



THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL SUNDAY

November 22, 2020

10:30 a.m.

CALL TO WORSHIP and INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Claudia Demick

*HYMN “Thanks We Bring”

Thanks we bring to God, creator, who in Eden gave us life;
You have made us in Your image, guiding us through want and strife.
Timeless is Your grace and mercy; timeless shall our praises be:
Praise to God whose love is central now and through eternity.

Thanks we bring to Christ the Savior who on Calv’ry made us free.
You have loved us proud and lowly, conquering sin upon the tree.
Serving You in one another brothers, sister we may be;
Trusting in Your sure redemption heaven’s glories we may see.

Thanks we bring to God the Spirit who on Pentcost came down,
With the tongues of fire imparting sev’n-fold gifts to be our crown.
Fill us with Your holy wisdom; teach us ways both true and just,
That we may seek Your dominion, all our lives in You to trust.

Now we bring our glad thanksgiving for Your providence divine
Let our praise now be transcended, cause Your face on us to shine.
Till we sing with angel chorus, till our song and theirs be one:
“Holy, Holy, God creator, Son and spirit, three in one!”

WORD OF FELLOWSHIP

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In the midst of our thanksgiving, let us pause in silence
to recall how we so often lose sight of the gifts of each day and of their Giver...
O God, sometimes we forget about You, we forget to love You, we forget to help
our neighbors, we forget to thank You. Forgive us we pray. Grant us clear minds
to know You, new hearts to love You, strong hands to serve You. Help us live this
day, this week, and always so that our whole life is a thanksgiving to You. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25: 31-46

Mark McLaughlin

SERMON “Sheep, Goats, Cows and Turkey”

The Rev. Rebecca Spencer

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father Which 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 for ever. Amen.

OFFERTORY “Thou, O God, Art Praised in Sion”

MALCOM BOYLE

Thou, O God, art praised in Sion, and unto Thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.
Thou that hearest the prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. Blessed is the one whom Thou
choosest and receivest unto Thee, who shall dwell in Thy courts and shall be satisfied with
the pleasures of Thy house, even of Thy holy temple. Thou wilt keep them in perfect peace
whose minds are stayed on Thee. Thou wilt keep them in perfect peace because he trusteth in thee.
Trust ye in the Lord forever, for in the Lord, the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.
Let the people praise Thee, O God; yea, let all the people praise Thee.
Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God shall give us His blessing.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord”

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps,
His day is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free!
While God is marching on.

BENEDICTION

WORSHIP ENDS – Witness and Service Begin”



Music Notes

We traditionally hear the Peter Wilhousky arrangement of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” at Thanksgiving services here at Central in recognition of the events happening during the era of its composition. In 1861, while reflecting on a tour of Civil War camps near Washington D.C., Julia Ward Howe wrote the words we sing today to fit a popular tune of her time, by William Steffe. Two years later in an effort to unify in praise the nation then divided by war, President Abraham Lincoln codified the many nationwide celebrations of Thanksgiving into the national holiday that we will observe Thursday and celebrate in a sacred context today.

“His truth is marching on” still today, in spite of strife and wars in the world contrary to that truth. As we give thanks for the many gifts from God, may we pray also for the grace to follow in the steps of Jesus who sought to bring deliverance to the captives, and who himself lived a life of servitude, even unto death on a cross so we might live freely.

Glory, Hallelujah!



We Give Thanks

A hearty thank you for your support

We give thanks for your continued support of our mission at Central through your generous gifts. Giving our offerings reflects a grateful heart that wants to give back to God a portion of what has been given to us. Tihing is all about thanksgiving! Wishing you and yours a safe and joyous Thanksgiving holiday!

Interfaith Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 24 at 7 pm

Tune in-to a virtual Celebration of Gratitude in Challenging Times with special guest speaker Patrick Westfall, Co-Director of OpenDoorsRI. This memorable service will be streamed on St. Martins Church YouTube and Facebook. Visit StMartinsProv.org for more information.