



Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope
First Church in Windsor, UCC

12 Ways to be Christian: Say Thanks
Communion Sunday
September 4, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome

***Call to Worship (adapted from “A Prayer of Thanks” by Carl Sandburg)**

Leader: For the gladness here where the sun is shining at
evening on the weeds at the river,

People: Our prayer of thanks.

Leader: For the laughter of children who tumble barefooted and
bareheaded in the summer grass,

People: Our prayer of thanks.

Leader: For the sunset and the stars, the women and the
arms that hold us,

People: Our prayer of thanks

Leader: God, if you are deaf and blind, if this is all lost to you,
God, if the dead in their coffins amid the silver handles
on the edge of town, or the reckless dead of war
days thrown unknown in pits, if these dead are.
forever deaf and blind and lost,

People: Our prayer of thanks.

Leader: God, the game is all your way, the secrets and the signals and
the system; and so, for the break of the game and
the first play and the last.

People: Our prayer of thanks

***Hymn**

Blessed Assurance
Words by Fanny Crosby
Music by Phoebe Knapp
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**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

Prayer of Invocation

God, you look at creation and call it good. All of creation? Really? Including mosquitoes and boll weevils? Including us? You look at all of creation and call it VERY good. And sometimes we have trouble believing your grace extends that far. We look at the world, at our neighbours, at ourselves, and see the flaws. Help us look and see the blessings and to say thank you. Help us live as though the blessings count more than the flaws. God's final statement is "it is very good". Thanks be to God, who calls us loved, who calls us good. Amen.

***Prayer of our Savior**

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Anthem

Give Thanks
By Henry Smith
C 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
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Children's Moment

Scripture

I Thessalonians 5: 16-28

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. ²⁵Beloved, pray for us. ²⁶Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. ²⁷I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. ²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

“Say Thanks”

***Hymn**

Spirit Song

Words and music by John Wimber
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**O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.**

**O come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
O give him all your tears and sadness, give him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.**

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

If You Say "Go"

Words and music by Diane Thiel
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**If you say, 'Go,' we will go.
If you say, 'Wait,' we will wait.
If you say, 'Step out on the water,'
and they say it can't be done,
we'll fix our eyes on you and we will come.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion
Invitation to the Table
Words of Institution
Sharing the Elements**

Communion Response

Seed, Scattered and Sown
Words and music by Dan Feiten
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, as we celebrate this sacrament, may we remember the laborers in the fields: the harvesters of the wheat and grapes, the transporters of their yields, those who transform wheat into bread and grapes into juice. Bless their hands and feet as they labor at farms and gardens, in trucks and warehouses. We give thanks for all the ones who prepared the table here today. May the gifts of preparation and hospitality inspire us to extend hospitality to the strangers among us, as Jesus taught us. Amen.

Announcements

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

*Hymn

Let All Things Now Living

Words by Katherine K. Davis

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Music: Welsh folk melody

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.**

**God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.**

**By law God enforces. The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.**

**We, too, should be voicing our love, and rejoicing
with glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

*Benediction

Postlude

Nun danket alle Gott

By G.F. Kaufmann

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*Please stand as you are able, **Bolded Font** to be read by all