

Thanksgiving Day

November 25, 2021

For the
beauty
of the
earth



Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. John Kok ♦ Organ/Piano: Laurey Zwart ♦ Worship Leader: Emily Kramer
Readers: Dave Kramer, Mark Christians, Phil & Rose Postma, Sanneke Kok, Cheri Horstman, Mary
Dengler, Rebecca DeVries

Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ♦ Projection: Tom Clark ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171
Additional thanks for help with this service to Rose Postma, Rachel Hibma, Dave Schelhaas, Rob
Haan, and all these photographers: Dennis Vander Plaats, Crulls, Bajemas, Oostras, Kramers,
DeVrieses, Liefs, Horstmans, Pam Adams, Meyers, Mellemas.

Hearing Assistance

A telecoil hearing-loop system sends a signal into the sanctuary. If your hearing aid is t-coil equipped, try switching to the t-coil receiver. An FM hearing assistance system is also available for ears without hearing aids. Consult the sound operator for assistance.



If you didn't pick up a leaf on your way in, make sure you grab one!

We Gather to Give Thanks and Praise

Welcome

Greeting

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

the maker of heaven and earth.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

*Call to Worship: Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;

come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

*Songs of Thanksgiving: "Ten Thousand Reasons" LUYH 559:1,2
 "For the Beauty of the Earth" LUYH 19:1,2,4,5

Savoring What's Around Us: "The Beauty of the Earth"

Scripture: Psalm 65:5-13 p.900

Poem: "The Generosity" Lucy Shaw

What well-chosen small presents
 arrive almost every day, wrapped
 in the newspaper of the ordinary!

No ribbons. No gift cards.

Just the coin of the sun glinting
 behind a gray broth of clouds.

I am the patient gardener
 of the dry and weedy garden. . . .

I am the stone step,
 the latch, and the working hinge. . . .

I am the heart contracted by joy. . . .
 the longest hair, white
 before the rest. . . .

I am there in the basket of fruit
 presented to the widow. . . .

I am the musk rose opening
 unattended, the fern on the boggy summit. . . .

I am the one whose love
 overcomes you, already with you
 when you think to call my name. . . .

"Briefly It Enters, and Briefly Speaks" by Jane Kenyon from *Collected Poems*. © 2005 by the Estate of Jane Kenyon.

Prayer

Song: "Give Thanks" LUYH 358

Offering Our Thanks: "Praise and Thanksgiving" LUYH 873

During this time we invite you to bring forward your thanksgiving offering envelopes and place them in the offering boxes and to bring forward your leaves to pin on the board.

*Closing Prayer

*Closing Song: "We Praise You, O God" LUYH 560

I somehow
forgot
how falling leaves can strike
like tiny meteors—
annoying me,
then making me laugh, later,
in wonder.

I somehow
forgot.

I remember
now.

Prayer

*Song: "Fill Thou My Life, O Lord, My God" LUYH 356

Savoring Loved Ones: "The Joy of Human Love"

Scripture: Eph. 1:15-17, I Thess. 1:2-3, Col. 1:3-6 p.1818, 1837, 1831

Poem/Prayer: "Thanks from Covenant" Dave Schelhaas

*Song: "Now Thank We All Our God" LUYH 543

Savoring Christ: "Best Gift Divine"

Scripture: Colossians 1:12-18 LUYH 16

Poem: "Briefly It Enters, and Briefly Speaks" Jane Kenyon

I am the blossom pressed in a book,
found again after two hundred years. . . .

I am the maker, the lover, and the keeper....

When the young girl who starves
sits down to a table
she will sit beside me. . . .

I am food on the prisoner's plate. . . .

I am water rushing to the wellhead,
filling the pitcher until it spills. . . .

A knuckle of dark rock exposed as
a freeze lets go and the snow
settles in its own melting. Trees

showing off their good bones, skeletal,
naked—their fractal structures
echoing the repeating patterns of atoms.

Last week a tender rain came and went,
and our roof gutters gurgled their watery
joy at being useful.

And today, a raven feather on
the sidewalk and wings in the sky,
memos from heaven everywhere.

"The Generosity" from her book *Sea Glass: New & Selected Poems* © 2016 Luci Shaw

Prayer

For the Beauty of the Earth Slideshow

Savoring Moments: "The Wonder of Each Hour"

Scripture: Luke 2:19 p.1591

Poem and Meditation: "I Remember" Rachel Hibma

I somehow
forgot
the way the world looks through the yellow canopy
of our neighbor's tree,
how golden filigree overlays the surrounding rooftops and patches of sky.

I somehow
forgot
how autumn gusts create a ground blizzard
of swirling color—
dead leaves,
still teeming with movement—
and how strong, steady winds produce
a rainstorm of gold against the clear blue sky,
blurring and obscuring
my backyard view.