

# *Thanksgiving Eve*

November 23, 2016

7:30 PM

The Prelude

*Brother James' Air*

J. L. Macbeth Bain  
Maria Schwartz, Cello  
Gloria Hague, Director of Music

Choral Introit

*I Will Always Give Thanks*

Johann Crüger

I will always give thanks unto the Lord...His praise shall ever be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord, the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. Praise the Lord with me...and let us magnify His name together.

\*The Call to Give Thanks

Psalm 100 (ESV)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing.

**Know that the LORD, *he is God!* It is he who made us, and *we are his*; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! *Give thanks* to him; bless his name!

**For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

\*The Invocation

\*Hymn No. 715

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

St. George's Windsor

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

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown:  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;  
From his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;  
Give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home;  
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;  
There forever purified, in thy presence to abide:  
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

The Valley of Vision

*O my God,  
Thou fairest, greatest, first of all objects,  
my heart admires, adores, loves thee,  
for my little vessel is as full as it can be,  
and I would pour out all that fullness before thee in ceaseless flow.  
When I think upon and converse with thee  
ten thousand delightful thoughts spring up,  
ten thousand sources of pleasure are unsealed,  
ten thousand refreshing joys spread over my heart,  
crowding into every moment of happiness.*

*I bless thee for the soul thou has created,  
for adorning it, sanctifying it, though it is fixed in barren soil;*

*for the body thou hast given me,  
for preserving its strength and vigor,  
for providing senses to enjoy delights,  
for the ease and freedom of my limbs,  
for hands, eyes, ears that do thy bidding;  
for thy royal bounty providing my daily support,  
for a full table and overflowing cup,  
for appetite, taste, sweetness,  
for social joys of relatives and friends,  
for ability to serve others,  
for a heart that feels sorrows and necessities,*

*for a mind to care for my fellow-men,  
for opportunities of spreading happiness around,  
for loved ones in the joys of heaven,  
for my own expectation of seeing thee clearly.*

*I love thee above the powers of language to express  
for what thou art to thy creatures.*

*Increase my love, O my God, through time and eternity.  
Amen.*

Scripture Meditation

Psalm 138

Pastor Bell

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;

<sup>2</sup>I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,  
for you have exalted above all things  
your name and your word.

<sup>3</sup>On the day I called, you answered me;  
my strength of soul you increased.

<sup>4</sup>All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth,

<sup>5</sup>and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,  
but the haughty he knows from afar.

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life;

you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,  
and your right hand delivers me.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

\*Hymn No. 88

*With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring*

St. Petersburg

With grateful heart my thanks I bring, before the great thy praise I sing;  
I worship in thy holy place and praise thee for thy truth and grace;  
For truth and grace together shine in thy most holy word divine.

I cried to thee and thou didst save, thy word of grace new courage gave;  
The kings of earth shall thank thee, Lord, for they have heard thy wondrous word;  
Yea, they shall come with songs of praise, for great and glorious are thy ways.

O Lord, enthroned in glory bright, thou reignest in the heav'nly height;  
The proud in vain thy favor seek, but thou hast mercy for the meek;  
Through trouble though my pathway be, thou wilt revive and strengthen me.

Thou will stretch forth thy mighty arm to save me when my foes alarm;  
 The work thou hast for me begun shall by thy grace be fully done;  
 Forever mercy dwells with thee; O Lord, my Maker, think on me.

The Thanksgivings of God's People

(The congregation is encouraged to share how God has blessed during this past year)

\*The Doxology (*Hymnal*, pg. 731)

\*The Offering of Our Gifts to God (in unison)

**O Most Merciful Father; who has blessed the labors of the husbandman in the returns of the fruits of the earth; we give You humble and hearty thanks for this Your bounty; beseeching You to continue Your loving-kindness to us, that our land may still yield her increase, to Your glory and our comfort; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Offertory

*A Thanksgiving Prayer*

John Purifoy  
 The Adult Choir

For the graceful gifts of living, Thanks be to God. For the joy that comes from giving, Thanks be to God. For the peace in ev'ry sorrow, Thanks be to God. For the hope in each tomorrow, Thanks be to God. For the moon and stars of light, we give thanks. For our faith, best gift divine, For redemption's grand design, we give thanks. Now, we come with grateful voices, Thanks be to God. Gathered here, each heart rejoices, Thanks be to God. For the bond of human love, Thanks be to God. For the hope of heav'n above, Thanks be to God. For the moon and stars, All creation, bright, Now we come with grateful voices. Thanks be to God. This, our prayer of thanks, thanks be to God

\*Hymn No. 30

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

St. Anne

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
 Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;  
 Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
 From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone;  
 Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood, with all their lives and cares,  
 Are carried downward by your flood, and lost in foll'wing years.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away;  
 They fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
 O be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

\*The Benediction with Three-fold Amen

Postlude

*Voluntary*

Danish  
 Stanley

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 \* Those who are able, please stand.

**Our Thanksgiving offering** this year will go to the Mission to North America Mercy Ministries Fund.

**The sign up** for Christmas poinsettias on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$8.00 again this year. The deadline is Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.