of our apathy, our selfishness, our
sin. God's promise, incarnate in Jesus, is that

We are a forgiven people! Thanks be to God! Amen

A Time for All Ages

Offering Invitation:

When we take a look at the wonders that are in our lives, it becomes even more important to stop for a moment. Not only to say “thank you”, but to realize the abundance that is in our lives. For some of us, that comes in dollars and cents. For some of us, it is in time. For some of us, it is in ability. For some of us, it is in relationship. Wherever that abundance might lie in our lives, it’s important that we celebrate it – and in celebrating it, that we share it. Let us gather our gifts.

Offertory: Many Are the Lightbeams **VU 588, verse 4**

Offering Prayer:

We cannot begin to thank you for all the gifts you have graced us with, O God, but we offer these gifts as a token of our thanksgiving. With these gifts, we offer: our time to be caring and creative, our natural abilities and the skills we have learned, our determination to serve You wholeheartedly. Bless all our gifts and inspire us to use them with wisdom, generosity, and love. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Psalm 65 on **page 782 of VU**

Luke 17:11-19

Hymn: Come, You Thankful People, Come **VU 516**

Meditation

Ministry of Music: I Will Give Joyful Thanks

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Prayer Response: Come and Fill Our Hearts

Hymn: How Great Thou Art

Benediction