

SUNDAY OF GRATITUDE & THANKS

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter

*Opening Song (Stand) # 636 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

*Call to Worship (Stand) Psalm 65 (NIV)

Leader: Praise awaits you, our God in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.

People: You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.

When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

Leader: Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!

People: We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

Leader: The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.

People: You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. Our praise awaits you, our God in Zion; to You our vows will be fulfilled.

*Opening Prayer (Stand)

Songs of Faith "Give Thanks" Worship Team

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Matt Smith

The First Reading Judges 4:1-7

The Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Stand) Matthew 25:14-30

*Responsorial (Stand) # "Light of the World" (Sing Hallelujah)

*Greeting and Sharing Peace with Family and Neighbors (Stand)

The Children's Sermon

Announcements & Prayers of the Community: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.



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Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations - Worshippers are invited to give their tithes, gifts, and offerings to the Lord.

Offertory Special

Choir

A Prayer of Illumination & The Message

The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

Notes:

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH AND SERVICE

Presentation of Our Pledges – Worshippers are invited forward to place their estimate of giving cards in the collection baskets on the Lord's Table.

*Song of Praise #579 "I Will Enter his Gates with Thanksgiving"

*Prayer of Dedication (Stand)

***Invitation to Faith and Fellowship** – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God's forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

*Closing Hymn (Stand) # 639 "Now Thank We All Our God"

*Spoken Benediction

Postlude

Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) that have hurt God and others. Apologize to God, turn away from harmful behavior, and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer, Redeemer (Savior), and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (Christian).

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor, Moderator, or come forward at a congregation meeting. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.



OUR MISSION – We love God and we love people by sharing the Good News of God's forgiving, renewing love in Jesus Christ by word and deed to improve the lives of neighbors. West Side Baptist Church is an independent, autonomous Christian church partnering for mission support with like-minded people of faith in our City, County, State, Nation and World.



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