**Order of Service - October11, 2026 - Thanksgiving Sunday**
**with Guest Minister Rev. Lilian Patey**

**Light the Christ Candle**

**Welcome & Announcements** -all announcements are in the weekly bulletin

**Call to Worship**

L: Come, you thankful people, come. Let us gather before God and lift up our songs of praise and thanksgiving.
**P: Gracious God, Source of all Blessings, You have planted within us the seeds of Hope.**
L: May we walk gently upon the Earth, ever mindful of Your gifts of Breath, of Love, of Life itself.
**P: Gracious God, who has given us life and kept us aware of the needs of others . We thank you that you bring us together to this place of worship. May we prove to be faithful workers, devoted to healing and reconciliation as we minister to one another and to our needy world. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music** ***It is No Secret***

**Gathering Prayer** God, giver of all good, you continually pour your benefits upon us. Age after age the living wait upon you and find that your faithfulness has no end, that your care is unfailing. We praise you that the mystery of life is a mystery of infinite goodness. We praise you for the order and constancy of nature; for the beauty and bounty of the earth; for day and night, summer and winter, seedtime and harvest; for the varied gifts of loveliness which every season brings. We give you thanks for all the comfort and joy of life, for our homes, for our friends, and for all the love, sympathy, and goodwill of all people. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn** ***Come, You Thankful People, Come***, VU # 516

Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin.
God, our Maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield,
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown,
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Harvest Giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure
may be.

For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take this harvest home.
from the field shall in that day
all offences purge away;
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home.
Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there, forever, purified,
in your presence to abide,
come with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

**Prayer of Confession** God of Love and Kindness we find ourself in need of your help. We have focused so much of our attention on our own concerns that we have neglected to work for justice and harmony for our community and for the needs of our world. Our faith encourages us and reminds us that God is with us and will empower us to be faithful stewards of our time. May we work to spread God's love and give Thanks for God's everlasting love. Amen.

**Offertory Prayer** May these gifts and our lives be used to increase among all people knowledge of God, patience and endurance, wisdom and understanding, love and joy. Gracious God, we are thankful for the mercy you have shown us, we pledge ourselves and these offerings to extend mercy to all. Amen.

**Hymn** ***What does the Lord Require of You***, VU # 701

What does the Lord require of you? Justice, kindness. To seek justice and love kindness
What does the Lord require of you? Walk humbly with your God. Walk humbly with your God.

**Children's Ministry** Children of all ages were asked for what they are thankful this Thanksgiving. The first answer was "family", followed by food, a house to live in, friends, church, and living in Canada. Rev. Lilian read the story ***Everything Grows in Jiddo's Garden***

**Children's Hymn** ***Jesus, Friend of Little Children***, VU # 340

Jesus, friend of little children,
let me be one too;
take my hand, and ever keep me
close to you.

Teach me how to grow in goodness,
daily as I grow.
You have been a child, and surely
you must know.

Never leave me, nor forsake me;
ever be my friend;
for I need you, from life's dawning
to its end.

**Children's Prayer** Thank you, God, for all your blessings: our food, family, and home. Help us to share what we have with others and to always be thankful. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Children Leave for Sunday School*

**Scripture Readings**

*Thessalonians 5:16-24, Rejoice (NRSV)*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May 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. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*Luke 17:11-19, Give Thanks, Jesus Cleanses Ten Men with a Skin Disease (NRSV)*

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him.

Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

**Hymn** ***We Plough the Fields***, VU # 520

We plow the fields and
scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by Your almighty hand.
You send the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the
sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain
All good gifts around us
are sent from Heaven above;
we thank You, God,
O Holy God, for all Your love.

You only are the Maker
of all things near and far;
You paint the wayside flower,
You light the evening star;
the wind and waves obey
You,
by You the birds are fed;
much more to us, Your
children,
You give us daily bread.
Refrain

We thank You then, O Maker,
for all things bright and good,
The seed time and the
harvest,
our life, our health, our food,
accept the gifts we offer
for all Your love imparts,
and, what from us You long
for,
our humble, thankful hearts.
Refrain

**Reflection** *Thanksgiving*

Las Sunday I was with y son in Italy. Nearly every evening we sat outdoors watching the beautiful sunset and talked. I was thankful for the beauty and the colours of the sky. One of the things that my son shared with me is that he and his wife, every evening, share three things in their day that happened to them that they are grateful for. Then they share two things they accomplished that they wanted their partner to know about. At the end of their conversation each evening they tell their partner one thing they are thankful for.

This reminded me of story: A.J. Cronin tells of a doctor he knew who prescribed in certain cases of neuroses what he called his "thank you cure". When a patient came to him discouraged, pessimistic, and full of his own woes, but without any symptoms of serious ailment, he would give this advice: "For six weeks I want you to say "thank you" whenever anyone does you a favour, and to show you mean it emphasize the words with a smile." The patient complained "but no one ever does me a favour"! The doctor encouraged him to look for the favours that others do for him and come back in six weeks. Often the patient would come back to see the doctor as a much happier person, suddenly realizing that people, in general, are more kind and friendly than he thought.

At the time of Jesus, Jews and Samaritans didn't get along. Jesus came to break the barriers between people so he often went to the Samaritan areas. One day as he was walking with his disciples they saw some lepers. In those days lepers were kicked out of their homes to go and live in the desert since they were "unclean". Misery loves company in this story as they were Jews and Samaritans, all with leprosy, living together to survive. They were supposed to shout "unclean, unclean" when someone was passing but when Jesus was passing they shouted "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us". Jesus had compassion on them since they came with humility.

Jesus said to them “go show yourself to the priest”, since it was the priest who would have to give them a certificate to say they were clean and could rejoin the community. While they were on their way to see the priest they realized that they were healed!

Jesus healed ten lepers but only one came back to give thanks. The other nine continued on to the priest for approval so they could go back to their families and loved ones. The one who returned to thank Jesus was a Samaritan, a people who were not liked and looked down upon by the Jews; the Samaritan returned to say “thank you” to Jesus for being healed.

Thankfulness benefits the person who is thankful. Thankfulness is a positive attitude.

When we start thinking of the things we are thankful for we are much happier people. Even when we are going through a difficult time we can be thankful for what is going well; we are happier people since our eyes are opened to things that are going well. We don’t realize that we are happier until we start to thank God. When we realize that all of life is a gift from God, our relationships improve.

Years ago when my family, as Palestinians, became refugees and ran for our lives as Israeli soldiers shot at us trying to kill us because they wanted our land, My Father and Mother were thanking God that none of their children were killed. We lost everything, but we were all alive and together. Today as I watch the news I see people from Gaza who lost loved ones but they are still thanking God in spite of all their suffering.

When we became refugees there came a time when my parents didn’t have enough money to buy bread to feed us. My Father gathered our Mother and his seven children in a circle and prayed. Part of what he prayed was “Dear God, if their Mother and I sinned punish us but don’t punish our children. Our children need to eat. We know you are rich, Heavenly Father; you give and take. Please provide for us.” Then he told us we are not to tell anyone that we are in need because our Heavenly Father knows our needs. When he told my older brother to come with him to carry the groceries home, my brother said to him, “You don’t need me since you are not to tell anyone we are in need.” My Dad said, “We told our Heavenly Father and God will provide.”

We were then on Mount of Olives that had two stores open. My brother went with him, first to one store and looked, then on to the second store and looked. At the second store a young Muslim man came in to the store and recognized my Father since he was working as a messenger at the bank. He asked my Dad, “Mr. Mattar, how are you doing?” My Father said we were fine. When the man left, my brother said to my Dad, “That’s the only man we know on Mount of Olives. Why didn’t you tell him we are in need?” My Dad said, “God knows.”

To my brother’s surprise the young Muslim man returned and put something in my Father’s pocket and left. My Dad looked in his pocket and there was a five pound note (money) that at that time would have purchased food enough for our family for two or three days. We thanked God for this blessing of being able to eat.

Now we have people in Gaza and other places in the world that are hungry. God loves them just as much as God loves you. God uses you and me to help them. In the United Church, we can donate to the Mission and Service Fund which supports causes around the world.

We give because we are thankful for God’s blessings. It is easy to take everything that is good in our lives for granted. May we have a thankful heart and remember every day of our lives to give thanks.

Thanks be to God. Amen

**Prayers of the People** *-by Anne Mathewson, St. David’s Trinity UC, Saskatoon, SK*

Great Creator God, you fill us with awe and wonder as we experience the autumn days unfold before us: the air fresh with the musty aroma of ploughed fields, the feel of dried leaves crunching under our feet and wheels, and the sun sending dappled light over our gardens and orchards, which are ripe with flowers, fruit, and vegetables.

We fervently declare, “Thank you, thank you!” for all of your gifts that we enjoy. Only you know what the future holds, Holy One. We extend our prayers and hopes for the world, across the distance, into the community. We pray, as your people.

Creator God of Healing, Reinforcing God of Strength, bless those in our community who are grappling with illness, heartbreak, and worry. We lift them up to you in the quiet of our hearts:

(*moment for silent prayer*)

We envision all those in need enfolded in your infinite love and grace. Endow all of us with energy, peace, and hope. We thank you for the wisdom guiding the hearts and hands of those caring for others, and for the miracles of modern medicine and science that give us hope.

May your wisdom be our guiding light as we restore and care for your creation. Sustaining God, we gather all our prayers of gratitude in the name of the Christ. Amen

**Parting Hymn** ***Go Now in Peace***, VU # 964

Go now in peace
Go now in peace

May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.
(Repeat)

**Benediction** May you go out with joy and with a thankful heart. May God Bless us All. Amen

**Choral Amen**
**Extinguish the Christ Candle**