

WORSHIP SERVICE

NOVEMBER 24, 2024, 10:00AM

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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PRELUDE

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Henry Smith

\*HYMN #S6

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Isaac Watts

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 30)

Leader: We have cried to You God of life and You have  
healed us!

**People: You have restored us to new life!**

Leader: Sing praises to God all you saints. Give thanks to  
God's holy name!

**People: God's favor is for a lifetime and beyond.**

Leader: Hear us, O God, and be gracious! You have turned  
our mourning into dancing.

**All: We will give thanks to You forever and ever!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, we come before You, a people too nearly  
conformed to this world and its values. We've been too busy  
for the care of our bodies or the development of our minds  
and spirits. We neglect the nurture of our best selves. We  
spend our money on that which is not bread. Yet we ignore  
our own hunger and thirst for You and Your righteousness.  
Join us at our table and transform us by Your Spirit. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Neither this world nor your life is so broken that God cannot restore it to wholeness. Trust and believe that after separation, reconciliation is possible. God does show us the way home. In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

ANTHEM

Thanks Be to God Stanley Dickson/arr. Nerva Altino

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*All children recess to Smith Hall for Thanksgiving Service Project*

\*HYMN #281

Spirit of The Living God Daniel Iverson

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 100 [Psalm 23]

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Repeat the Sounding Joy!”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

Thank You Ben Fielding/Ruben Morgan  
Darren Anderson, tenor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a congregation, we pray together – through word, silence, and  
The Lord's Prayer (sins)

PRAYER RESPONSE

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus Helen H. Lemmel

CALL TO OFFERING

*Please pass the burgundy welcome books*

OFFERTORY

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Tom Fetke

\*DOXOLOGY (unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN #27

Now Thank We All Our God

Martin Rinckart/Catherine Winkworth

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Nun Danket Alle Gott “Marche Triumphale”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

\*Congregation please stand.

ARE YOU VISITING OUR CHURCH TODAY?

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us! If you have questions about our church or wish to join us for our next new member class, please contact Anna Rogers at (203) 274-0097 or [welcoming@godsacre.org](mailto:welcoming@godsacre.org).

We thank God for beautiful flowers and are grateful to God’s servants for sharing their gifts with us. The flowers displayed this month have been arranged by Carol Bayne, Parry Grogan, Juliet Howe, and Marmee Lyon.

## NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

### 2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The 2025 Stewardship Campaign is underway! We are focused on the importance of gratitude in inspiring our generosity. We ask that you take a moment to complete the statement “I am grateful” and reflect on how that gratitude might inspire your offering to God through our church by pledging to the very best of your ability. You may pledge using the pledge cards found in your pew or by utilizing the QR code on the back of your bulletin.

### ADVENT BIBLE STUDY - THE LUCAN NATIVITY STORIES

Please join us on December 9 and December 16 for our Monday Morning Bible Studies, 7:00-8:00am or 9:15-10:15am (Women's). We will take a deep dive into the nativity stories of Jesus and John the Baptist as told to us in Luke. Luke is a wonderful teller of stories, and his poetic canticles comment on their significance and have been used in worship through the ages. There is a Zoom option available at either session. Contact Marianna Kilbride at [marianna@godsacre.org](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org) for more information.

### ADVENT OUTREACH PROJECTS

Please contact Marianna Kilbride at [marianna@godsacre.org](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org) to find out how to participate in our beloved Christmas giving traditions!

**DOVES:** A suggested donation of \$50.00 to Person-to-Person will go towards grocery gift cards to buy a day's worth of food for Christmas for those in need. Contact Debbie Simpson at [debcsimpson24@gmail.com](mailto:debcsimpson24@gmail.com).

**ANGELS:** Take an Angel from the tree and purchase a gift for a homeless child. You can either buy it online and have it shipped directly to Inspirica or shop in-store and return it to Smith Hall. Contact Beth Picard at [bpicard44@gmail.com](mailto:bpicard44@gmail.com).

**BELLS:** Each year, we ring the Salvation Army Bells at Walter Stewart's Market to raise funds for our local neighbors in need. Take a bell from the tree and sign up for an hour slot. Bell ringing is an excellent service opportunity for families, friends, or singles! Contact Tracy Goldman at [office@godsacre.org](mailto:office@godsacre.org).

### CHURCH SCHOOL DISMISSAL FOR THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT

Following the church service this morning we invite everyone to participate in our Thanksgiving Service Project. Preschool children can be picked up in their classroom. Children in grades Kindergarten-3 can be picked up in the Chapel. Then, you can collect a box for your project at the top of the stairs leading up to the second floor and follow the arrows to find the decorating, taping, and packing stations. All completed boxes will be checked by a youth group volunteer in Smith Hall. We hope you all join us in this church-wide effort to provide members of our local community with Thanksgiving meals.

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS DINNER – DECEMBER 11

The Men's Fellowship Christmas Dinner will be held at the Waveny House on Wednesday, December 11. We will gather at 6:00pm for fellowship and 7:00pm for dinner. Contact Andy Parkin at [andyparkin7@gmail.com](mailto:andyparkin7@gmail.com) with questions.

### MUSIC MINISTRIES – CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Sunday, December 15, at 5:00pm, Music Ministries will present A Season of Joy Christmas Celebration Concert. The concert will feature the Chancel Choir, Children and Youth Music Ministries, guest soloists, and instrumentalists. Admission is free and open to the public. Bring your friends and neighbors to celebrate the season. A reception will follow in Smith Hall.

### NOVEMBER PLATE OFFERING

The plate offering goes towards the Thanksgiving Service Project. Our partners include Grace Baptist Church, Macedonia Church, Carver Foundation, Person to Person, Fairfield Aids Project, Open Doors, Pacific House, Pivot Ministries, Future 5, and Liberation Programs. Through these partnerships we feed about 1,000 individuals Thanksgiving meals.

### SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP – DECEMBER 1

We will offer a contemporary worship service with communion on the first Sunday of each month, October through May, in the Chapel from 6:00 to 6:45pm. We invite you to join us and share this offering with anyone you think might be interested.

### THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT - TODAY

This morning from 11:00am-12:30pm, our church will serve in one of its most beloved traditions, the Thanksgiving Service Project. Join us in Smith Hall after worship!

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE - DECEMBER 12

The Women's Christmas Open House will be held at the Ponus Ridge Chapel on Thursday, December 12. Ainsley Hayes will be our gracious host from 5:00-8:00pm for a festive evening of fellowship. Contact Lesley Cousley at [lacousley@gmail.com](mailto:lacousley@gmail.com) with questions.

### YOUTH MINISTER SEARCH

We are beginning the formal search for a Youth Minister (non-ordained) as Kelly Antonson prepares for a larger pastoral role. We are seeking a compassionate, organized, and energetic leader with 4+ years' experience working with children to oversee our large and vibrant youth programs. Above market compensation, benefits, and housing or housing allowance included. If you, a family member, or friend are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please email [YMsearch@godsacre.org](mailto:YMsearch@godsacre.org).

### YOUTH THIS WEEK

Join us for your respective youth group! For questions about our ministries, contact Kimmie Dyrvik at [kimmie@godsacre.org](mailto:kimmie@godsacre.org).

#### **Sunday, November 24**

Middle School Youth Group (MSYG), grades 6-8,

**Thanksgiving Service Project**, 9:45-11:00am

Youth Group (YG), grades 9-12,

**Thanksgiving Service Project**, various times



PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

*Senior Minister*

Marianna Kilbride

*Director of Spiritual Formation*

Lindsey Daly

*Director of Children's Ministries*

Nerva Altino

*Director of Music Ministries*

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Kirk Carr

We are a welcoming, inclusive and compassionate church community where difference and diversity are valued. We gather to promote the love and knowledge of the God revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Redeemer and Friend, and welcome all to participate in the life of our church regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

We invite you to make your pledge today.

