

November 19, 2023
Thanksgiving Sunday and New Members

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, you thankful people, come.

People: **Let us gather before God and lift up our songs of praise and thanksgiving.**

Leader: God our maker does provide for our wants to be supplied.

People: **Let us give thanks for God's generous spirit.**

Leader: Let us give thanks for the blessings of food and family, of church and faith.

People: **Let us give thanks for the beauty of the earth.**

ALL: **Let us praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

***Invocation**

Wondrous Spirit, we raise to you our joyful noise: words of thanksgiving, songs of praise! Rhythm-setter of tides and seasons, from the depths of the waters to the heights of the land, creation declares your greatness. You dapple our days with sun and our nights with starlight. Unceasingly flow your love and peace. May your goodness transform us, deepening our gratitude for the beauty around us, the kindness among us, the bread broken for us. Lead us, we pray, in blessing the lives of others, so that all your world may have reason to rejoice. Amen.

***Hymn #422:** "Come, O Thankful People, Come"

***Passing of the Peace**

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 Ron Dobson

Anthem: You Are Provider with Come, Ye Thankful People, Come by R.E. Schram

[following the hymn, the Young Disciples may go to their class and those desiring baptism and membership in Greenbelt Community Church UCC may come forward]

Sacrament of Baptism and Reception of Members

Hear the words of our Lord: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide."

Cécile Accilien
Tina Alston
Elisabeth Kevorkian

Congregational Assent

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

Prayer of Baptism

Baptism

Covenant promise to new member candidates

Congregational Assent: Moderator

Let us the members of Greenbelt Community Church express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry.

We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. God grant that together we may continue to grow in knowledge and love and be witnesses to our risen Lord.

Welcome: Moderator

In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of Greenbelt Community Church of the United Church of Christ, I extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this congregation.

Prayer

Sermon: “Out of Small Beginnings”

“Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand that made all things of nothing, and gives being to all things that are; and, as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many...”

— William Bradford, Bradford: Of Plymouth Plantation

***Hymn #419:** “Now Thank We All Our God”

The Community at Prayer (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

Prayer Response

Invitation to the Offering

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website.)

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance. Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us. Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name. Amen.

***Hymn #425: "For the Fruit of All Creation"**

*Commissioning and Blessing

*Choral Response

*Postlude