

Brunch Church - Giving Thanks

November 22, 2026

9:30am in the Social Hall

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The world is filled with the glory of God, and we say,
People: Thank you!
Leader: The hills and valleys are filled with colour, and we say,
People:Thank you!
Leader: The vines and trees are filled with fruit, and we say,
People: Thank you!
Leader: Our tables are overflowing with food, and we say,
People: Thank you!
Leader: Our life is filled with love of family and friends, and we say,
People: Thank you!
Leader: We fill this house of God with our voices, saying,
People: Thank you!

HYMN #14 For the Beauty of the Earth

1. *For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,*
   for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: REFRAIN

   REFRAIN: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

2. *For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,*
   hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: REFRAIN

3. *For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,*
   for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: REFRAIN

4. *For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,*
   friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: REFRAIN

5. *For thyself, best gift devine to the world so freely given;*
   for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: REFRAIN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Together let us confess,
how we have fallen short of God's desires for us.
Let us pray:
All: Holy God, you have given us many good gifts.
Today we thank you for all of them,
but we also confess that sometimes
we love those gifts more,
than we love you.
We confess wanting more and more things:
food, clothes, toys, and money.
Forgive us for not being content and thankful.
Forgive our selfishness.
Help us to love you more,
than everything else.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Time of silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: God is a gracious giver.
God is gracious in forgiveness.
God calls us to new patterns and new life.
We are a forgiven people!
All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE #59 The Steadfast Love of the Lord

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning;
great is your faithfulness, O God, great is your faithfulness.

SCRIPTURE READING

L: In the beginning was the Word.
P: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
L: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Matthew 6:25-33 (CEB) - *Do Not Worry*

[25] "Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? [26] Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? [27] Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? [28] And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don't wear themselves out with work, and they don't spin cloth. [29] But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn't dressed like one of these. [30] If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it's alive today and tomorrow it's thrown into the furnace, won't God do much more for you, you people of weak faith? [31] Therefore, don't worry and say, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' [32] Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. [33] Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
P: Thanks be to God.

TABLE TALK

Talk together about the passage. Possible discussion:

- *What are some of the things you worry about?*
- *Does knowing that God cares for birds, flowers, etc. bring you comfort?*
- *What helps you let go of your worries?*
- *What do you think it means/looks like to "desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"?*

RESPONSIVE ACTIVITY *Create Gratitude Pumpkins*

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

Talk together at your table about people, places and situations for which you are praying.
Write a few sentences of prayers to God (thank you or help us).

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Each table shares their prayers, then pray together:

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.

HYMN #716 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

1. *God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

2. *Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one. Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone. Born with talents make us servants fit to answer at your throne.*

3. *Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through posers you grace conferred: ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word. Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call, healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

BENEDICTION

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, And the power of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Thank you to the following people for helping with our service this morning:
Roger Dana & Nona Hutchinson, Leading worship
Pat Hogan, Penny Gerber & Becky Ahrens, Brunch

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor
Cristina Galán, Office Manager
Rebecca Nickles, Music Director
Nona Hutchinson, Treasurer
María Seda, Nursery
Teresa Sullivan, Custodian