Welcome + Announcements

Prelude “We Gather Together” Netherlands folk hymn, 16th cent., Mike Schafale, dulcimer

Call to Worship

One: Today, we offer our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts,
Many: The Lord be praised.
One: For the tables we share and the bread we partake of within our communities, within our families, and within our homes,
Many: The Lord be praised.
One: For the hands of friendship that have been extended to us and the grace we have received,
Many: The Lord be praised.
One: For Your continuous provision in our lives,
Many: The Lord be praised.
One: For the embrace of love,
Many: The Lord be praised.
One: For Your mercies that are new at dawn and sustain us through the day, echoing through the night,
Many: The Lord be praised.
One: For the gift of Your Son and His blood poured out.
Many: The Lord be praised.
One: For the new life that beats within us now.
Many: The Lord be praised.
One: In all things, we give You thanks and join with creation's song,
Many: Great is the Lord and most worthy to be praised!
1. Come, O thankful people, come,
   raise the song of harvest home;
   all is safely gathered in
   as 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 blessings of the field,
   all the stores the gardens yield,
   all the fruits in full supply
   ripened 'neath the summer sky,
   All that spring with bounteous hand
   scatters o'er the smiling land,
   all that liberal autumn pours
   from its rich o'erflowing stores.

3. These to you, our God, we owe,
   source from whom all blessing flow;
   and for these our songs we raise,
   grateful vows and solemn praise.
   Come, then, thankful people, come,
   raise the song of harvest home;
   come to God's own temple, come,
   raise the song of harvest home.

Confession

We confess that we sometimes forget how to say thank you;
   we get used to saying, “I earned this,”
   thinking we have only ourselves to thank.
   We confess that we are sometimes too jealous to be thankful;
   we compare ourselves to others who have more, “Why do they get everything?”
   and we rarely compare ourselves to those who have less.
   We confess that we are sometimes too busy to be thankful;
we asked ourselves this morning, “Do I have time to go to
church?”
and even in worship, we are thinking about our to-do lists.
We confess that we are sometimes grudgingly thankful;
saying, “I guess this will have to do,”
while believing that God has given us a raw deal.
We confess that sometimes we are too tired to be thankful,
as we sigh, “I just want to get through this day,”
having no energy to open our eyes to the blessings around
us.
We confess that sometimes we are not thankful enough to be
generous;
we bargain with God, “I’ll be unselfish when you give me
more,”
rather than being generous today.

~ Time for silent reflection and prayer~

Assurance of God’s Love
Beloved of God, place your whole trust in God’s absolute abundant
love. Feel the powerful presence of God in your life and know that
God’s blessings are with you. Amen.

Passing the Peace
The peace of Christ is with you all!
And also with you.

Response
We are walking a path of peace, we are walking a path of
peace,
We are walking a path of peace, lead us home, lead us home.
(repeat)
Reading  Matthew 6: 25 - 34 (NRSV)

Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your God feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your God knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

For the word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,
    Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering  “Demos Gracias al Senor”  Hispanic song, Mike Schafale, dulcimer

Stories of Gratitude

TNBH  “For the Good Green Earth”

For the good green earth, God, for the skies above,
All creation everywhere surrounding us in love,
Holy God, Redeeming Pow’r, Spirit in our midst,
We give thanks with grateful hearts for all your many gifts.

For the stars so distant, for our breath so near,
Morning dawning misty on a lake so deep and clear,
Holy God, Redeeming Pow’r, Spirit in our midst,
We give thanks with grateful hearts for all your many gifts.

For the joy of family, laughter with our friends,
Ties that hold through time and trial, bridging difference,
Holy God, Redeeming Pow’r, Spirit in our midst,
We give thanks with grateful hearts for all your many gifts.

For the call to justice, for the gift of grace,
For your presence in our lives in every time and place:
Holy God, Redeeming Pow’r, Spirit in our midst,
We give thanks with grateful hearts for all your many gifts.

Prayers of the People

We conclude with The Lord’s Prayer
Our Father/Mother, who is 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Give

- Text the amount of your donation, with one keyword, to 919-888-4541
  - General – give to CUCC’s general fund
  - Pledge – give toward your pledge
- You can give online at our website www.communityucc.org by simply clicking on Donate.
• Or you can always mail a check to our physical address: 814 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, NC 27607

Offertory “Hard Times”  Stephen Foster, Tim Jensen, vocalist

Offering Response “Doxology” (Old Hundredth)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that Love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

Dedication to the Offering

God of bounty and blessing, we offer these gifts in gratitude for all that we have been given. We are grateful for the blessings and for the opportunities to be of service to others in your holy name.
Amen.

Hymn  NCH 419 “Now Thank We All Our God”

1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms,
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too,
our help in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore.
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Benediction

As you gather around your Thanksgiving tables this week remember that God’s light shines in you. Go from this place to share your gifts freely. Bless others just as God has blessed you.
Amen.

Postlude  “For the Beauty of the Earth”  C. Kocher

Visit www.communityucc.org to explore ways to connect with our church.
CUCC is here to support you throughout the week.
While our physical office is closed, our virtual office is open.
Please email office.cucc@gmail.com to reach our office.
Please email lacey.cucc@gmail.com for pastoral care needs.

We thank all of those who created parts of today’s liturgy.
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“Demos Gracias al Senor,” © 1996 Worship in Song: A Friends Hymnal #50, Traditional Mexican melody
“Hard times come again no more,” Written and composed by Stephen C. Foster, Firth, Pond & Co., New York, 1854, monographic.

CUCC STAFF
Pastor: Lacey Brown  lacey.cucc@gmail.com
Youth & Adult Education Ministry: Śānti Matthews  education.cucc@gmail.com
Communications Manager: Jeff Cole  office.cucc@gmail.com
Children’s Ministry: Anne Bailey Zschau  children.cucc@gmail.com
Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith  sing.cucc@gmail.com
Organist: Doug Barrick  music.cucc@gmail.com

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all
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