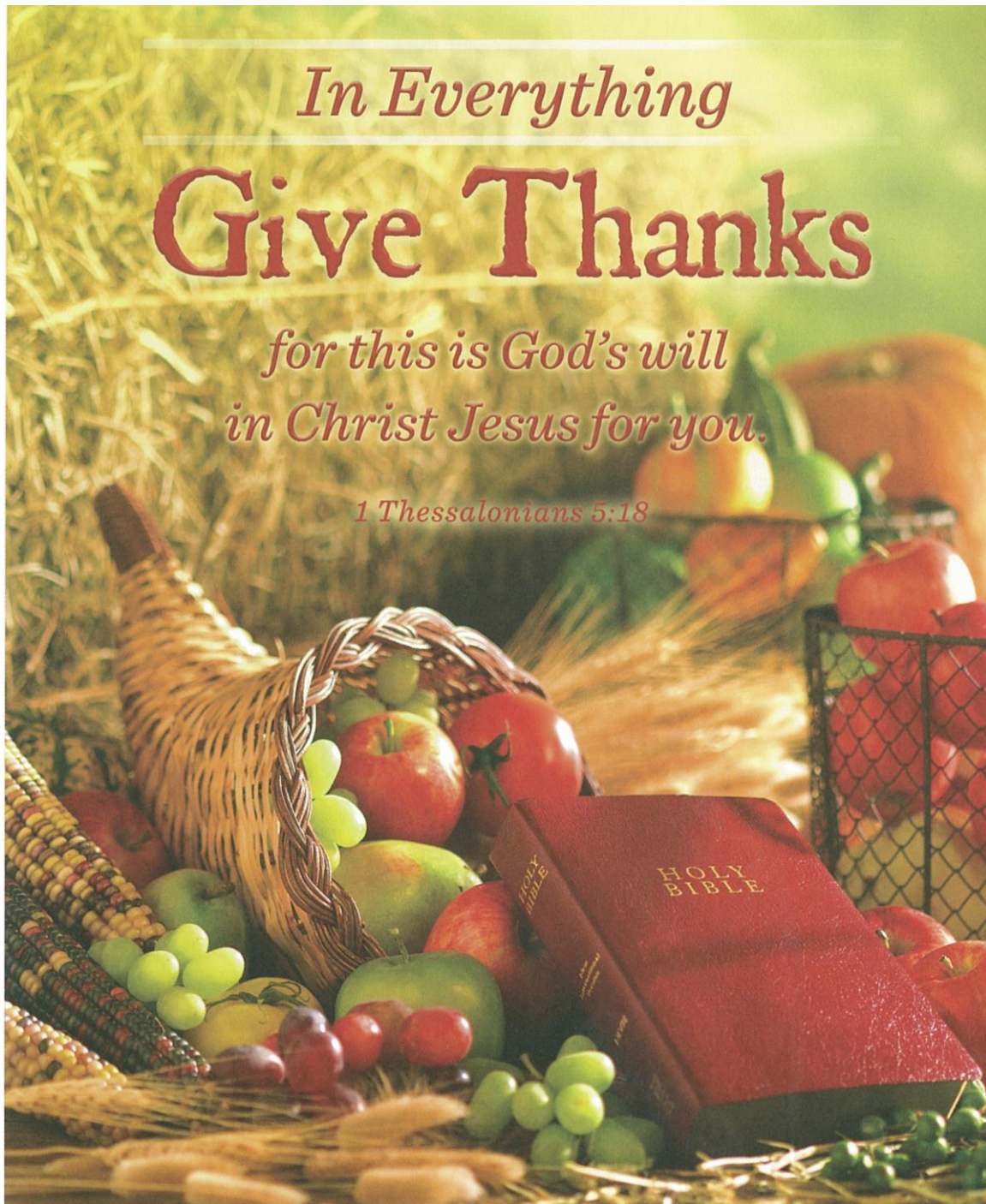


**Christ's Reformed Church – United Church of Christ**  
*~ growing people of faith who live in Jesus, love one another and bear abundant fruit ~*



*In Everything*  
**Give Thanks**

*for this is God's will  
in Christ Jesus for you.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

**HARVEST HOME/THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**

**NOVEMBER 19, 2017**

**9:30 AM**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O Holy and gracious God, your heart abounds with goodness and your hands pour out such abundance! Grant that we would always be praising you for the continuous cycle of seedtime and harvest; for the beauty of autumn, and its generous yield; for your mindful care over and around us; and how you supply our needs; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE-JR. BELLS ANTHEM

*Jesus Loves Me*

~ GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE! ~

CALL TO WORSHIP

~ from Psalm 105:1-3, 7-8, 45 TEV

Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim God's greatness.

**Tell the nations what God has done.**

Sing praise to the Lord.

**Tell the wonderful things God has done.**

Be glad that we belong to God.

**Let all who worship God rejoice.**

The Lord is our God; God's commands are for all the world.

**God will keep his covenant forever, God's promises last for a thousand generations. Praise the Lord!**

\* HYMN

*Come, O Thankful People, Come*

Black 422

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord our God, love began with you and has filled our cup to overflowing.

**In the abundance of your countless gifts give us your grace to fill others' lives with love, that we may more nearly be worthy of all you have given us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING LITANY

SONG:

*Give Thanks*

~ See Insert

Let us give thanks to the Lord for the people he has given us. For parents and grandparents, for sons and daughters, for brothers and sisters, for husband and wife, for all those who reflect to us the human dimension of your love,

**we give you thanks, O Lord.**

For neighbors and colleagues, for friends both far away and nearby—for all those who share the joys and sorrows of our daily lives,

**we give you thanks, O Lord.**

For those who serve us in restaurants, in repair shops, in stores, in schools, in hospitals—for all those who make our lives more comfortable,

**we give you thanks, O Lord.**

For the family of God, for the church universal, and for those who worship with us and minister to us in this church,

**we give you thanks, O Lord.**

For those who are weak and destitute, for those who need protection and support, for those who need healing and nurturing, for all those to whom we minister,  
**we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

SONG: *We Gather Together* Black 421, vs. 1 only

God's Word assures us: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God:

**Holy God, you have given us many good gifts. Today we thank you for all of them, but we also confess that sometimes we love those gifts more than we love you. We confess wanting more and more things: food, clothes, toys, and money. Forgive us for not being content and thankful. Forgive our selfishness. Help us to love you more than everything else. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

~ *Silence* ~

O Holy and loving God...

**holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy on us.**

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE *We Gather Together* Black 421, vs. 2 only

~ **LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD** ~

MEN'S ENSEMBLE *Peace* Taize

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit,  
**that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 14:1-5

Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup>For those who speak in a tongue do not speak to other people but to God; for nobody understands them, since they are speaking mysteries in the Spirit. <sup>3</sup>On the other hand, those who prophesy speak to other people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. <sup>4</sup>Those who speak in a tongue build up themselves, but those who prophesy build up

the church. <sup>5</sup> Now I would like all of you to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. One who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

Mark 3:31-35

<sup>31</sup> Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters<sup>[a]</sup> are outside, asking for you." <sup>33</sup> And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" <sup>34</sup> And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

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

\* HYMN

*God, We Thank You for Our People*

Black 376

SERMON

Rev. Alexander Vishio

~ RESPONDING AS GOD'S PEOPLE ~

CHOIR ANTHEM

*Gifts*

Mark Weston

PASTORAL PRAYER, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

GIVING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. In joy, let us now offer our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY

*Come Thou Fount*

arr. by Cindy Berry

\* RESPONSE

*The Doxology*

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All good things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours.

**All that we are and all that we have are a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

~ GOING IN GOD'S NAME ~

\* CLOSING HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation* Black 425

\* SENDING AND BLESSING

Almighty and gracious God, make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty. To whom much has been given, much is required – so may we truly be ambassadors of your abundance as we live in this world.

And now may the God who created the waters of the world, the Christ of living waters, the Spirit of cleansing waters be with you now and always. **Amen!**

\* CLOSING SONG *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* Black 82

POSTLUDE



*“Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air... Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night.”* Philippians 2:12-14 (MSG)