



First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*"No matter who you are,
or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

Senior Minister
Rev. Tim Vander Haar

Sunday, November 19, 2023

1201 Jefferson Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49441
231-726-3254

www.fccmuskegon.org

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THANKSGIVING FEAST
NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

Shenandoah, Arr. by Jason Krug
The Canterbury Ringers

GATHERING PRAYER

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.

Let us pray.

**God our creator, your gifts to us are countless
and your goodness without limit.**

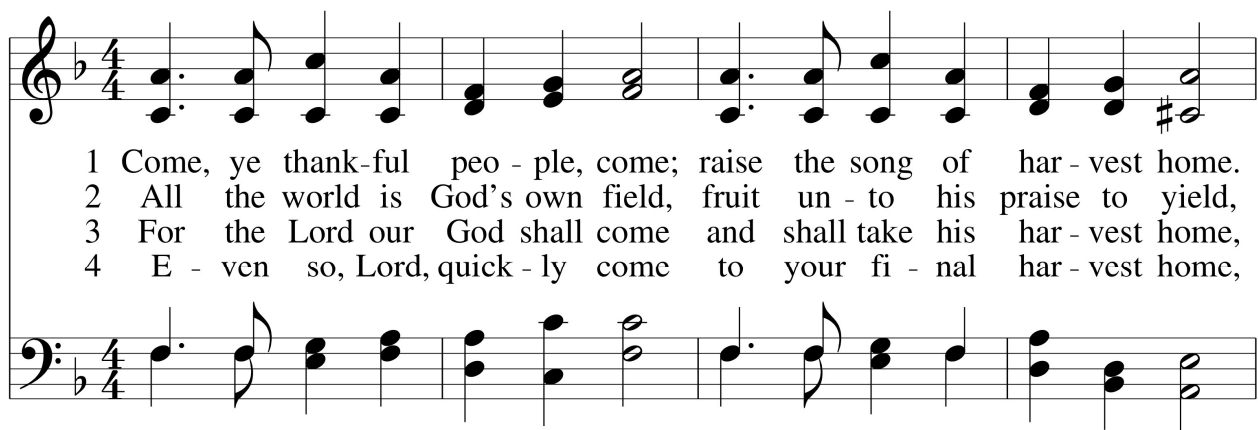
**Give us grateful hearts, teach us
to use wisely that which you give to us,
and make us eager to share with others.**

This we ask in Christ's name.

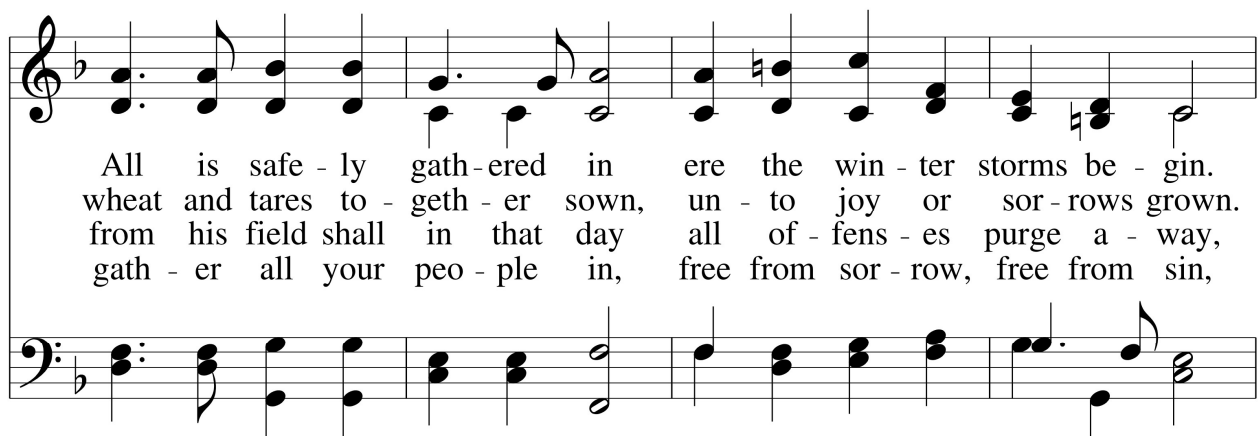
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

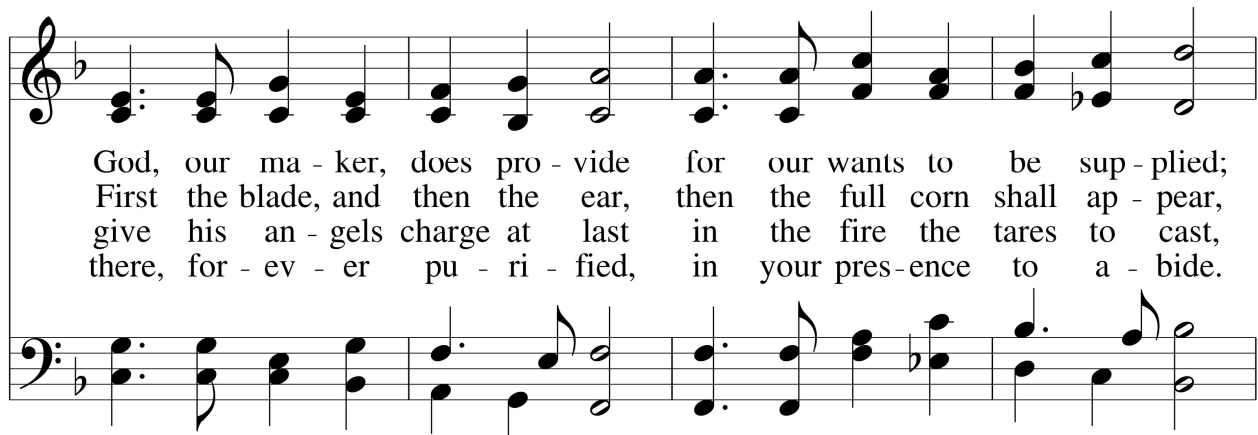
Come, Ye Thankful People Come



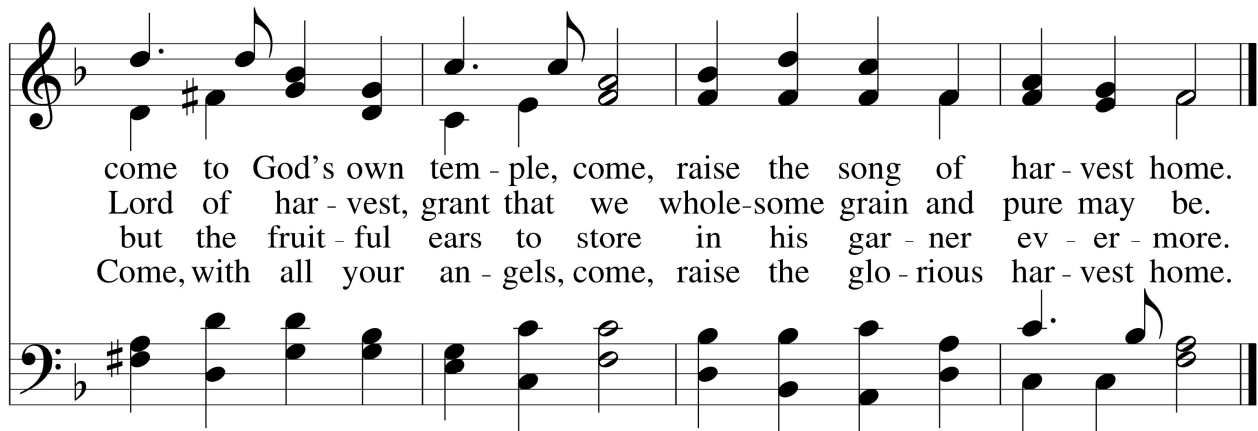
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield,
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home,
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har - vest home,



All is safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - rows grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,
 gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our ma - ker, does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear,
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your pres - ence to a - bide.



come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all your an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 8:10-18

You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Prelude on "Nun Danket," by Judy Phillips

The Canterbury Ringers

MESSAGE

DON'T THINK TO YOURSELF, I'VE DONE IT ON MY OWN

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,

who, from our mother's arms, has blessed us on our way
and keep us in his grace and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God whom earth and heaven adore;

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

WORDS: Martin Rinkart (1586-1649); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.
MUSIC: Johann Crüger (1598-1662); harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

. . . ending with 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 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.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Tom Linacre on behalf of Finance Committee

OFFERTORY MUSIC

We Gather Together, by John Ness Beck

Fear not, O land, rejoice and be glad; be not afraid, ye beasts of the field,
For the pastures shall be green and the trees shall bear fruit,
and the fig and the vine yield their harvest.

People of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God.

Who gives you good food, and sends down the rain.

The threshing floors shall be heaped with grain, the wine vats shall overflow,
and you shall eat, you shall eat your fill, and praise the name of the Lord your God,
and you shall know that I am present, that I and no other and the Lord your God.

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice and be glad.

We gather together...

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DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (*Creator*), Son (*Christ*), and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

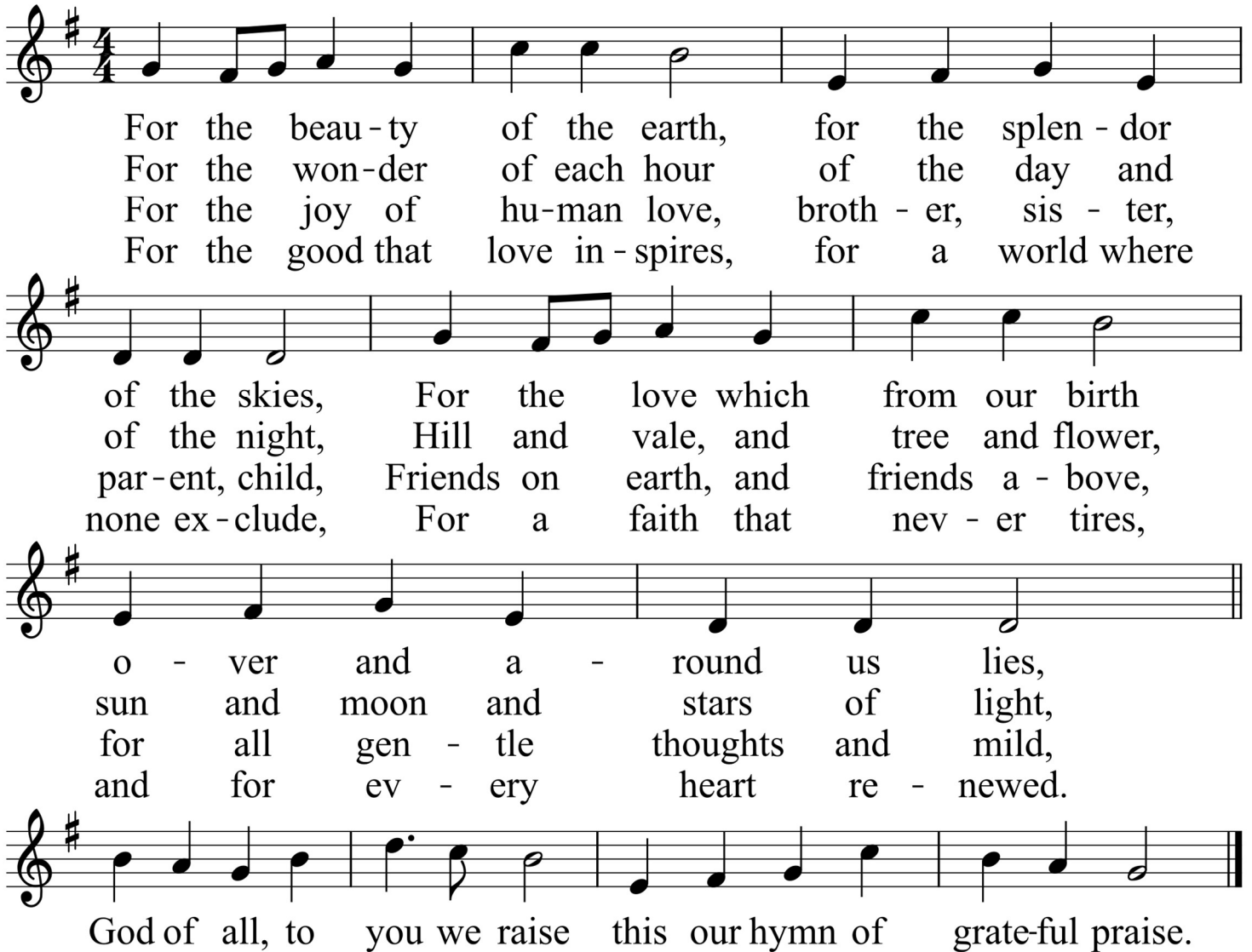
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

For the Beauty of the Earth



For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen - dor
For the won-der of each hour of the day and
For the joy of hu-man love, broth - er, sis - ter,
For the good that love in - spires, for a world where
of the skies, For the love which from our birth
of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
par-ent, child, Friends on earth, and friends a - bove,
none ex-clude, For a faith that nev - er tires,
o - ver and a - round us lies,
sun and moon and stars of light,
for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
and for ev - ery heart re - newed.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt., Miriam Therese Winter, © 1993 Medical Mission Sisters, Tune: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God (Cantata No.79), by J.S. Bach
Arranged by Virgil Fox

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar
Dr. Michael Match
John Mattson
Motet Choir
Canterbury Ringers
Joe Singerling
Blake Filius

Senior Minister
Music Director
Organist
Leaders of Song
Handbell Ensemble
Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Audio and Video

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*Altar Flowers are sponsored by the Roy Portenga family
in loving memory of Ann Portenga.*

Westshore GSA Youth Group will be meeting again on Monday, Nov 20 from 7 to 8 pm.

Governing Board Members: Packets are available for pick up at the Welcome Center.

Let's Make A Mess acrylic painting class, Wednesday, November 29 at 1:00 p.m. We will be painting a holiday tree picture. Please sign up at the Welcome Center and pick up a material's list of items to bring with you.

FCC Food Pantry - Love INC gives thousands of dollars worth of groceries to our FCC community pantry each year. A \$20 "Simply Give" purchase creates a \$40 total that is promoted October thru December at the North Muskegon Meijer. On one day, December 16th, North Muskegon Meijer triples the "Simply Give" donations. \$20 becomes a \$60 value. Tell the cashier when you check out that you want to Simply Give an amount of \$10, \$20, \$50, or \$100. This offer is only at the North Muskegon Meijer.

Another way to help the Food Pantry is to bring canned or boxed foods on a Sunday morning and place them in the basket in the narthex. Many thanks!

Please join us for our Candlelight Concert on Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 pm.

This is a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season.

Looking to help defer costs of the concert? We are offering multiple levels of sponsorship. All donors or those In Memory will be listed in our concert program. Also, score donations will be labeled and archived in our Music Library with the family name of your choosing. Please direct any questions to Michael Match at the church office or michaelm@fccmuskegon.org Many thanks. The Candlelight Sponsor Forms are at the Welcome Center, on our website, and in the Pilgrim Post. Many thanks.

First Congregational Church, UCC is an Open and Affirming Community "We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love."

Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21