



# Service for the Lord's Day

*A Service of Thanksgiving*

November 19, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Please SILENCE ALL Personal Electronic Devices Before Worship.

## **We Gather as God's People**

***Welcome to our worship service. Take a moment to quiet yourself as we prepare ourselves for worship.***

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church! In this space, we invite you to bring all of who you are - your identity, your beliefs, your doubts, your questions, and your story wherever you are on your journey in life. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence.

**The Gathering Music** ..... "We Gather Together" with "Give Thanks" arr. Melody Bober

### **The Welcome and Announcements**

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church wishes to acknowledge its church building and manse sits on the traditional, ancestral homelands of the Ho-Chunk and Potawatomi people and honor the long heritage and living legacy of Native Americans here in Wisconsin.

This morning, part of our liturgy is taken from The Thanksgiving Address of First Nations of the Haudenosaunee Peoples. When one recites the Thanksgiving Address the Natural World is thanked, and in thanking each life-sustaining force, one becomes spiritually tied to each of the forces of the Natural and Spiritual World. The Thanksgiving Address teaches mutual respect, conservation, love, generosity, and the responsibility to understand that what is done to one part of the Web of Life, we do to ourselves.

**The Prelude** ..... "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" arr. Anna Laura Page

### **The Call to Worship** [Responsive]

*One:* The Peace of Christ be with you.

***Many:* And also with you.**

*One:* In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

***Many:* We recognize God as the source of all goodness.**

*One:* All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

***Many:* love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.**

*One:* We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

***Many:* We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.**

**The Opening Hymn** *PH* # 559 ..... “We Gather Together”

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;  
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,  
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Besides us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation; Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

**The Litany of Thanksgiving from the Haudenosaunee People** [Responsive]

*One:* Today we have gathered and when we look upon the faces around us we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now let us bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People.

**Many:** Now our minds are one.

*One:* O God, we give you thanks for all that you have done for us: that you have created us, and have given us the gift of life and set us to live on this earth. Thank you for the work you have given us to do, and the strength to do it; thanks for having kept us all our days, and bringing us in safety to this present hour.

**Two+** (*A new way to share the peace of Christ and greet one another.*)

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”* Matthew 18:20

**Question:** “What is one thing you are grateful in life?”

**We Listen for God’s Word**

**The First Scripture Reading** [Responsive]

Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37

(Nan C. Merrill in Psalms for Praying)

*One:* We give thanks to You, who are the Source of Love; whose Light shines forth throughout the universe!

**Many:** Come, awaken our hearts that we might do your Work;

*One:* For, without You, we can do nothing; ’tis your Love that loves through us.

**Many:** Gather us in from all the lands, from the east and the west, from the south and the north.

*One:* Let all who are hungry and thirsty, whose souls are faint within them, Cry out to the Most Merciful to give them succor, to nourish them with healing love;

**Many:** For fear cannot live where love, grace, and gentleness abide.

*One:* Who will offer the dance of their own life, as a creation of devotion and beauty?

**Many:** Only those who have come through the darkness and walk now in the Light,

*One:* Can offer their lives in Service to build the new world,

**Many:** where justice and freedom will truly flourish.

*One:* Awaken, all you who are yet asleep,

***Many:* let us plant seeds for the commingling of heaven and earth;**

*One:* For the Energy of Love radiates in everything,

***Many:* and receptive hearts are purified by its Fire.**

**The Sung Response** PH # 473 (verse 1)..... “For the Beauty of the Earth”

**For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,**

**For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies,**

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**The Second Reading** [Responsive]

Ojibwa Prayer / Psalm 23

*One:* Oh Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds And whose breath gives life to everyone, Hear me.

***Many:* The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.**

*One:* I come to you as one of your many children; I am weak I am small I need your wisdom and your strength. Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunsets.

***Many:* Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

*One:* Make my hands respect the things you have made, and make my ears sharp so I may hear your voice. Make me wise, so that I may understand what you have taught my people and The lessons you have hidden in each leaf and each rock.

***Many:* You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

*One:* I ask for wisdom and strength, Not to be superior to my siblings, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy, myself.

***Many:* Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

*One:* Make me ever ready to come before you with clean hands and a straight eye, So as life fades away as a fading sunset, My spirit may come to you without shame.

**The Reflection**

Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

**The Sung Response** PH # 473 (verse 2)..... “For the Beauty of the Earth”

**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,**

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving** [Responsive]

*One:* We are thankful to our Mother the Earth, for she gives us everything that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she still continues to care for us, just as she has from the beginning of time.

***Many:* To our Mother, we send thanksgiving, love, and respect. Now our minds are one.**

*One:* We give you thanks for all that your church has done for us; for all the teaching we have received within our churches; for strength and guidance each week on life's way; for the friendship and the fellowship which we here enjoy; for the sacraments of grace and the prayers of your people.

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* We give thanks to all of the waters of the world for quenching our thirst, for providing strength and nurturing life for all beings. We know its power in many forms—waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans, snow and ice. We are grateful that the waters are still here and meeting their responsibility to the rest of Creation. Can we agree that water is important to our lives and bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to the Water?

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* We turn our thoughts to all of the Fish life in the water. They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. We are grateful that they continue to do their duties and we send to the Fish our greetings and our thanks.

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come.

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* When we look about us, we see that the berries are still here, providing us with delicious foods. The leader of the berries is the strawberry, the first to ripen in the spring.

Can we agree that we are grateful that the berries are with us in the world and send our thanksgiving, love, and respect to the berries?

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* With one mind, we honor and thank all the Food Plants we harvest from the garden, especially the Three Sisters who feed the people with such abundance. Since the beginning of time, the grains, vegetables, beans, and fruit have helped the people survive.

Many other living things draw strength from them as well. We gather together in our minds all the plant foods and send them a greeting and thanks.

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* Now we turn to the Medicine Herbs of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They are always waiting and ready to heal us. We are so happy that there are still among us those special few who remember how to use the plants for healing. With one mind, we send thanksgiving, love, and respect to the Medicines and the keepers of the Medicines.

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* Standing around us we see all the Trees. The Earth has many families of Trees who each have their own instructions and uses. Some provide shelter and shade, others fruit and beauty and many useful gifts. The Maple is the leader of the trees, to recognize its

gift of sugar when the People need it most. Many peoples of the world recognize a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one mind we greet and thank the Tree life.

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* We gather our minds together to send our greetings and thanks to all the beautiful animal life of the world, who walk about with us. They have many things to teach us as people. We are grateful that they continue to share their lives with us and hope that it will always be so. Let us put our minds together as one and send our thanks to the Animals.

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* We put our minds together as one and thank all the birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them the gift of beautiful songs. Each morning they greet the day and with their songs remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. The Eagle was chosen to be their leader and to watch over the world. To all the Birds, from the smallest to the largest, we send our joyful greetings and thanks.

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* We are all thankful for the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* We give you thanks for all that others have done for us. For those who taught us when we were children; for those who in days of youth gave us the guidance which kept us from going astray; for those who to this day love us and surround us with their care; for those who pray for us, and who lead us into your grace.

**The Sung Response** *PH* # 473 (verse 3)..... “For the Beauty of the Earth”

**For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind’s delight,  
For the mystic harmony Linking sense to sound and sight,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving Continues** [Responsive]

*One:* Now we turn to the west where our grandfathers the Thunder Beings live. With lightning and thundering voices they bring with them the water that renews life. We bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to our Grandfathers, the Thunderers. We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest brother the Sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west, bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun.

**Many: Now our minds are one.**

*One:* We put our minds together and give thanks to our oldest Grandmother, the Moon, who lights the nighttime sky. She is the leader of women all over the world and she governs the movement of the ocean tides. By her changing face we measure time and it is the Moon who watches over the arrival of children here on Earth. Let us gather our thanks for Grandmother Moon together in a pile, layer upon layer of gratitude, and then joyfully fling that pile of thanks high into the night sky that she will know. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Grandmother, the Moon. We give thanks to

the Stars who are spread across the sky like jewelry. We see them at night, helping the Moon to light the darkness and bringing dew to the gardens and growing things. When we travel at night, they guide us home. With our minds gathered as one, we send greetings and thanks to all the Stars.

**Many:** Now our minds are one.

*One:* May it be so. Amen.

**Many:** Amen.

**The Sung Response** *PH* # 473 (verse 4)..... “For the Beauty of the Earth”

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.

**Offering of Our Tithes and Our Gifts to God**

**The Sung Response** *PH* # 272 ..... “God of the Sparrow”

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe, How does the creature say Praise.

God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe, How does the creature cry Save.

God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace, How does the creature say Thanks.

God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care, How does the creature say Life.

God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love, How does the creature say Peace.

God of the ages, God of the hand, God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy, How do your children say Home.

**The Sharing of God’s Peace and the Sending** [Responsive]

*One:* To be community and in the spirit of love as the greatest of all gifts, we take time to be reconciled to one another. We pray for softened hearts as we offer signs of peace to each other.

We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened Teachers who have come to help throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring Teachers.

**Many:** Now our minds are one.

*One:* We now turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

**Many:** Now our minds are one.

*One:* We give you thanks for all that you have done for us in Jesus Christ. That in him you have opened to us a new and living way into your presence; that in him you have offered us forgiveness and peace with you.

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it is not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

**Many: And now our minds are one.**

*One:* Who's the Church?

**Many: We're the Church.**

*One:* Go love with God in your heart always.

**Many: In joy and peace, we will!**

**Postlude** .....“All Creatures of Our God and King” arr. Patricia Lou Harris



Our liturgy this morning is from: The Call to Worship ~ posted on The Presbyterian Church in Canada website; The First Scripture Reading ~ From Psalms for Praying © 2007 Nan C. Merrill, Reprinted with permission of the publisher Continuum International Publishing Group [www.PsalmsForPraying.com](http://www.PsalmsForPraying.com); The Second Reading ~ Author Unknown.

*Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church is committed to using language in such a way that all members of the community of faith may recognize themselves to be included, addressed, and equally cherished before God. Seeking to bear witness to the whole world, the church struggles to use language which is faithful to the biblical truth and which neither purposefully nor inadvertently excludes people because of gender, color, or other circumstance in life. (Book of Order, W-1.2006)*

**Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and refreshment following worship today.**

- Our musician today is Marian Korth.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS —**

- If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, *The Good News*, please send either your email (preferred) or snail mail address to the church office. (Our addresses are listed on the last page of the bulletin.)

- Help us save “pig points.” For us to receive a rebate, please turn in your receipts from the Cambridge Piggly Wiggly in one of three ways: **1.** Place them in the brown bag in the narthex. **2.** Cheryl Stitz will do a porch pickup of any receipts that you may have. Call her at 608-695-1838 to make arrangements. **3.** Receipts can also be mailed to the church office. All funds received are used for mission projects.

**Deadline to turn in receipts for this year is December 17.**

## **DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS —**

Anyone who would like to help is invited to join us at the church on Saturday, December 2 at 9 a.m. Thank you to Mare Stewart for coordinating with the other volunteers to decorate the sanctuary.

**POINSETTIAS:** This year, we are inviting people to donate a poinsettia. We will not be ordering them through a particular place or organization. If you would like to purchase one, we invite you to do so, bringing them to the church on Sunday, December 10.

# CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 WORSHIP AT 10 AM –

We welcome guest pastor Rev. Hugh Drennan a in-person worship continues this Sunday in the sanctuary. We are still mindful of the presence of COVID along with the cold and flu. If you are not feeling well, we would encourage you to remain home and join us for worship on our Facebook Live-Stream. Masks are also available for those who would feel more comfortable wearing them for their own health and safety. We do encourage people to encourage people to get vaccinated and boosted. Thank you.

## PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Dale Febock  
Jan & Nancy Kristiansen  
Marilyn Schuster  
Dick Trailer

Victims of the growing number of Mass Shootings and gun violence in our nation.

Those recovering from fire and storm damage across the United States.

The families of: Sylvia Jensen; Fred Trailer (Dick's brother); Stub Lund; Barbara Baker (Judy Pearson's sister); Betty Mennenga (mother of Angie Williams), and other families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

## Church Schedule

**Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. Sunday

**Communion:** First Sunday of each month

**Pastoral Office Hours:** Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Wednesday or by appointment

**Business Office Hours:** 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday  
(Church hours are approved by Session and posted on church entry doors.)

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**Visit us on Facebook:** Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

## CHURCH STAFF

### Music—

**Accompanists:** Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Angie Williams

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