



## **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP** *with UCC Westerly*

**November 22, 2020 @ 9:45am\***  
**Virtual worship**  
**broadcast live from our sanctuary**  
**THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**

*Please note that spiking Coronavirus infection rates and changing guidance from CT have caused our Pandemic Response Team to make the difficult decision to return to only virtual online worship effective immediately. We will return to limited in person worship when guidance from CT again makes it feasible.*

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### **Gathering Music -- “Live Long, Be Strong – Keep Your Faith!”**

[WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2020 B.R. Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.]

### **PASTOR’S WELCOME**

#### **Prelude – “Prelude on ‘We Plow the Fields and Scatter’”**

[MUSIC: David J. Cranmer, based on the hymn tune Wir Pflugen. ©1963 David J. Cranmer. All rights reserved. Used with permission. ]

### **DEACON’S GREETING**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP –**

[taken from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds., ©1990, The Pilgrim Press]

Let us gather together in thanksgiving to God, for God has made us and this earth which gives us nurture. Let us gather together in gratitude for one another, for we are the bearers of God’s blessing and love for this earth and its people.

#### **OPENING SONG – Come Ye Thankful People, Come**

[WORDS: Henry Alford & MUSIC: George J. Elvey, ©Public Domain]

- 1. Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;  
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.  
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;  
Come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.*
- 2. All the world is God’s own field, fruit as praise to God we yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown are to joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.*
- 3. For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;  
From the field shall in that day all offenses purge away,  
Giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;  
But the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.*

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION –**

[taken from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds., ©1990, The Pilgrim Press]

**Gracious God, who gives and gives and gives to us again, hear our plea for**

**one more gift. Grant to us a generous spirit that we may find and return to you all that you have given this world of the ordinary and the extraordinary, for you are the source and gift of life itself. May we be worthy of your generosity and increasingly skilled in sharing it with all those in need we encounter. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 13:24-30**

**Morning Message**      *Come Ye Thankful People Come*

Rev. Ruth

**Musical Meditation** – *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*      [©Public Domain]

### **A TIME OF PRAYER**

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you

### **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD**

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings\*

Anthem by Tone Chimes – *"We Gather Together"*      [© Public Domain]

\*Doxology *"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen."*

[©Public Domain]

### **CLOSING SONG -- We Gather Together**

[WORDS: Theodore Baker, trans. & MUSIC: Edward Kremser, arr. ©Public Domain]

- 1. 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.*
- 2. Beside 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!*
- 3. 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!*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION**

[from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds., ©1990, The Pilgrim Press, p. 244]

Go from this place to reap the harvest of God's love. Go from this place to continue to sow seeds of justice, peace, and love. Go from this place to nourish and to be nourished, knowing that God is ever a part of our lives. Amen.

#### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Postlude** – *"Now Thank We All Our God"*

[MUSIC: Van Denman Thompson, based on the hymn Nun Danket, ©1960, Lorenz Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

### **Points for Reflection**

Welcome to my Fall Sermon Series on hymns and how they inform and deepen our faith. Each week, you are invited to read through the week's focus scripture and reflect on some questions intended to guide your thoughts on that text. Then, you will be invited to consider how the biblical text connects with the hymn's verses.

This week's text: Matthew 13:24-30 (see below)

- This is one of the parables by Jesus and it is known as the "parable of the wheat and tares" or "the parable of the weeds." Write down the story line of the parable. What happens?
- Who is God in this parable? Who are we in this parable?
- Why does the Master say to gather the weeds (tares) when the wheat is harvested instead of getting rid of them as soon as they are discovered? Is this a metaphor of salvation or transformation? Both?
- Today's hymn references this parable with one curious discrepancy with the biblical text. Can you find the discrepancy? Why might the composer have chosen to write it as he did?

*If you would like a copy of my sermon for this week, kindly contact me or Carol in the office and we will send you a copy on Monday. Please indicate if you would prefer a paper copy by regular mail or if a digital copy sent by email is satisfactory.*

### **Matthew 13:24-30**

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." '