



November 19, 2023  
Commitment Sunday

### GATHERING AND PRAISE

#### Welcome

Pastor Larry

#### Stewardship Moment: Youth Group

Alexia Boyer, Quinn Hetherington, Bristol Hetherington, Alex Glover

#### Prelude

*Come, Ye Thankful People*

Windsor

*The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.*

#### \*Call to Worship

Susan Hubbuck

L: We gather for worship today to celebrate our gifts.

**All: We are celebrating the gifts we give to this church, the pledges we are making for the upcoming year.**

L: We gather for worship today to celebrate our community.

**All: We are celebrating the love and support that we give to one another; the constant quest that we are on to be united by God's grace.**

L: We gather for worship today to celebrate our future.

**All: We are celebrating a future full of outreach, a future full of service, a future full of worship and a future full of growth. We are celebrating a future with hope.**

L: We gather for worship today to celebrate our visions.

**All: We are celebrating the visions of those who have come before us, the visions that brought us to where we are today and the visions that we see today for the future.**

L: Let us gather in celebration!

**All: Let us worship God!**

**\*Opening Prayer**

Susan Hubbuch

Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. You called us from slavery into witness and service. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you. Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service. For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

**\* Hymn**

*O How I Love Jesus*

UMH 170

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**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

Susan Hubbuch

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

**Children's Time**

Pastor Larry

**Ministry of Music**

*I Will Live My Thanks*

Choir & Megan Ensor

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**Prayer for Understanding**

*All Praying*

Susan Hubbuch

**O God of wisdom, you delight in deep truth.**

**Let these words of scripture teach our hearts,**

**that we may hear your joy and gladness,**

**for the sake of Christ, your wisdom for us. Amen.**

**II Corinthians 8:1-7 and 9:6-15**

8:1-7

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. <sup>5</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. <sup>6</sup> So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. <sup>7</sup> But since you excel in everything—in

faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you<sup>[a]</sup>—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

9:6-15

<sup>6</sup>Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup>Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>10</sup>Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

<sup>12</sup>This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup>Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup>And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Hymn**

*I Surrender All (Verses 1, 2 and 5)*

UMH 354

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### **Sermon**

*“Excell in the Grace of Giving”*

Pastor Larry

### **Ministry of Music**

*Bless This House*

Sandy Bruner

### **Morning Prayer**

Pastor Larry

(During a time of silent prayer, complete our 2024 Estimate Giving Cards. We may place them in the offering plates or bring them to the Altar)

### **Prayer of Consecration - Estimate of Giving Cards**

Pastor Larry

**Offertory Invitation**

Susan Hubbuch

May we continue to worship by receiving out tithes, offerings, and gifts. May the ushers come forward.

**Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

*Offertory*

*We Gather Together*

Netherlands Folk Song

*\*Doxology*

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below:***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!***

***Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!***

***Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

Susan Hubbuch

L: Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it.

**All: You have entrusted us with gifts—time, talent, energy, money—  
and asked us to use them to build your kingdom.**

**With thanks and praise we respond to your call.**

L: We bring these gifts you have given, returning your generosity, paying it forward.

**All: We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears, our dollars and our hours.**

**We commit ourselves to work for your world, to love and serve wherever you call.**

L: We ask your blessing on this, your church,  
as we seek to follow you with heart, mind, and soul.

**All: Bless also these gifts, our investment in your future,  
that they may multiply in faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

**GOING FORTH TO SERVE**

**\* Closing Hymn**

*Here I Am, Lord*

UMH 593

**Benediction**

Pastor Larry

**Choral Benediction**

*Benediction Hymn*

**Now may the Lord bless you and keep you  
and make his face to shine upon you;  
and may God lift his countenance upon you  
and give you blessed peace for now and evermore**

**Postlude**

*Give Thanks*

Smith

## **O HOW I LOVE JESUS**

*There is a name I love to hear,  
I love to sing its worth;  
it sounds like music in my ear,  
the sweetest name on earth.*

### **Refrain:**

***O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus,  
because he first loved me!***

*2. It tells me of a Savior's love,  
who died to set me free;  
it tells me of his precious blood,  
the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]*

*3. It tells of one whose loving heart  
can feel my deepest woe;  
who in each sorrow bears a part  
that none can bear below. [Refrain]*

## **I SURRENDER ALL**

*All to Jesus I surrender;  
all to him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust him,  
in his presence daily live.*

### **Refrain:**

***I surrender all, I surrender all,  
all to thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.***

*2. All to Jesus I surrender;  
humbly at his feet I bow,  
worldly pleasures all forsaken;  
take me, Jesus, take me now. [Refrain]*

*All to Jesus I surrender;  
now I feel the sacred flame.  
O the joy of full salvation!  
Glory, glory to his name! [Refrain]*

**HERE I AM, LORD**

*I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save  
I have made the stars of night  
I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night  
I will go, Lord  
If You lead me  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.*

*I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night  
I will go, Lord*

*If You lead me  
I will hold Your people in my heart  
I will hold Your people in my heart*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will tend the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
'Til their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?*

*Here I am, Lord  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night  
I will go, Lord  
If You lead me  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*