



# THANKSGIVING SERVICE

## NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2023

*Zion United Methodist Church exists to celebrate God's grace and witness for Jesus Christ. As you worship, open your heart. God has a word for you today!*

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NOVEMBER 22, 2023

Celebrant:

Rev. Chang H. Yi

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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP AND PRAISE

### PRELUDE

#### \*GREETING

*At this time please greet one another with signs of God's welcome and peace.*

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*As we gather on this sacred evening, we come with hearts full of gratitude. Let us lift our voices in thanksgiving and praise.*

**For the beauty of the earth, for the love of family and friends, we give thanks.**

*For the blessings that have graced our days, for the opportunities to show kindness and compassion, we give thanks.*

**For the faith that sustains us, for the hope that leads us, we give thanks.**

*For the hands that have prepared our meals, for those who have nurtured our spirits, we give thanks.*

**For the love that binds us, for the peace that stills us, we give thanks.**

*Let us join together in thanksgiving, remembering the goodness of God in every season of our lives.*

**With grateful hearts, we celebrate God's endless gifts. Let us worship God in spirit and truth. Amen.**

#### \*OPENING HYMN

*"For the Beauty of the Earth" (v.1-2,4,6)*

UMH 92

### OPENING PRAYER

*Leader: Let us pray.*

**All: Heavenly Father, we gather this Thanksgiving Eve with hearts full of gratitude for the blessings You have bestowed upon us. We thank You for the beauty of creation, the love of family and friends, and the gift of community that surrounds us. (Continued)**

As we come together in worship and thanksgiving, guide us with Your Spirit, opening our hearts to the richness of Your grace and mercy. May our prayers and praises tonight be a reflection of Your love and goodness. Amen.

## PROCLAIMING OF GOD'S WORD

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**      1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**CHOIR ANTHEM**            *"Harvest Hymn"*            by Michael Larkin

**MESSAGE**    *"Embracing Gratitude: Living with a Thankful Heart"*  
Rev. Chang H. Yi

## GIVING THANKS TO GOD

**HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

UMH 102

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*(All the offerings collected this evening will be forwarded to the **Zion Love Feast ministry**. Your contributions will be used to cover general expenses for the ministry, including but not limited to purchasing paper products, food warmers, utensils, and more.)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*(From The UM Hymnal)*

One: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## GOING FORTH IN LOVE AND SERVICE

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

UMH 140

**\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**



Friends, more than 34 million people in the U.S. face hunger or lack access to healthy food. Closer to home, nearly one in every 10 adults in the Dakotas and Minnesota have reported there is sometimes or often not enough to eat for their household.

There are people in every one of our communities who face the very real struggle to make ends meet and provide for their families. Some of our beloved United Methodist siblings are likely among them.

Let us come together to make a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors in need. I hope you'll join me in participating in our **Dakotas-Minnesota Area 2023 Thanksgiving Offering: Five and Two**—as in the story of Jesus taking five loaves of bread and two fish and feeding 5,000.

What might it look like for every United Methodist in the Dakotas and Minnesota to give at least \$5 to two food ministries this Thanksgiving season? Now, for those who are able: You can provide more—perhaps \$52 to a food ministry of your choice. However, you choose to work out the math and whatever amount you're able to give, imagine the impact we will make in our schools, our communities, and our neighborhoods.

I hope you will share your gifts directly and/or through a coordinated effort by your local church, and then let's celebrate our collective work as the Dakota-Minnesota Episcopal Area. Please prayerfully consider your own capacity and share your commitment to the **2023 Thanksgiving Offering: Five and Two**.

—Bishop Lanette Plambeck