

Plymouth

Congregational
Church

Sharing Faith's Journey



Celebration of Worship

November 19, 2023

a service of public thanksgiving

AFTER THE ORDER OF OUR PILGRIM FORBEARERS

November 19, 2023

“... the faith in civil and religious freedom .. has been a creative force in modern history ... It (Plymouth) was the first settlement on this continent dominated by great civic and religious ideals. It made the first planting in American soil of the principles of civil and religious liberty. It was the first community in the world actually to incorporate the principle of separation of church and state.”

Joseph Crooker, *The Winning of Religious Liberty*

PRELUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Christopher Shaw, organ

The early Congregationalist said that the use of musical instruments was "the work of the devil." Around 1700, the viol and bass viol came into use. In 1713, the first organ was installed in a Boston meeting house.

CHURCH CONCERNS

Dr. Robu

MISSION MOMENT

Cairn Health

Amber Beck

DRUMMING TO WORSHIP

At the roll of the drum let the people stand. In the earliest days the call to church was given on a conch shell or by a drummer. A procession of worshipers to the church in a body was common because of the need for protection.

***READING OF THE PROCLAMATION**

On Sunday, November 22, 1620, when the Pilgrims reached Plymouth, Bradford records that they "gave God thanks for His mercies in their manifold deliverances." In 1676, was printed the first broadside officially summoning the inhabitants to an observance of Thanksgiving. In 1789, George Washington issued the first national Thanksgiving Proclamation. By the 1800's many states were celebrating Thanksgiving on various dates in the fall. In 1863 Abraham Lincoln issued his Thanksgiving Proclamation declaring the last Thursday of November a day of thanksgiving. The Tything Man will read a Thanksgiving Proclamation.

***THE SINGING OF A HYMN** *In Thanksgiving Let Us Praise Him* (pg. 10)

***THE PRAYER**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our father which art in heauen, halowed be thy name. Thy Kingdome come. Thy will be done euen in earth, as it is in heauen. Giue vs this day our dayly bread. And forgiue vs our dettes, as we also forgiue our detters. And leade vs not into tentation, but deliuer vs from euill: for thine is the kingdome, and the power, and the glorie for euer. Amen.

The Pilgrim congregation stood as the service opened with prayer - the prayer lasting at least fifteen minutes. The Lord's Prayer is from the Geneva Bible 1599, which the Pilgrims used.

MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN

Dr. Robu

Our forbearers had no special time with the children during the worship service. Children were expected to be seen and not heard. Today, things have changed.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Aubrie Culver

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise His name! I'm fixed upon it!
Name of God's redeeming love.

Hither-to Thy love hast blest me;
Thou hast bro't me to this place;
And I know Thy hand will bring me
safely home by Thy good grace.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
bought me with His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor,
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heard, O take and seal it,
seal it for Thy courts above.

The unaided human voice was used to sing Psalms in the early Pilgrim churches. The tune was "lined out" by a stalwart person with a comely voice. The "devil's bagpipes," as the organs were called, were thoroughly shunned by good Puritans.

***THE LONG PRAYER**

The Pilgrims emphasized "free prayer" of the minister's own composition, rather than stereotyped prayers. The "long prayer," was felt to be the place in the service where the congregation had freest access to God.

ANTHEM

Filled with His Voice
Eli Regier, saxophone

Steve Danyew

O thou, in whose presence
my soul takes delight,
on whom in affliction I call,
my comfort by day,
and my song in the night,
my hope, my salvation, my all;

Where dost thou, dear Shepherd,
resort with thy sheep?
to feed in the pastures of love?
Say, why in the valley
of death should I weep,
or lone in the wilderness rove?

Oh, why should I wander
an alien from thee,
or cry in the desert for bread?
Thy foes will rejoice when my
sorrows they see,
and smile at the tears I have shed.
He looks, and ten thousands
of angels rejoice,
and myriads wait for his word.
He speaks, and eternity
filled with his voice,
reechoes the praise of the Lord.

(from *O Thou in Whose Presence* by Joseph Swain, 1791)

Text: Stand fast therefore in the libertie wherewith Christ hath made vs free, and be not intangled againe with the yoke of bondage. Galatians 5:1 Geniva Bible

As a mark of respect for scripture, the congregation stood while the minister "gave out" the text for the day's sermon. The major part of the service was devoted to the sermon. With their emphasis on reason and intelligence, the early Pilgrims regarded the sermon as the high point of worship. The minister had an hour glass on the pulpit which was turned as the sands of the full hour ran out. Sermons frequently lasted well into the second hour. A Tything Man kept the people awake by using a long pole tipped with a brass knocker at one end to rap the sleeping "males", and tipped on the other end with a rabbit's foot or feather for a more gentle persuasion of the sleeping "females". No one was permitted to leave until the service was ended.

THE OFFERING

The offering was received after the sermon. A deacon rose from his place behind the Communion Table and said: "Brethren of the congregation, now there is time left for contribution; wherefore as God hath prospered you, so freely offer." The head of each family then walked forward and placed offerings of goods or money on the Communion Table. Entire families are invited to come forward today. Ushers will send forward those who have offerings a row at a time to place them on the table. Please go up the center aisle and return by side aisles.

DOXOLOGY

The Doxology, one of the best known of all hymn tunes, was first printed in a "Huguenot Psalter: published in Geneva in 1551, at the direction of John Calvin. The Puritan refugees returning to England after the death of Mary brought with them the Geneva Psalter and in it the Doxology.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***THE SINGING OF A HYMN** *For Years to Come* (pg. 12)

***THE BENEDICTION**

***THE RESESSIONAL**

In the colonial churches the minister was the first to leave and the last to enter. In the earlier days, the men left first in order to give protection to the women and children.

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* arr. David Cherwien
Christopher Shaw, organ

*Let all who are able please stand.

Welcome

It is Thanksgiving Sunday, a time when we worship, in part, according to the order of worship of our Pilgrim forbears of the 17th century.

A Special Welcome to Visitors

We are very pleased you have chosen to worship with us on this special Sunday. Congregationalists are the "Pilgrim People" of Plymouth Colony and today is our day to celebrate. Please make yourself known to us. We do hope you will come again.

Plymouth Staff

Rev. Dr. Donald P. Olsen, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Karen Robu, Associate Minister

Dr. Henry Waters, Director of Music

Christopher Shaw, Organist

KD Keim, Administrative Assistant

Lindsay Miller, Sunday School Teacher

Tim Robu, Maintenance Engineer

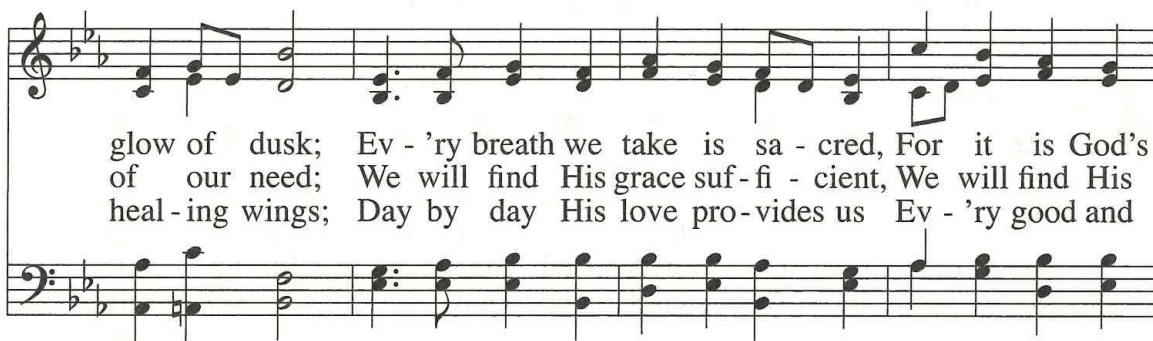
Erik Breckenridge, Video Tech

John Palmer, Video Tech Assistant

In Thanksgiving Let Us Praise Him




1. From the first bright light of morn - ing, To the last warm
2. In the sea - son of our plen - ty, In the sea - son
3. Safe with - in His hand that guides us, Hid - den in His



glow of dusk; Ev - 'ry breath we take is sa - cred, For it is God's
of our need; We will find His grace suf - fi - cient, We will find His
heal - ing wings; Day by day His love pro - vides us Ev - 'ry good and



gift to us.
love com - plete. In thanks - giv - ing, let us praise Him;
per - fect thing.



In thanks - giv - ing, let us sing Songs of praise and



ad - o - ra - tion To our gra - cious Lord, and King. A - men.

Now Thank We All Our God

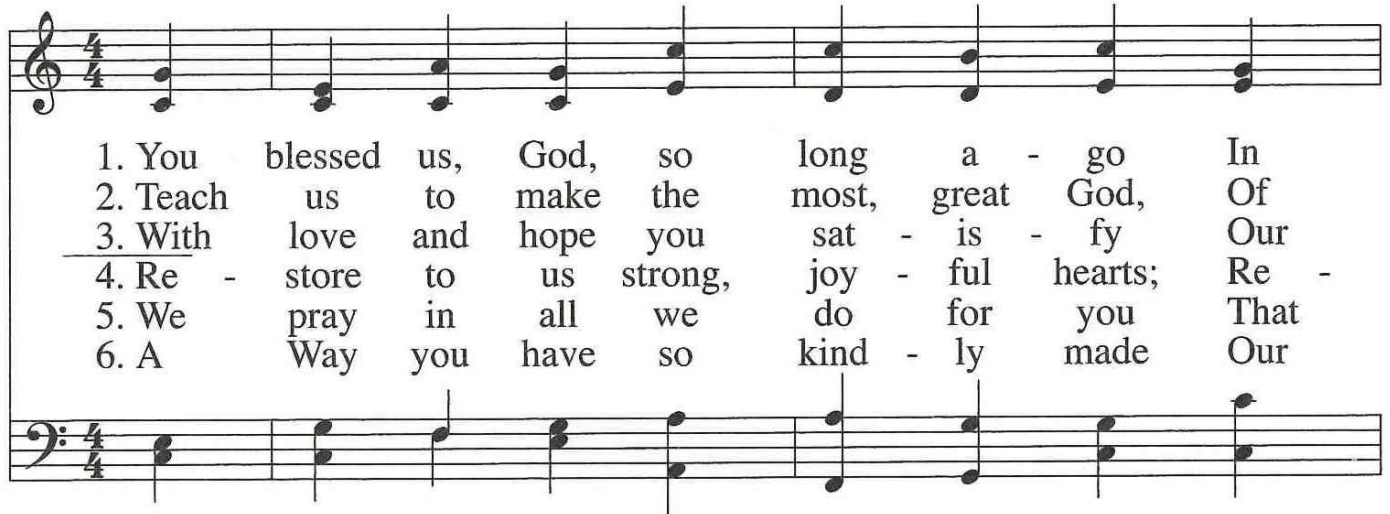
1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:

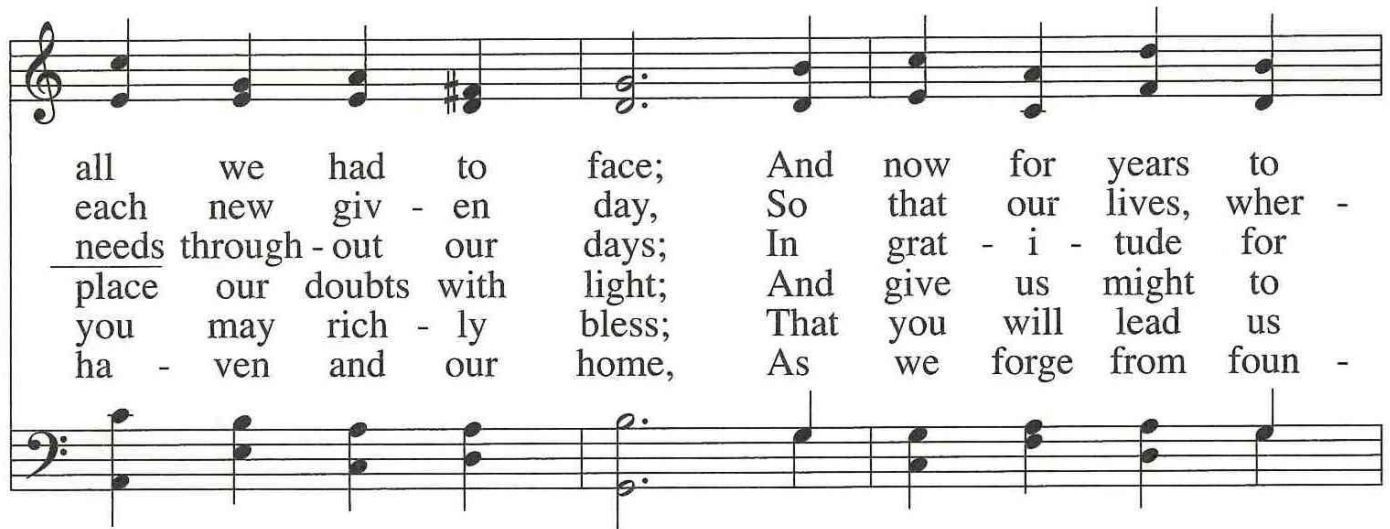
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

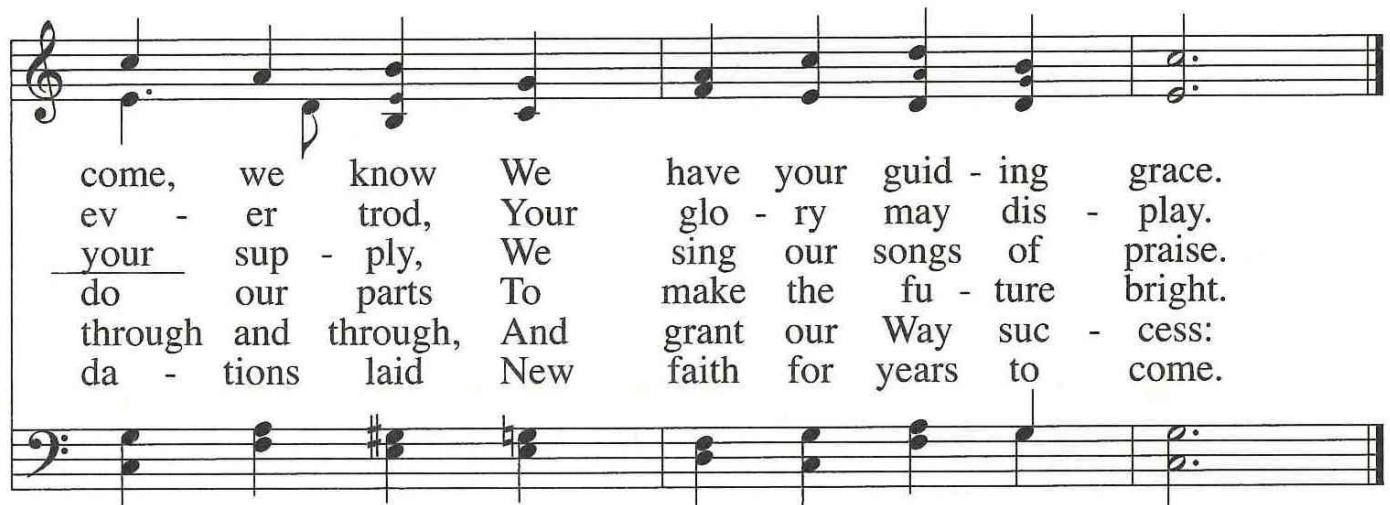
For Years to Come



1. You blessed us, God, so long a - go In
2. Teach us to make the most, great God, Of
3. With love and hope you sat - is - fy Our
4. Re - store to us strong, joy - ful hearts; Re -
5. We pray in all we do for you That
6. A Way you have so kind - ly made Our



all we had to face; And now for years to
each new giv - en day, So that our lives, wher -
needs through - out our days; In grat - i - tude for
place our doubts with light; And give us might to
you may rich - ly bless; That you will lead us
ha - ven and our home, As we forge from foun -



come, we know We have your guid - ing grace.
ev - er trod, Your glo - ry may dis - play.
your sup - ply, We sing our songs of praise.
do our parts To make the fu - ture bright.
through and through, And grant our Way suc - cess:
da - tions laid New faith for years to come.