



# HOPE CHURCH

*Reformed Church in America*  
Holland, Michigan

## A SERVICE OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

November 25, 2015 ~ 7:00 PM

### THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *O Give Thanks to the Lord*

J. Bell

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to remember all God has done.  
Then God will remember our praises when he looks with love on his people.  
O give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever;  
O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord alone is good.

\*SENTENCES

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

**Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing!**

Know that the Lord is God! It is God that made us, and we belong to God;

**we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, God's courts with praise!

**Give thanks to the Lord, bless God's name!**

For the Lord is good;

**God's steadfast love endures forever,**

**and God's faithfulness to all generations.**

*Psalm 100*

\*HYMN Purple #336 *We Gather Together*

KREMSER

\*PRAYER OF PRAISE

**Creator God, we praise you with joy in our hearts  
for the wonders of life and beauty, bounty and splendor, in this world.  
Christ our God, we praise you with thanks in our hearts  
for the gifts of grace and love, reconciliation and peace, that you provide.  
Holy Spirit, we praise you with joy and thanks  
for your guiding and healing presence,  
renewing in us a spirit of gratitude and praise each day. Amen.**

\*HYMN Purple #37 *Let All Things Now Living*

ASH GROVE

## THE WORD OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE AND SACRAMENT

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Joel 2:21-27

pg. 741

READING *The Glory in the Grey*

George F. MacLeod

Almighty God, Creator:  
In these last days storm has assailed us.  
Greyness has enveloped and mist surrounded  
our going out and our coming in.  
Now again Thy glory clarifies,  
Thy light lifts up our hearts to Thee,  
and night falls in peace.  
But through mist and storm and sunshine,  
the crops have ripened and vines have grown.  
Thy constant care in all and everywhere is manifest.

Almighty God, Redeemer:  
Even as with our bodies, so also with our souls.  
Redeemer, Christ:  
Sunshine and storm, mist and greyness  
eddy round our inner lives.  
But as we trace the pattern, looking back,  
we know that both darkness and light  
have been of Thine ordaining  
for our own soul's health.  
Thy constant care in all, and everywhere,  
is manifest.

Almighty God, Sustainer:  
Sun behind all suns, soul behind all souls,  
everlasting reconciler of our whole beings:  
Show to us in everything we touch  
and in everyone we meet  
the continued assurance of Thy presence round us:  
lest ever we should think Thee absent.  
In all created things Thou art there.  
In every friend we have  
the sunshine of Thy presence is shown forth.  
In every enemy that seems to cross our path,  
Thou art there within the cloud to challenge us to love.  
Show to us the glory in the grey,  
Awake for us Thy presence in the very storm  
till all our joys are seen as Thee  
and all our trivial tasks emerge as priestly sacraments  
in the universal temple of Thy love.  
Of ourselves we cannot see this.  
Sure physician give us sight.  
Of ourselves we cannot act. Patient lover give us love:  
till every shower of rain speaks of Thy forgiveness:  
till every storm assures us that we company with Thee:  
and every move of light and shadow  
speaks of grave and resurrection:  
Thou creating, redeeming and sustaining God.

SILENT MEDITATION

PSALM 65 Purple #38 *To Bless the Earth*

Every part of this earth is sacred.

**Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.**

The air is precious,

**for all of us share the same breath.**

This we know, the earth does not belong to us,

**we belong to the earth.**

This we know, all things are connected,

**like the blood which unites one family.**

Our God is the same God,

**whose compassion is equal for all.**

For we did not weave the web of life,

**we are merely a strand in it.**

Whatever we do to the web,

**we do to ourselves.**

*adapted from a speech by Chief Seattle, 1854*

SILENT MEDITATION

THE EPISTLE LESSON I Timothy 2:1-7

*pg. 963*

God, you invite us to dance in delight,

shaping and forming in figures of grace.

We move to the pulse of creation's music

and rejoice to be part of the making of the earth.

**Praise in the making, the sharing, the moving;**

**praise to the God who dances with us.**

In the steps of Jesus we reach to our partners,

touching and holding and finding our strengths.

Together we move into patterns of freedom,

and rejoice to be part of the sharing of hope.

**Praise in the making, the sharing, the moving;**

**praise to the God who dances with us.**

We whirl and spin in the Spirit's rhythm,

embracing the world with our circles of joy.

Together we dance for salvation and justice,

and rejoice to be part of the moving of love.

**Praise in the making, the sharing, the moving;**

**praise to the God who dances with us.**

*Jan Berry*

READING *That Which is Impossible for You*

Julian of Norwich (1342-1416)

“That which is impossible for you is not impossible to me:  
I will preserve my word in all things and I will make all things well”

This is the Great Deed that Our God will do.  
Our faith is grounded in God’s Word and we must let this trust be.  
How it will be done we will not know until it is done,  
because God wants us to be at ease and at peace,  
not troubled or kept from enjoying God,  
The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.  
God is the ground, the substance,  
the teaching, the teacher,  
the purpose, and the reward for which every soul labors.

True thanking is to enjoy God,  
Thanking is a true understanding of who we really are.  
With reverence and awe we turn ourselves around  
towards the working that our good God incites us to do,  
enjoying and thanking with our real selves.  
God does not want us to be burdened because of sorrows  
and tempests that happen in our lives,  
because it has always been so before miracles happen.

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN Purple #643 *Now Thank We all Our God*

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

OFFERING Thanksgiving Offering designated for the *Kid’s Food Basket* program

Offertory *Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness*

J. Bell

Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude;  
with the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.  
God unites, the scattered people, gathers those who wandered far,  
heals the hurt and broken spirits, tending every wound and scar.  
Such is God’s great power and wisdom, none can calculate or tell;  
keen is God to ground the wicked and with humble folk to dwell.

\*Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**praise God, all creatures here below;**

**praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**\*Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Amen.**

**\*or praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

# RECEIVING OF GIFTS IN COMMUNION

## READING *The Song of the Bread*

Bread from seed sown in earth  
bread made by human hands  
bread tasting of sorrow  
and of men of many lands  
bread of war and of peace  
unchanging daily bread  
strange bread of affection  
and the stone bread of the dead

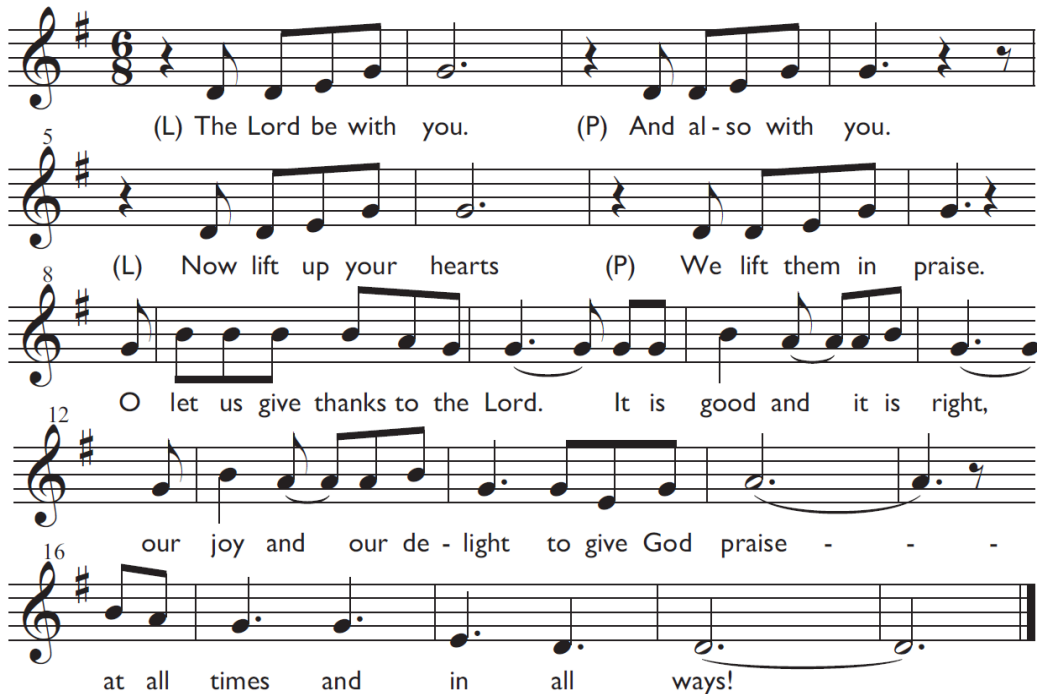
Huub Oosterhuis

bread, our body our all  
earned with such bitter sweat  
bread, life with our fellows  
whom we easily forget  
bread without which we die  
matter of such great worth  
bread shared with each other  
throughout all our life on earth.

Bread of life shared with us—  
you give yourself as food  
you, man among others  
and a God of flesh and blood.

## Meaning of the Sacrament

### Communion Prayer



(L) The Lord be with you. (P) And al-so with you.

(L) Now lift up your hearts (P) We lift them in praise.

O let us give thanks to the Lord. It is good and it is right,  
our joy and our de - light to give God praise - - -  
at all times and in all ways!

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty . . .  
. . . we worship and adore your glorious name.

O Ho-ly are you Lord - the God of power and might  
Ho - san-na! Bles-sed is he! Christ Je - sus, who is come  
the an - gels veil their sight! Earth is a - flame  
The Lord's a - noint - ed one: He comes a - gain!  
with the glo - ry of your name!  
Ho - san - na, Lord, A - men!

Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper . . .  
. . . together we proclaim the Mystery of the faith:

Your death, O Christ, we pro - claim. Your ris - ing cel - e - brate!  
Your com - ing we a - wait, to make all things new.  
All glo - ry un - to you!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us we pray...  
...Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Al - le - lu - ia, Lord! A - men!

## Words of Institution

### The Communion

*To be served communion, please come forward as guided by the ushers, exiting on your left and returning on your right. You will be invited to take the bread and dip it in the cup.*

*Feel free to pause and reflect after receiving the elements. Gluten-free elements are available.*

*To be served in the pew, please speak to an usher.*

*The Reformed Church in America welcomes baptized children to receive the sacrament of communion.*

*Hope Church encourages parents to decide whether they wish their children to partake of the sacrament.*

*Parents are asked to accompany their children forward, indicating if they wish their children to receive the bread and cup.*

### Purple #649 *Amazing Grace*

### Purple #654 *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

The musical score is written on three staves in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-  
joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid; lift up your  
voic-es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near." There is a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure of the second staff.

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## THE RESPONSE TO GOD

### OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to you, O God;

I will call on the name of the LORD.

**I will worship God with the faithful who call on God's name.**

Praise the Lord, give thanks, for God is good.

**The steadfast love of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!**

*from Psalm 116*

\*HYMN Purple #647 *Give Thanks*

GIVE THANKS

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship: Rev. Jill Russell; Rev. Gordon Wiersma; Chancel Choir directed by Brian Carder; Rhonda Edgington, organist.

Poems and Prayers:

- *The Glory in the Grey* from The Whole Earth Shall Cry Glory by Rev. George F. MacLeod, Wild Goose Publications
- *Every Part of this Earth Is Sacred; May the Blessing of Light Be On You; God You Invite Us To Dance* from Bread of Tomorrow edited by Janet Morley, Orbis Books
- Julian of Norwich from Meditations with Julian Norwich by Brenda Doyle, Bear & Company
- *The Song of the Bread* from Your Word Is Near by Huub Oosterhuis, Paulist Press