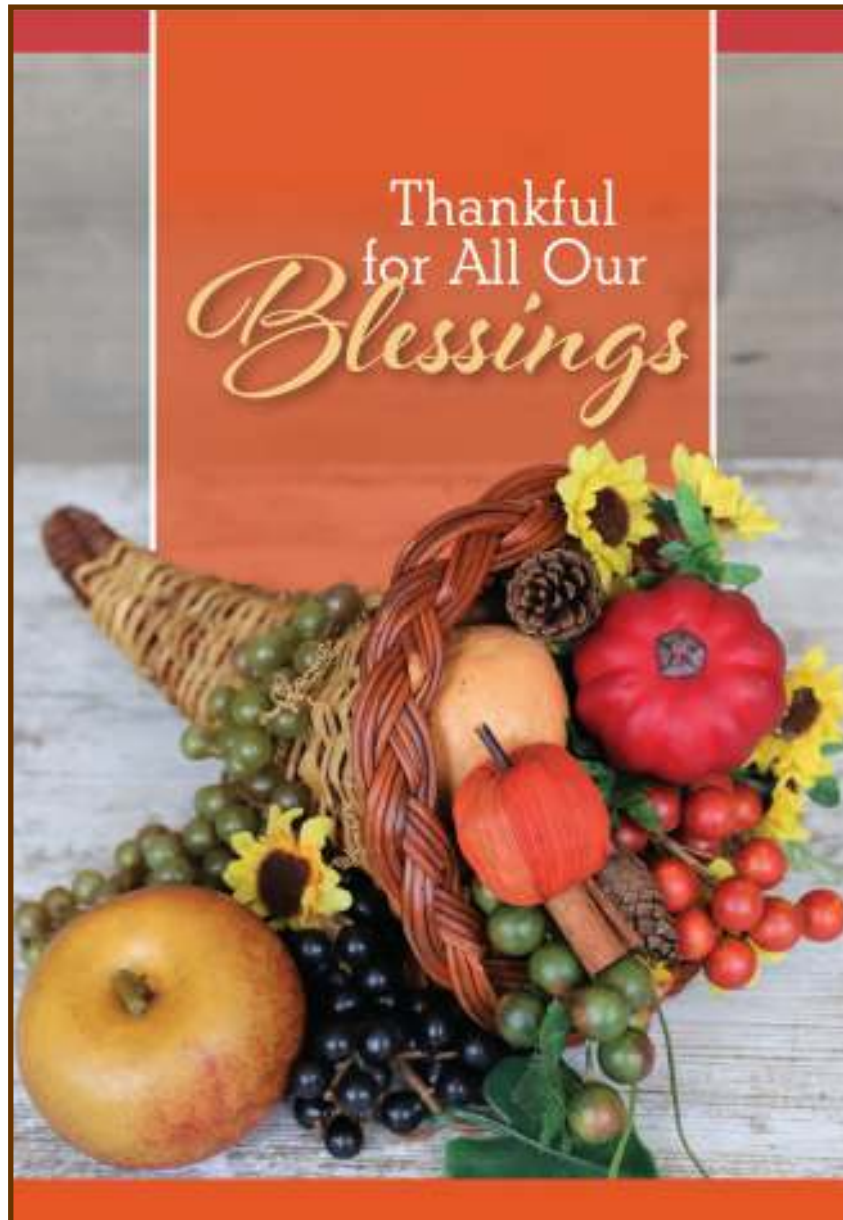


# Community Thanksgiving Service



November 19, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

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\* Please stand as you are able.

### Greeting and Welcome

Chris Hillman

### Prelude

*Arioso*

Patricia Slomanski  
George Frideric Handel

### Call to Worship

Charlotte McKinney

God stretches the heavens and shapes the earth.

**Come and give thanks!**

God raises up the mountains and pours water into the seas.

**Come and give thanks!**

God calls forth plants from the soil and forms animals in infinite variety.

**Come and give thanks!**

God breathes upon us and fills us with life.

**Come lift your voices in praise!**

God gives our lives meaning through laughter and tears.

**Come lift your voices in praise!**

God touches our hearts through family and friends.

**Come lift your voices in praise!**

God loves us and blesses us with everything good.

**Come and worship!**

God loves us and overwhelms us with never-ending generosity.

**Come and worship!**

God loves us and surrounds us with love in abundance!

**Come and worship!**

### Opening Prayer

Luther McKinney

### Hymn of Praise, No. 637

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

### Call to Confession

Andy Anderson

### Prayer of Confession

Andy Anderson

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 working 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. Hear us now, O Lord, as we lift our own silent prayers of confession.

### Assurance of Forgiveness

Joseph Washburn

God is always far more ready to hear our cries for mercy than we are to offer them to Him.

God is always listening, eager to welcome us back into God's arms of mercy.  
We have confessed our sin, and we have been welcomed home.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

Joseph Washburn

**Community Choir**

*A Time for Turning*

**Litany of Thanksgiving**

Todd Padgett

Give thanks to the Lord Who is good.

**God's love is everlasting.**

Come, let us praise God joyfully.

**Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen  
and unseen splendors;

**We thank you, Lord God.**

For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes  
and hardships shared from birth until our dying;

**We thank you, Lord God.**

For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges  
of good humor and encouragement;

**We thank you, Lord God.**

For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness  
and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love;

**We thank you, Lord God.**

For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and  
family pleasures;

**We thank you, Lord God,**

For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and startling  
frankness; for their sudden sympathies;

**We thank you, Lord God.**

For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward worn-out values;  
for their search for freedom; for their solemn vows;

**We thank you, Lord God.**

For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in  
leisure; and for time made precious by its passing;

**We thank you, Lord God.**

For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our diseases; for  
preserving us in temptation and danger;

**We thank you, Lord God.**

For the church into which we have been called; for the good news we receive by  
Word and Sacrament; for our life together in the Lord;

**We praise you, Lord God.**

For your Holy Spirit, Who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;  
Who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship;

**We praise you, Lord God.**

Above all, O God, for Your Son Jesus Christ, Who lived and died and lives again  
for our salvation; for our hope in Him; and for the joy of serving Him;  
**We thank and praise you, Eternal God, for all Your goodness to us.**  
Give thanks to the Lord, Who is good.  
**God's love is everlasting.**

<b>Prayer for Illumination</b>		Fernando Melendez
<b>Scripture Reading</b>		Howard James
<b>Sermon</b>		Howard James
<b>Hymn No. 644</b>	<i>Count Your Blessings</i>	
<b>Invitation to the Offering</b>		Fred Senter
<b>Offertory/Special Music</b>	<i>The Lord Bless You and Keep You</i>	Community Choir
<b>* Prayer of Thanks for the Offering</b>		Fred Senter
<b>Thanksgiving Prayer</b>		Jeremy Simmons
<b>Hymn, No. 638</b>	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	
<b>* Benediction/Blessing</b>		Chris Hillman
<b>* Postlude</b>	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	Patricia Slomanski Sigfried Karg-Elert



Following worship, you are invited to join together for a time of fellowship. We express our thanks to those who have prepared for this time together.

### Participants

Columbus Regional Healthcare System  
Chaplain Jeremy Simmons

Father's Cup Overflow Ministries  
Rev. Andy Anderson, Lead Pastor

First Baptist Church  
Rev. Dr. Christopher Hillman, Pastor  
Dr. Fred Senter  
Mrs. Patricia Slomanski, Organist

First Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Dr. Joseph Washburn, Pastor

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Rev. Fernando Melendez

Whiteville United Methodist  
Rev. Howard James, Pastor  
Mr. Gus Cothorn, Music Director