

Peace UCC  
November 22, 2020

**Prelude** "Now Thank We All Our God" Jeffrey Honore  
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**Welcome**

**Opening Words** adapted Worship Ways

One: Know that the Holy One is God and we are God's people.  
**Many: Make a joyful noise!**

One: Worship the Holy One with gladness; *come into God's presence with singing.*  
**Many: Make a joyful noise!**

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise.  
**Many: Make a joyful noise!**

One: For God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.  
**Many: Make a joyful noise!**

**Opening Response** "Give Thanks" Henry Smith

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart; give thanks to the  
Ho - ly One; give thanks be-cause we're giv - en Je - sus  
Christ, the Son. Give Son. 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 us!" And us!" Give  
thanks. Give thanks.

## Invocation

## Worship Ways

**Gracious God, we long to know you better.  
Open us to recognize your presence,  
to receive you fully,  
and to be ready to follow your leading. Amen.**

**Word in Song**    Jacob Nault  
"Our God Is Holding Us Together Now"  
Words and Music by Jacob Nault

## Reading

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Holy One, all the earth.  
Worship the Holy One with gladness;  
come into the Holy One's presence with singing.

Know that the Holy One is God.  
It is God that made us, and we are God's;  
we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,  
and God's courts with praise.  
Give thanks to God, bless God's name.

For the Holy One is good;  
God's steadfast love endures for ever,  
and God's faithfulness to all generations.

*"Blessing of Mud"*

*~Jan Richardson,*

Lest we think  
the blessing  
is not  
in the dirt.

Lest we think  
the blessing  
is not  
in the earth  
beneath our feet.

Lest we think  
the blessing  
is not  
in the dust,

Like the dust  
that God scooped up  
at the beginning  
and formed

with God's two hands  
and breathed into  
with God's own  
breath.

Lest we think  
the blessing  
is not  
in the spit.

Lest we think  
the blessing  
is not  
in the mud.

Lest we think  
the blessing  
is not  
in the mire,  
the grime,  
the muck.

Lest we think  
God cannot reach  
deep into the things  
of earth,  
cannot bring forth  
the blessing  
that shimmers  
within the sludge,  
cannot anoint us  
with a tender  
and grimy grace.

Lest we think  
God will not use  
the ground  
to give us  
life again,  
to cleanse us  
of our unseeing,  
to open our eyes  
upon this ordinary  
and stunning world.

**For the wisdom contained in these words we give thanks. Amen.**

Sermon Rev. Wendy Bruner

Hymn "For the Fruit of All Creation" Tune: Ar Hrd y Nos



For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gift's to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## Joys and Concerns

### Prayer

Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kin-dom come, your 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 yours is the kin-dom, and the power,  
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## How Shall We Join God's Work in the World

Gracious God, we give thanks.  
We ask your blessings on these gifts of time,  
talent, and treasure as we use them to join  
Your work in the world. Amen

## Closing

Postlude "For the Beauty of the Earth" Conrad Kocher  
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