

Benton Harbor



Thanks, A Lot!
Colossians 3:12-17 + Luke 18:9-14
October 18, 2026

We Are Welcomed

Welcome

Opening Prayer “Thanksgiving Prayer” by Walter Rauschenbusch

Prelude + Setting the Table for Worship

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.” John 1:5

We light the Christ Candle each week as a reminder that Christ – the One who shines brightly in the darkness – is ever-present with us, not only here in worship, but in our every day life.

“...we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4

We pour water into the font each week as a reminder of our own baptism – that moment when we connected with God’s creative purpose, cleansing power, and redemptive promise.

We Are Gathered

The Call to Worship Psalm 100 *The Message Translation*

On your feet now—applaud God!

A round of applause for God!

Bring a gift of laughter!

Sing yourselves into his presence!

[Glory to God #614 – see next page]

Great Are You, Lord

614

Great Is the Lord

C Dm G C F G

Great are you, Lord: you are ho-ly and just; by your pow-er we trust in your

F C C Dm G C

love. Great are you, Lord: you are faith-ful and true; by your

F G F C B $\flat$

mer-cy you prove you are love. Great are you, Lord, and

F C B $\flat$ G C

wor-thy of glo-ry! Great are you, Lord, and wor-thy of praise.

B $\flat$ D G E Am

Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:

Dm G Am Am/G Dm G C

great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

Know this: God is God,
and God, God.

God made us;

we didn't make God.

We're God's people,

the very well-tended sheep.

Enter with the password: "Thank you!"

Thank you!

Make yourselves at home, talking praise.
Thank him. Worship him.
For God is sheer beauty,
all-generous in love,
loyal always and ever.

Song of Praise *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*
Here in this Place (Gather Us In) *Glory to God #401*
[see next page]

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of Grace, forgive our ingratitude
for the blessings we have received.

Help us live the lives we proclaim.

God of Peace, forgive our impatience
with the actions of our neighbor.

Help us live the lives we proclaim.

God of love, forgive our intolerance
toward those of other faiths or none.

Help us live the lives we proclaim.

God of mercy, forgive our reluctance
to offer a word of forgiveness.

Help us live the lives we proclaim.

**God of hope, accept our repentance
as a sweet-smelling offering
along with the service of our lives. Amen**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear and believe this good news from Psalm 103:
“For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is divine steadfast love
toward those who show reverence.
As east is far from west,
so far have our sins been removed from us.

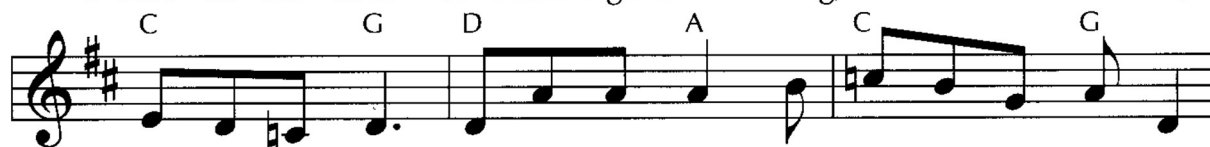
Here in This Place

Gather Us In

401



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Bless the Eternal One, O angels!
Bless the Eternal One, all you who do God's will!
Bless the Eternal One, all God's works
throughout the length and breadth of God's realm;
bless the Eternal One, O my soul!"

Song of Gratitude

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" *Glory to God #582*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, amen.

Passing of the Peace

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

A Time for Young People

Chancel

Scripture Reading Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading

Luke 18:9-14

Contemporary English Version

Jesus told a story to some people who thought they were better than others and who looked down on everyone else:

Two men went into the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood over by himself and prayed, "God, I thank you that I am not greedy, dishonest, and unfaithful in marriage like other people. And I am really glad that I am not like that tax collector over there. I go without eating for two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all I earn."

The tax collector stood off at a distance and did not think he was good enough even to look up toward heaven. He was so sorry for what he had done that he pounded his chest and prayed, "God, have pity on me! I am such a sinner."

Then Jesus said, "When the two men went home, it was the tax collector and not the Pharisee who was pleasing to God. If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honored."

For the Holy Word written and read, proclaimed and lived:

Thanks be to God!

Song of Preparation

Give Thanks

*Glory to God #647**[see next page]***Proclamation of the Word****Moment of Meditation**

647

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

The first system of musical notation for 'Give Thanks' is in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note Bb4. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff includes a first ending bracket labeled '1' over the final measure, which leads into the next system.

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

The third system begins with a second ending bracket labeled '2' over the first measure. The melody and accompaniment continue with the lyrics 'And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the'.

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

The fourth system continues the musical progression with the lyrics 'poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for'.

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

The fifth system concludes the piece. It features first and second ending brackets labeled '1' and '2' respectively. The melody and accompaniment end with the lyrics 'us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.'

We Respond to God's Word

Why Does FPC Benton Harbor Matter to Me?

Swisher Family

The Offertory

As those who have been claimed and set free by Christ's grace, we respond with gratitude, offering him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods. The gifts we offer express our stewardship of creation, demonstrate our care for one another, support the ministries of the church, and provide for the needs of the poor. Offerings may be placed into any one of the plates in the sanctuary. At this time children may use one of the baskets found on the front pew to collect quarters for our quarter tube offerings, collected for specific missions and ministries of this church.

Quarter Donations Recipient: Interfaith Action of Southwest Michigan

Doxology *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Christ all creatures here below

Praise Holy Spirit evermore

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

The Prayer of Dedication

Joys + Concerns

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song of Trust

Amen

Glory to God #600

Announcements

We Are Sent by God

Song of Sending *Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit*
Rejoice, the Lord is King! *Glory to God #363*
[see next page]

Charge + Benediction

Postlude

Questions for Reflection

Anne Lamott writes that gratitude is often tied to accepting our limitations and realizing we aren't completely in charge. Is it easier to feel grateful when you're in total control, or when you have surrendered a situation? How does letting go make room for gratitude?

Lamott often points out the unexpected, tiny graces of a day—a good cup of coffee, a sudden breeze, a kind word from a stranger. What are the small, easily overlooked "micro-graces" in your life right now that deserve a quick "Thanks"?

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

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Descant

4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re-joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a-dore!
 2 Our Sav-ior, Je-sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 His king-dom can-not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 4 Re-joyce in glo-rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Re-joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri-umph ev-er-more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a-bove.
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je-sus given.
 and gath-er all the saints to their e-ter-nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a-gain I say, re-joyce!