Let us come before his presence with Thanksgiving

The Seventh Annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service
Outer Banks Presbyterian Church
Saturday, November 23, 2019
3:00 PM
~ The Order of Service ~

违章 = Congregation Standing as able

~ Sharing Leaves of Gratitude ~

As you enter the church, paper leaves are available on a table. You are invited to take a leaf and write on it something for which you are grateful. Take it into the sanctuary with you and place your leaf in the basket passed during the offertory. During the service, we will read aloud some of these expressions of gratitude. At the end of the service, you are invited to take home a leaf from someone else to remind us all of our many blessings.

~ We Gather Together as People of Faith ~

PRELUDE........................................................................................................Cheryl Needham

WELCOME........................................................................................................Rev. Jody Moore

违章 GATHERING HYMN NO.367: “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” (Vs. 1) ......ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

The Sanctuary Choir & Congregation

违章 GATHERING LITANY (We Are Woven Together by K. McTigue; Spoken Responsively) ..... Rev. Wayne Barry

ONE: We gather today as a diverse body of people from many faiths and traditions.

ALL: We are woven together.

ONE: We do not speak the same language of worship.

ALL: We are woven together.

ONE: We follow different teachings, made known to us by sacred voices and scriptures through the ages.

ALL: We are woven together.

ONE: We do not utter the same prayers, nor do we even use the same word, if any word at all, to speak the name of God. Nevertheless, we gather together.

ALL: We are woven together.

ONE: In our gathering, we honor and celebrate our diversity.

ALL: We are woven together.

ONE: We do not seek a unity that would deny our differences. We seek rather a deeper union, a union woven through choice and intent, through time and attention, through respect and compassion, until we recognize that we have become a whole cloth, a cloth made rich and textured and vibrant through our differences.

ALL: We are woven together.

ONE: Each of us can hear, in the beating of our own hearts, the ancient rhythm of the loom at work. We are woven together.

ALL: We are woven together. We are bound to one another. We belong to and with each other. Let us worship together.

违章 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING ................................................................. George Lurie

违章 HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 336: “We Gather Together” ................................................. KREMSE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT ................................................. Rev. Gaye Morris
REFLECTION & SILENT PRAYER OF HUMILITY

Please take a few moments to offer your silent confessions to God.

PRAYER OF HUMILITY (Spoken in Unison)..................................................... Chaplain Cherri Wheeler

Gracious Creator, You have given us so much, but too often we take those gifts for granted, or as something to which we are entitled. You call us to live in caring community, but too often we place our wants and needs first, with those of others a distant second. You call us to share Your gifts with the world around us, but we are worried that there may not be enough, and our worrying gets in the way of our sharing. For all the times when we mistreat and misuse Your gifts, for all the times we assume that we get what we have by ourselves, forgive us and lead us back to the path of wisdom. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS Chaplain Cherri Wheeler

♦ SHARING OF THE PEACE ................................................................. Chaplain Cherri Wheeler

ONE: The Shalom of God be with you all.
ALL: And also with you.

CHORAL ANTHEM: “Look at the World” ............................................................... John Rutter

Look at the world: Everything all around us: Look at the world: and marvel every day.
Look at the world: So many joys and wonders, So many miracles along our way.
Praise to thee o Lord for all creation give us thankful hearts that we may see.
All the gifts we share and every blessing all things come of thee.

Look at the earth: Bringing forth fruit and flower; Look at the sky: The sunshine and the rain;
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains, Valley and flowing river field and plain:
Praise to thee o Lord for all creation give us thankful hearts that we may see.
All the gifts we share and every blessing all things come of thee.

Think of the spring, Think of the warmth of summer Bringing the harvest before the winters cold
Everything grows, everything has a season, til’ it is gathered to the fathers fold:
Praise to thee o Lord for all creation give us thankful hearts that we may see.
All the gifts we share and every blessing all things come of thee.

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish comes from the lord in token of his love;
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty; His is the earth and his the heavens above:
Praise to thee o Lord for all creation give us thankful hearts that we may see.
All the gifts we share and every blessing all things come of thee.

~Inspired Words for Giving Thanks~

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Philippians 4:4-9 ................................................. Rev. Keith Dey

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.
Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star's stories.
Remember the moon,
know who she is.
Remember the sun's birth at dawn,
that is the strongest point of time.
Remember sundown
and the giving away to night.
Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give you form and breath.
You are evidence of her life, and her mother's, and hers.
Remember your father. He is your life, also.
Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth
brown earth, we are earth.
Remember the plants, trees, animal life
who all have their tribes, their families, their histories, too.
Talk to them,
listen to them.
They are alive poems.
Remember the wind. Remember her voice.
She knows the origin of this universe.
Remember you are all people and all people
are you.
Remember you are this universe and this
universe is you.
Remember all is in motion, is growing, is you.
Remember language comes from this.
Remember the dance language is, that life is.
Remember.

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MEDITATION ON THANKSGIVING HYMNS

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his
presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the
sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his
name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all
generations.

ONE: This is the Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

INTRODUCTION TO THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY
SONG OF RESPONSE: “I Want to Say Thank You to Somebody” ........................................... Hodsdon
Led by the Dare County Youth Center

SHARING OUR GRATITUDE ................................................................. Rev. David Morris

UNITY PRAYER .................................................................................. Hovita Ventura

God of blessings; your goodness and grace is more profound than we can imagine or describe. Thank you for all the many ways you have blessed us. Send us forth to be a blessing in the world that you created and entrusted to our care. Amen

~ We Go Forth in Gratitude ~

HYMN OF SENDING NO. 37: “Let All Things Now Living” ........................................... ASH GROVE

CLOSING BLESSING ........................................................................... Rev. Jody Moore

CHORAL BENEDICTION: “May the Lord, Gracious Lord” ........................................... Unknown

May the Lord, gracious Lord, bless and keep us forever.
Let us be more like thee in our every endeavor.
Holy Spirit, Eternal God, this we pray together.
May the Lord, gracious Lord, bless and keep us forever.

POSTLUDE .......................................................................................... Cheryl Needham

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~ About the Offering ~

This afternoon’s offering is going to support the Beach Food Pantry, the Mount Olivet Food Pantry, and the Hatteras Food Bank. May we share our blessings with those in need through this offering.

~ Reception ~

Following this afternoon’s worship service, all are invited to visit with one another over a cup of hot apple cider and cookies in the Gathering Space!
~ World Religions’ Teachings on Gratitude ~

Judaism
"O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever" (Psalm 30:12)
"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart" (Psalm 9:1)
“Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, for God’s mercy endures forever.” (Psalm 107)
“I thank you, living and enduring God, for you have restored my life to me: great is your faithfulness.” (Jewish morning prayer)

Christianity
“Giving generously blooms from a thankful heart.” (2 Corinthians 9:11)
“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (I Thessalonians, 5:16-18)

Islam
“It is God who has made the night for you, that you may rest therein, and the day, as that which helps you to see. Verily God is full of grace and bounty to men, yet most men give no thanks. It is God who has made for you the earth as a resting place, and the sky as a canopy, and has given you shape—and made your shapes beautiful—and has provided for you sustenance of things pure and good; such is God, your Lord. So glory to God, the Lord of the Worlds!” (Qur’an 40.61, 64)
"Gratitude for the abundance you have received is the best insurance that the abundance will continue." (Prophet Muhammad)

“African Traditional Religions
“One upon whom we bestow kindness but will not express gratitude, Is worse than a robber who carries away our belongings.” (Yoruba Proverb, Nigeria)
“O my Father, Great Elder, I have no words to thank you, But with your deep wisdom I am sure that you can see How I value your glorious gifts. O my Father, when I look upon your greatness, I am confounded with awe. O Great Elder, Ruler of all things earthly and heavenly, I am your warrior, Ready to act in accordance with your will.” (Kikuya Prayer, Kenya)

Buddhism
“You, the World Honored One, are a great benefactor. By doing this rare thing, You taught and benefited us out of your compassion towards us. No one will be able to repay your favors even if he tries to do it for many hundreds of millions of kalpas. no one will be able to repay your favors even if he bows to you respectfully, and offers you his hands or feet or anything else. No one will be able to repay your favors even if he carries you on his head or shoulders and respects you from the bottom of his heart for as many kalpas as there are sands in the River Ganges.” (Lotus Sutra 4)

Hinduism
“Thou hast made me endless, such is thy pleasure. This frail vessel thou emptiest again and again, and fillest it ever with fresh life. This little flute of reed thou hast carried over hills and dales, and hast breathed through it melodies eternally new. At the immortal touch of thy hands my little heart loses its limits in joy and gives birth to utterance ineffable. Thy infinite gifts come to me only on these very small hands of mine. Ages pass, and still thou pourest, and still there is room to fill.” (Tagore, the Gitanjali)

Sources: explorefaith.org, beliefnet. org
~Worship Service Participants~

The Rev. Wayne Barry  
Roman Catholic

The Rev. Keith Dey  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Southern Shores

The Rev. L. Spottswood Graves  
Calvary Presbyterian Church, Swan Quarter

The Rev. Nick Hodsdon  
Ordained United Church of Christ Pastor, Retired

The Rev. Michelle Lewis  
Mount Olivet United Methodist Church/Mighty Wind UMC

George Lurie, Lay Leader  
Jewish Community of the Outer Banks

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore  
Outer Banks Presbyterian Church, Kill Devil Hills

The Rev. David Morris  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Outer Banks

The Rev. Dr. Gaye Morris  
Unitarian Universalist Minister

Hovita Ventura  
Spanish Ministry Fellowship Pastor  
Liberty Christian Fellowship

The Rev. Cherri Wheeler  
US Military Chaplain, retired; Kitty Hawk Baptist Church

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Nonie Booth, Community Choir Director  
Outer Banks Presbyterian Church, Kill Devil Hills

Cheryl Needham, Pianist/Organist

Joint choirs from area Outer Banks Churches  
And the Dare County Youth Center
The North Dare County Ministerial Association wishes you and your family the most blessed Thanksgiving!