
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559
www.uccmedina.org Email: office@uccmedina.org

*****Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher*****

LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”

Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE “We Gather Together” – arr. Victor Labenske Cathy Fafrak, Organist

*VISIONING PRAYER by Sharon Alberson

God, help us to be welcoming. God, help us to be loving.
God, help us to see that serving you can lead us to
A place full of grace with no limits where we can be free...
To open our hands, welcoming. To open our hearts, loving
To be more than church on Sunday, to live in the light from above;
To celebrate in service and love.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (written by The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan, KS)

One: God says:

Many: "I am about to create a new heaven and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered."

One: We say:

Many: "Yes, God, that's good, but does it have to be quite so difficult?
This creation of your new heaven and new earth? It's hard right now. We are tired."

One: God says:

Many: "You do not labor in vain. Before you call out to me, I answer. I am."

One: We say:

Many: "Yes, God, that's good. Thank you for being with us. We need you now. We really need you. Tell us again about your vision? We need your words of hope."

One: God says:

Many: "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like an ox."

In this new place – this new place we are creating together –no one will hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain."

One: We say:

Many: "Yes, God, that's good. Let's worship together now. We need to remember who we are and who you are and that we belong to each other. "

*OPENING HYMN

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" (vs 1-3)



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.

WORDS: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt.
MUSIC: George J. Elvey (1816-1893)

ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR
7.7.7.7.D.

***OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

(Written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C63sun33.htm>

Inspired by Matthew 24:1-14, Mark 13:1-13, Luke 21:5-19)

This I truly believe.

I believe in Jesus the Christ.

I believe in the ever-present Spirit

I believe in God whose love transforms all things.

Though false teachers come and delude the gullible, God's truth remains sure.

Though temples crumble and churches wither, God's gospel remains sure.

Though earthquakes strike and diseases ravage, God's purpose remains sure.

Though good people suffer injustice and persecution, God's love remains sure.

Though saints go to prison or face execution, God's life remains sure.

I believe in God who treasures and nurtures us, who yearns over the fate of each one as if they were all, and who turns loss to gain and defeat to victory.

This I truly believe. Amen!

***PRAISE RESPONSE**

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" (vs 4)

ANTHEM

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Alleluia Ringers

Arr. by Janet Linker & Jane McFadden

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Stacie Yates

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (written by Rachel Hackenberg, and posted on [RevGalBlogPals.](http://RevGalBlogPals.com))

Leader: Breathtaking God, Ever-Gracious God, you who call new worlds into being, you who make peace between the wolf and the lamb:

People: **You are wonderful ... and you leave us wondering. O LORD, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We experience you in contradictions. You are the wild hope of our dreams, and you are the restless agony of our souls. You accept the praises of floods and storms, yet you hover in love over places of devastation. You command us to love our neighbors but warn us to hate the world.

People: **For the complexity that is yours, for the contradictions with which we wrestle: O LORD, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the complexities that are ours, for the difficulties in life that we blame on you:

People: **O LORD, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We look to you for guidance through all that is perplexing, and as we breathe together in this moment of prayer, we pray for the patience and the wisdom to wait (to wonder) without answers.

People: O LORD, hear our prayer.

Leader: We are amazed by what you accomplish with us and within us. Most of all, we are amazed that you do not leave us.

People: We are humbled and grateful for your unfailing grace.

Leader: With the prophet Isaiah and with our teacher Jesus, with the whole host of witnesses across scripture, we claim in prayer and thanksgiving:

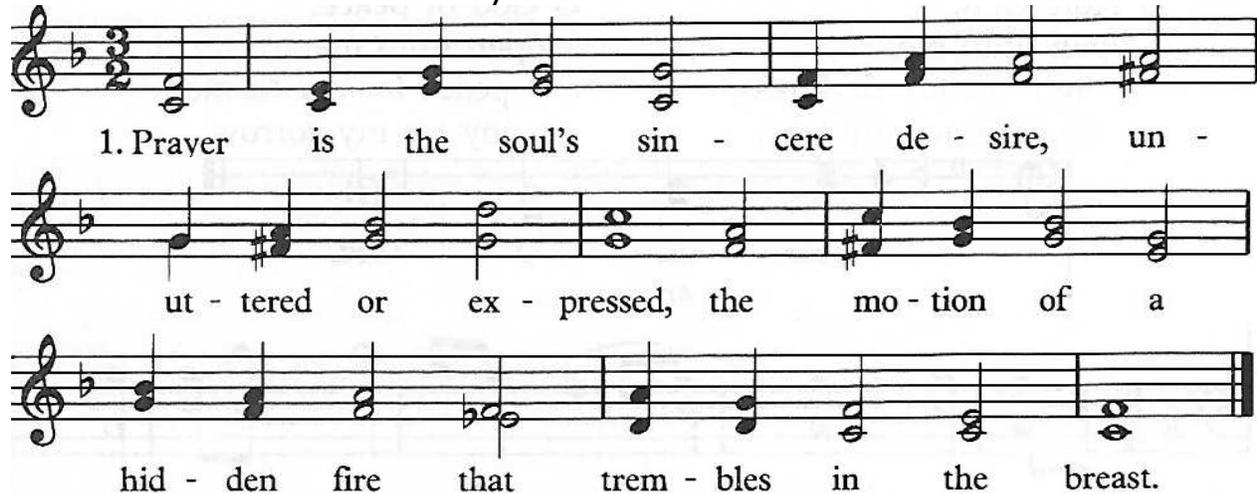
People: the mystery is yours and all that is in it.

Leader: Therefore, we trust you in all that we do not know or understand, and we join you in the working out of healing, of justice, of peace beyond imagination.

People: O LORD, this is our prayer. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire"



1. Prayer is the soul's sin - cere de - sire, un -
ut - tered or ex - pressed, the mo - tion of a
hid - den fire that trem - bles in the breast.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1818

MUSIC: USA campmeeting melody; harm. by Robert G. McCutchan, 1935

CAMPMEETING

CM

SCRIPTURE 1 Sam 1: 4-20 and Mark 13: 1-8

Deb Waldron, Liturgist

SERMON "Something New to Be Born"

Rev. Luke Lindon

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Offertory Invitation

We will now gather what we each have come to offer.

Offertory Music "Let All Things Now Living" – arr. Gerhard Krapf

Cathy Fafrak, Organist

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

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

God of the Harvest, we now dedicate this offering to the work of Your kingdom here on earth. May this collection be used wisely and diligently, that Your love may be known widely. As we dedicate this offering, we offer ourselves too, for these gifts of money are but tokens of ourselves. Take and use us that our hands may reach out in service, our feet may walk the difficult path of reconciliation, and that our words may be words of peace. For this we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

"Now Thank We All Our God"



1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice - es,
2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - er's arms, has blessed us on our way
and keep us in his grace and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God whom earth and heaven a - dore;



with count - less 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 ev - er - 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.

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go knowing that the Lord has heard!
People: Heard us in our public prayers in worship and the private prayers of our hearts.
Leader: Go knowing that nothing lasts forever!
People: Not one stone will be left upon another.
Leader: Yet the Word of the Lord stands forever!
**People: To this we endeavor. To store up our treasure where no moth or rust can effect.
Treasure like gratitude for this day. For our friends and family. For the gathered
body of Christ here and now.**
Leader: Go, and be a blessing, for this service has ended.
People: And our service now begins! Amen!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"**

**God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.**

***POSTLUDE "Now Thank We All Our God"** Op. 65, no. 20 – Sigfrid Karg-Elert; arr/ed. Janet Linker
Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"

+++++

* Those who are able are asked to please stand

Ushers: Dick Christy, Max Gabrielsen, Andrew Avalon, Pete Benson

******Please join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall following the service***
Today's coffee hour is hosted by Kellie Johns.***

+++++

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: luke@uccmedina.org

OFFICE STAFF

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: office@uccmedina.org
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager - email: financial@uccmedina.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education
Michelle Lisco, Co-Director of Youth
Jim Kiser, Director of Music
Cathy Fafrak, Organist
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor
Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 18, 2018

“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”

Live streaming of the Sanctuary Service is available at uccmedina.org

November 18, 2018 thru November 25, 2018

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir Rehearsal
9:15 am Bell Choir practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Christmas Pageant Practice
11:45 am Mission Team
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
4:00 pm Youth Group – Thanksgiving
Potluck
**5:00 pm The Tree of Remembrance
Ceremony on the Square**

Mon 1:00 pm Breadmakers

Tues

Wed 10:30 am Quilters

Thu CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED



Fri CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Sat

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:15 am Choir practice
10:30 am Traditional Worship
11:30 am Christmas Pageant Practice
2:00 pm JMM @ Medina Meadows
Sing-a-Long
7:00 pm JMM @ WRMC

Worship Highlights: 8:15, 9:00 & 10:30 am

Scripture: I Samuel 1:4-20 and Mark 13:1-8

“Something New to be Born”

Rev. Luke Lindon

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given by Ken and Karen Zuehlke in honor of their anniversary.

SPAGHETTI LUNCH THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who attended the spaghetti lunch last Sunday. It was wonderful to see our church family enjoying good food and fellowship while supporting a great cause. With your support we were able to raise \$750 to use toward future mission trips. As always, thank you for your continued support of our youth. We will be having more lunches throughout the year so stay tuned.

Upcoming Youth Events:

- *November 18 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30
- *November 18 – Youth Group 4:00-6:00
- *November 25 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30
- *December 2 – Christmas Pageant Practice 11:30
- *December 2 – Advent Family Fun Night 4:30
- *December 9 – Confirmation Class 3:00-4:30
- *December 16 – Christmas Pageant 10:30 service
Confirmants light the Advent Wreath
- *December 23 – ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- *December 30 – NO F.I.S.H. –HAPPY NEW YEAR!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Boxes Due TODAY!

All shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child are due today! Thank you to everyone who participated in this great mission. Many children will have smiling faces this Christmas season.

HAVE WE OVERLOOKED ANYONE?

Do you know an older church member who no longer can attend church regularly because of health issues or a shut-in that may enjoy a visit from a Circle of Caring member? If so, please call the office (330-725-4559) or Syd Benson (330-725-5540). That person will be called and matched with one of the members of Circle of Caring who makes visits.

ADVENT FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Does good food, fellowship, Christmas music and fun sound good to you? Then you will want to be sure to come to Advent Family Fun Night on **Sunday, December 2nd at 4:30**. The evening will consist of crafts and activities to help kick off the season of Advent. We will also enjoy a pizza dinner together. The cost of dinner will be \$3 per person. Help us celebrate the Advent season and get into the holiday spirit. If you would like to attend, please sign up outside of Fellowship Hall. We hope to see all of our church family there.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

It's that time of year again! Practices will be beginning for the annual Children's Christmas Program. We will have rehearsals immediately following the 10:30 service today, Sunday November 18th, Sunday November 25th, Sunday December 2nd and Sunday December 9th. Dress rehearsal will be Friday, December 14th at 6:00. The program will be performed by our children and youth on Sunday December 16th at the 10:30 service. Make sure to mark your calendars now.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

It's time to order your beautiful poinsettia again! You may donate a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary, East Room and Fellowship Hall for Christmas services and claim it afterward, or you may donate a poinsettia to be delivered by the Flower Committee to a shut-in to be enjoyed before the holiday. The cost is \$8.50. **Deadline for ordering is December 10th**. Please fill out a green poinsettia order sheet (found in your bulletin) and turn it in to the offering plate or the church office.

EXTRA GIFT CARDS ON HAND FOR PURCHASE

Extra Gift Cards Available for Christmas Gifts:

\$10—Chipotle, \$10—Panera, \$10—Starbucks, \$25—Speedway and \$25—Target and \$10.50—Regal Premiere Movie Ticket

Please contact Kelly weekdays in the office or via email financial@uccmedina.org if you would like to purchase any of these cards. Cash or checks payable to UCC. These cards make great gifts. Supplies are limited. **Last order of Gift Cards before Christmas will be Monday, December 10th by 10:00 am.**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS GATHERING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

All women are invited to attend the Christmas Gathering. We will meet in the East Room for a light lunch and fellowship. At 1:00 pm we will be entertained by our own Hobby Horse Preschool students in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up outside Fellowship Hall. Let's hope the weather is good and many of you will be able to attend. If you have questions, please contact Beth Hari (330-242-1807) or Becky Weber (330-725-8545).

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

With Advent Season quickly approaching, we need to turn our attention to the Christmas decorating process of our beautiful church. We will plan to assemble immediately after the 10:30 church service on Sunday, November 25th. Those who attend the 8:15 and the 9:00 services can begin the decorating process in the new addition and fellowship hall after their services. Photos and instructions will be provided for each area. With the help of our veteran volunteers, we should be completed well before 3:00. Thank you in advance.

ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Endowment Fund Committee is pleased to invite Boards and Committees within the church to complete a Request for Funding form, available on the table near the kitchen. The Packet has easy-to-follow directions to provide details of the funded project for the Committee to evaluate. There is over \$10,000 available for allocation and we celebrate the generosity of the church family that has made this possible via their donations to the Fund over the last two decades. **Deadline for application is November 30th.**

2019 BICENTENNIAL CALENDARS

As our Bicentennial year approaches, we have several exciting things planned to celebrate the upcoming year!

We have compiled a usable working wall calendar for 2019 with all the special church events listed along with some beautiful photos of the church. Of course, things will be subject to change and we will keep you posted throughout the year, but it is a great way to keep track of what will be happening so you can save the dates!

Calendars will be available beginning Sunday, December 2nd for a \$5 donation that will go towards our Bicentennial Celebrations.

FOUNDERS DAY

It seems family and recipes go together—especially when the recipe is a treasured family recipe with delights made from “scratch”. The Bicentennial-Founders Day Team is asking that when you prepare your upcoming Thanksgiving menu that you give a thought to choosing a special family recipe that will be needed in February 2019. The Founders Day celebration will feature an old-time, “home-cooked” covered dish meal and we need your support to provide a dish suitable for passing. We know this seems far in the future, but plans from your Bicentennial Team are being developed now. Please scour your grandmother’s cookbook over the holidays for those treasured family recipes. Keep the recipe in mind for a later day of celebration. Details to come after the first of the year.

NEW ONLINE GIVING UPDATE

Now you do NOT need to contact the office to get registered—you can do it yourself! Now when you go to <http://uccmedina.org/give> it points to all 3 of our giving options:

- Make a one-time contribution
- Register yourself for recurring giving
- Log in to your profile and update if needed

Current giving is shown and 2019 pledges can also be added. Feel free to contact Kelly 330-725-4559 if you have any questions.

NOTICE!

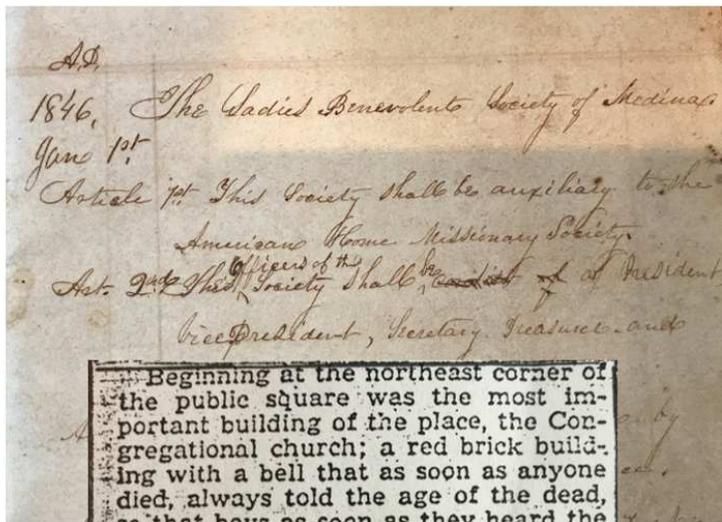
WE WILL NOT BE MAILING THE PILGRIM MESSENGER THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING.

YOU CAN STILL READ THE PILGRIM MESSENGER IN ITS ENTIRETY **ONLINE!**

JUST GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT:

WWW.UCCMEDINA.ORG

SCROLL DOWN UNTIL YOU FIND WORSHIP BULLETINS AND PILGRIM MESSENGER ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE PAGE.



Beginning at the northeast corner of the public square was the most important building of the place, the Congregational church; a red brick building with a bell that as soon as anyone died, always told the age of the dead, so that boys as soon as they heard the bell, would run to the church with the question, "Mr. Sanderson, who is dead?" This man was the chronicle of that day, and was as reliable a reporter probably, as Medina has ever known.

Bicentennial Tidbits

The Ladies Benevolent Society of the First Congregational Church was formed in 1846. In addition to making ongoing financial contributions to mission activities (mostly to China), the Society also contributed many things to our own Church building. One of their first activities was to sew a pall (a linen cloth to drape over a funeral casket).

The Society also furnished all of the interior of the 1882 "new" church by taking out a contract to weave 150 yards of rag carpet as a fundraiser. It was at this time that the Ladies also paid to recast our original bell, which had cracked due to a homemade clapper (used to replace the original clapper stolen during a noisy revival in 1866). The bell was used as a means of public communication whenever someone in the village passed away – see the Gazette article at left (from 1898) about what life in the village was like in 1843.

HEAR THE BELLS RINGING!

Members of our congregation will once again have the opportunity to be "Red Kettle Ringers" for the Medina Salvation Army. Volunteers are needed for **Saturday, December 8th**, in the vestibule at Buehler's River Styx. There are several short shifts available between 12:00 pm & 4:00 pm. It is a good idea (but not necessary) to bring a second person with you for your time slot, that way the kettle is never unattended if you need to take a break. Sign-up sheets are available near the kitchen. For any questions or concerns, contact Lynn Leckie. This is a popular event each year, so sign up soon!

GARFIELD HYGIENE PROGRAM - NEW ITEMS NEEDED!

Thank you for the generous contribution of toiletries for the Hygiene Program to assist the children at Garfield School. We are now asking for your contributions of **Winter Hats, Gloves and Scarves**. Socks are always appreciated. Please place your contributions in the box at the bottom of the staircase.

YOUR MISSION TEAM GIVINGS

Your Mission Team has been making decisions regarding the donations that you have so generously given. Recently you have donated \$500 to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, \$350 to Cup's Café for their fundraiser and a new microwave, and \$200 to Main Street Medina as a Candlelight Walk Sponsor. We are always open to your suggestions and welcome them.

As we make our final preparations for Thanksgiving celebrations this week, my hope is that we reflect on thanking God. Thanking Him for all that He has “given” us; the sound of children playing, a favorite song, breaking bread with family and friends, the tree that provides shade, rain to nourish our crops...And may we not lose sight of “giving” to those who have so little or are suffering in some way. Jesus taught us to welcome strangers, care for the sick, poor and widows. I thank God for all your caring and gracious giving to the “Garfield 14 families” Thanksgiving dinner. The world is not a perfect place and often things don’t go the way we would like. But gratitude opens the way to faith, goodness, and action. As we have been blessed may we bless others in Jesus name through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: *Gracious God, we thank you for our senses that we can hear the birds sing, see the golden wheat in the fields, taste autumn’s fruit, feel the softness of snow, and smell the holiday scents. Grant us a heart opened to all this beauty. Give us hearts of gratitude and let us sing your praise. AMEN!*

I Samuel 1:4-20
Thanksgiving Sunday

Praise the Holy One

Where are you going for Thanksgiving? Will you be one of the many millions traveling this year? Last year, the figure for numbers of people moving around the lower 48 on Thanksgiving Day was around 50 million. Everyone is moving like a river toward and through the world swirling like circles inside of circles and ending up at almost the same meal. It may be that 88% of Americans eat Turkey on Thanksgiving. Wouldn't it be great if we could all just stop and remember what we share?

Remember to be grateful for everything that saves us, and all of creation that embraces and nurtures and quenches our thirst. To be grateful for a growing generation that learns before our eyes how to speak truth to power. To be grateful for all those who inhabit this world with us and in gratitude see how much we need each other. Being grateful is both a response to love and a generator of love.

Perhaps on Thanksgiving it's a good day for us to remember that we are grateful for the things we love because of what they call us to become. To love creation calls us into a world of nature and color and the genius of creatures and the suffering caused by climate change. It pulls us into the actual place we live beyond sidewalks and the walls of our homes, or the seats of our cars, or the screens of our computers. Gratitude for creation and our love of it reminds us that nature is our true home.

To love children is to love what the world may become, and be grateful, in advance, for what they will do for others. To love children is to love into the future by influencing their experience of the present. To love children is to teach them things they might need to know. But mostly to show them how beautiful they are and how Jesus needs them to be his hands and they are beloved.

To love one's neighbor pulls one across the globe, and into our backyards. Who are all these people? What are they doing traveling with us on this day? Eating turkey. Sharing life. Breathing. Laughing. Telling stories. Mourning loss. Being happy. Irritated with a cousin, or sibling. We are also grateful that there is a world where evening meals share different settings and a plenary of tastes. We are grateful for global neighbors. Among all the things that love can teach, our three great loves (Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, Love of Creation) teach us gratitude.