



**Thanksgiving Sunday
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023 at 11:00 am**

GATHERING IN FAITH

Reflection in Preparation for Worship

"Thankfulness has taken hold of us, not because something special has happened to us, but just because we are, because we participate in the glory and power of being. It is a mood of joy, but more than a mood, more than a transitory emotion. It is a state of being. And it is more than joy. It is a joy that includes the feeling that it is given, that we cannot accept it without bringing some sacrifice -- namely the sacrifice of thanks." Paul Tillich

Welcome Steve Crocco
Please sign, pass and return Friendship Record pads during this time of announcements.

Trinity Toll *In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.*

Prelude JuBELLation Ringers
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come George Elvey/arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
Text for meditation: *Hymnal*, No. 551

Call to Worship Steve Crocco

Leader: Come, ye thankful people, come!
People: Raise the song of harvest home.
Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
People: and His courts with praise.
Leader: Give thanks to God,
People: bless His name.

*Hymn of Praise *We Gather Together* *Hymnal*, No. 559

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.**

**Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!**

**We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender will be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

*Prayer of the Day (please remain standing)

Steve Crocco

Call to Confession

Ronnie Bailey

God's giving knows no ending. We wander and stray, ignore and deny; but God keeps offering mercy and grace. Together, let us seek God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

**Generous God, You give beyond measure, bringing forth abundance day by day.
We confess our failure to acknowledge Your goodness. We confuse our efforts with Your providence. We confuse our deeds with Your gifts. Forgive our sins.
Grow in us thankful hearts, ready to praise Your faithfulness.
Form in us grateful spirits, quick to trust in Your gracious care;
through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray...**

...time for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always! With bountiful mercy and abiding grace, God meets us with love and forgiveness. This is good news!

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Act of Praise

Give Thanks

Congregation Singing

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the
Ho - ly One, give thanks be - cause he's
giv-en Je - sus Christ his Son. Give Son. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the
poor say, "I am rich be-cause of what the Lord has
done for us." And us." Give
us." Give thanks!

WORDS: Henry Smith (Luke 1:49-53)
MUSIC: Henry Smith
© 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

GIVE THANKS
Irregular

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination
Epistle Reading
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

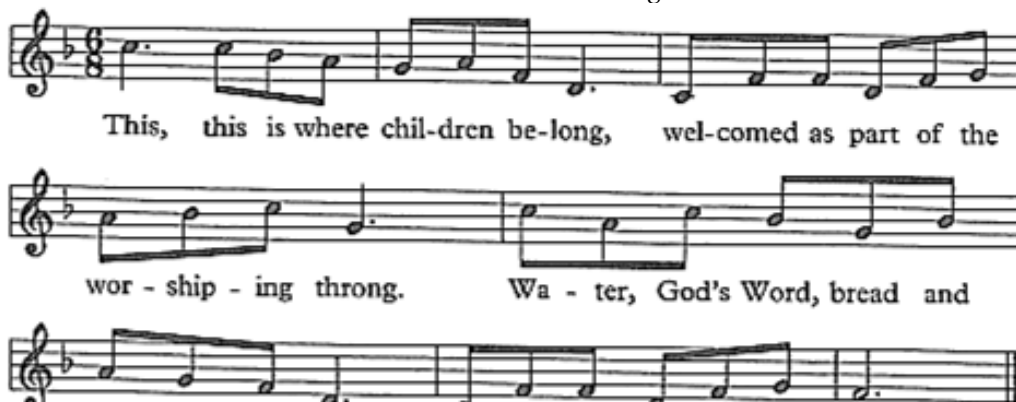
2 Corinthians 9:10-15

Debbie Blair
Pew Bible, NT, page 184

Time with the Children
As the children gather

Ronnie Bailey
Congregation Singing

Where Children Belong



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the
wor-ship-ing throug. Wa-ter, God's Word, bread and
cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be-long.

WORDS: James Ritchie
MUSIC: James Ritchie

© 1999 Abingdon Press (admin. by The Copyright Co., Nashville, TN)

RITCHIE
Irregular

Children go to JAM after time with children.

Epistle Reading
Sermon

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Pew Bible, NT, page 205

Thanksgiving

Tim Spring

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of Response

Let All Things Now Living

Hymnal, No. 554

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.**

**By law God enforces. The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

Faith Community Concerns, the Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Steve Crocco
Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

Call to Offering

Tim Spring

A Choral Offering

Chancel Choir

Look at the World

John Rutter

*Look at the world, ev'rything all around us:
Look at the world, and marvel ev'ry day.
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,
so many miracles along our way.*

*Praise to Thee, O Lord, for all creation, give us thankful hearts, that we may see:
All the gifts we share, and ev'ry blessing, all things come of Thee.*

*Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower;
look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,
valley and flowing river, field and plain.
Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer
bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.
Ev'rything grows, ev'rything has a season,
till it is gathered to the Father's fold.*

*Praise to Thee, O Lord, for all creation, give us thankful hearts, that we may see:
All the gifts we share, and ev'ry blessing, all things come of Thee.*

*Ev'ry good gift, all that we need and cherish
comes from the Lord in token of His love;
We are His hands, stewards of all His bounty;
His is the earth, and His the heav'ns above.*

– John Rutter

*Doxology Hymnal, No. 592

using tune: *OLD HUNDREDTH*

**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

Tim Spring

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

*Hymn of Dedication

Now Thank We All Our God

Hymnal, No. 555

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.**

*Charge and Blessing

Tim Spring

Postlude

March Triomphale 'Now Thank We All Our God'

Organ

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

WORSHIP NOTES

The gifts of bounty from the earth...the pumpkins, gourds, and squashes...adorning our sanctuary during this season of Thanksgiving are gifts to us from Harvest Valley Farm in Gibsonia. Harvest Valley is a third-generation farm. They generously share with us at this time of year, and for that we are very grateful. Healthy produce and yummy baked goods abound at their market, and they also have their produce at Monroeville Farmers' Market as well as others in the area.

Worship next Sunday, November 26 – 8:30 and 11:00 am in the Sanctuary.

Christ the King/Reign of Christ. Tim Spring will preach the sermon *Are You the King?* based on John 18:33-37.

Early Worship at 8:30 am – a more intimate service, approximately 45 minutes, with a simple worship order including the sermon and two congregational hymns with piano accompaniment.

Service for The Lord's Day - at 11:00 am. This traditional worship service includes a fuller liturgy, with sermon and congregational hymns. A variety of musical styles are offered by our various choirs accompanied by the pipe organ, piano and other musical instruments. Ministry of Music next Sunday, November 26 will be the Chancel Choir and guest French Horn player, Erik Lahti.

JAM stands for “**J**esus **A**nd **M**e” and are our 2 classes for children. Kindergarten through Grade 2 and Grades 3-6. We also welcome any middle schoolers who desire to mentor and build relationships with our younger kids. **JAM** will be held after Children's Time that takes place during worship. We will have an engaging, fun, children's sermon and following that, children will join their classes in the education wing upstairs. Contact Ronnie with any questions.

Music reprinted and broadcast under OneLicense.net A-726321. All rights reserved.

- *The Presbyterian Hymnal – Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs*, 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.
- *Where Children Belong - Sing the Faith* © 2003 by Geneva Press; adapted and compiled by permission from *The Faith We Sing* © 2000 Abingdon Press.
- *Sing the Faith* © 2003 by Geneva Press; adapted and compiled by permission from *Give Thanks* © 2000 Abingdon Press

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, DEC 3 following the 11:00 am worship service to approve Session's recommended Pastors salary as well as review other 2024 spending for OPC. Copies of this budget are available in each vestibule as well as the church office for your review prior to the meeting. *Peace, your 2023 Session*

Blessed to be a Blessing Stewardship Campaign update: We are excited to report that as of 11/13/2023, we have received pledges totaling 54% of our overall goal for 2024! We thank those who have already returned their pledge cards and encourage those who have not, to do so by **11/30/2023**. We have faith that God is working in us and through us to do His good works in His world with your generous gifts and pledges.

Your Blessed to be a Blessing Committee, Robin Gourley, Sally Huber-Lewis, Nick Kokales, Shannon Meyers, and Tim Spring

Join the Chancel Choir for Advent/Christmas season... a season filled with beautiful music. This short-term commitment would involve rehearsals on Thursday evenings - which begin at 7:00 pm. Sing for all of these or selected events - Advent Worship: Sundays in December (11am); The Christmas Carol Walk: Sunday December 10 (6:00pm); Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (10:00pm) and/or Epiphany Sunday, Jan 7, 2024.

For the complete rehearsal schedule or to find out more, please contact Michael Frank at mfrank@oakmontpresby.org or at 412-828-5770 x206.

This group of dedicated singers is open to OPC members, friends and members of the community, grade 9 through adult. Join us!

Weekday Bible Study – Steve Crocco is teaching a Bible study this fall on one of the most interesting and important books in the New Testament—the book of Hebrews. The study meets **Wednesdays at 11:00 in Friendship Hall**. Elevator and Fifth Street doors open at 10:20 am. There will be **NO Bible Study on Weds, NOV 22; will resume NOV 29**. *Happy Thanksgiving!*

Men's Breakfast Fellowship - Come join us on Tuesday **DEC 5 at 8:30 am in the Dining Room**. Breakfast is served family style at 8:30 so come a few minutes early. Our goal is to provide a good breakfast, an interesting program after the breakfast and an opportunity to make new friends and see old friends.

Dec 5 – the program will focus on *Fellowship*. Lee Nichols will recount a story about the importance of friendship and Dave Geis will then lead an activity to help us get to know a bit more about others in the group.

Jan 2 – Michael Aleprete, Professor of Political Science at Westminster College will discuss *The Impact of Stalin's legacy on Contemporary Russia*.

OPC Film Series - Join us at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Brochures are available in the vestibules. Elevator door entrance opens at 6:15 pm.

DEC 1 – *Montford, the Chickasaw Rancher* **DEC 15** – Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret

Chancel Flowers – Are you interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary some Sunday to provide beauty to worship? One or two arrangements are welcome each week and can be placed *in memory of loved ones, in celebration of an event or to honor someone*, and all to the Glory of God. **Contact Carla Lowman (412-826-5914) to RSVP your date** with info and wording for the bulletin. **Available dates: NOV 26; DEC 3, 10, 17 and 31.**

Your OPC Family Cares About You! There are times when you are ill, in the hospital or in emotional need and we don't know about it, please remember to contact the church office (412.828.5770) or a staff member so we can support you in your time of need. You are loved!

Prayer Requests - Members of our church will pray for you and anyone in need. Please send prayer requests to: prayers@oakmontpresby.org or contact Carol Heimerich at 412.242.1028.

Deacons - Food Donations - Thank you for your donations to the food banks at RCAC and Verona Methodist Church supporting families in our community. Please continue to place donations in the shopping carts or drop off financial donations to the office/collection plate. Questions – contact Judy Murray at 724-816-7561. **Special request for items that can be heated by kids in the microwave, i.e., canned beef stew, spaghetti, soup, microwavable mac & cheese.**

Deacons – Baby It’s Cold Outside! The Deacons are collecting **men’s winter coats each Sunday in November**. Bring your donation to the 5th street entrance, Aunt Phyllis is waiting for your donation!

A time-honored tradition at Oakmont Presbyterian Church is the **Angel Tree** sponsored by the Deacons. Congregants have the opportunity to fulfill a child's wish list this Christmas. Approximately 60 wish lists are provided to us by East End Cooperative Ministry, Riverview Community Action Corporation, and Verona Methodist Church. These are children whose parents have financial hardships, and consequently the children would not have a very special Christmas. **The Angel Tree with ornaments containing a child's age, gender, and wish list will be in the 5th Street entry way TODAY, NOV 19.** Select an ornament from the tree, and record your name, ornament number, and phone number on the list provided. A Deacon will be available if you have any questions concerning this process. When your shopping is completed, **bring your gifts, wrapped or unwrapped, packaged together with the numbered ornament and place them by the Angel Tree on or before Sunday, DEC 3.**

AV Teams/Members Needed to Live Stream Services - Have you wondered how you could become a part of this vital ministry live streaming our late worship services to those not able to attend in person? No advance special knowledge is required as individual/team training sessions will be arranged. Contact Ron Burkert to volunteer at 412-780-0958 or raburkert@comcast.net

Soup's On - soups made on NOV 16 were Cream of Zucchini Soup and Chicken and Wild Rice Soup. Stop down at the kitchen freezer and take a container to a friend, neighbor, or relative who needs a cup of cheer and to see your smiling face! The next **Soup’s On will meet on Thursday, DEC 14 at 10:00 am.**

Christmas Carol Walk 2023 – Sunday December 10th
Begins at OPC – 6:00pm. The JuBELLation Ringers and Chancel Choir will share in the music.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	November 19 – Thanksgiving Sunday
8:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
9:30 am	Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
9:15 am	JuBELLation Ringers rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:15 am	Children’s Choir Rehearsal (Children’s Choir Rm/Upper Level/age 5&up)
11:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream and Children’s JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)
5:00 pm	Thanksgiving Dinner (prior RSVP required – Dining Room)
MONDAY	November 20
12:00 pm	AA’s (Small Group Room)
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop #854 & Cub Pack #137 (Multi-Purpose Rm/Dining Rm)
TUESDAY	November 21
7:00 pm	Deacons (Dining Room)
WEDNESDAY	November 22
10:00 am	Women’s AA (Dining Room)
THURSDAY	November 23 – Thanksgiving
	Church Office Closed
8:00 pm	NA’s (Dining Room)
FRIDAY	November 24
	Church Office Closed
SATURDAY	November 25
8:00 pm	AA’s (Dining Room)
SUNDAY	November 26 – Christ the King/Reign of Christ
8:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
9:30 am	Coffee & Conversation (Multi-Purpose Room)
9:45 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10:15 am	Children’s Choir Rehearsal (Children’s Choir Rm/Upper Level/age 5&up)
11:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary) & Via Livestream and Children’s JAM Classes (preK-Grade 2 & Grades 3-6)

OPC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Tim E. Spring	Interim Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco	Associate Pastor
Michael P. Frank, III	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Ronnie Bailey	Education Director for Children and Youth
Maureen Stecik	Program Staff Assistant
Buster Harper	Custodian
Tracy Messenger	Financial Secretary of Accounting
Marge Kuhn	Financial Secretary of Contributions
Roberta Erickson	Handbell Choir Director
Ron Burkert	AV Team Coordinator
The Rev. Dr. Steve Wilson	Honorably Retired Pastor Emeritus

415 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139
412-828-5770 (Office)
www.oakmontpresbyterianchurch.org

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

It's time to order red poinsettias to enhance the sanctuary for Christmas!

Drop off your completed form with cash or check made payable to Oakmont Presbyterian Church at the church office or place in collection plate on Sunday.

For questions, contact Dixie Anderson at 412-418-0280 or dixwa@comcast.net or Ann Buechli at 412-657-1746 or hjea44@gmail.com

December 5th is the last day to order poinsettias.



Quantity	Size	Price (each)	Total
_____	4-5 inches	\$3.75	_____
_____	7 inches (2 stems)	\$11.40	_____
_____	8 inches (3 stems)	\$16.10	_____
_____	10 inches (5 stems)	\$36.75	_____

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____
