

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER ● COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

November 26, 2025

THE EVE OF THANKSGIVING // IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM SERVICE
SERVICE OF GRATITUDE & COMMUNION

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Have your juice and bread/crackers prepared for holy communion

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious God, Giver of every good gift, we come with thankful hearts,
ready to remember your goodness and share the blessings of this community.
In this circle of love, open our eyes to grace, open our mouths in praise,
and open our hands in generosity. Amen.**

*SONG OF THANKSGIVING

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

GTG #647

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
(Repeat)

And now let the weak say, “We are strong”;
let the poor say, “We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!”
(Repeat)

Give thanks. Give thanks.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him; bless his name.

For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 6:25-35

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

Again the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GRATITUDE SHARING

Tonight, we sit in a circle because gratitude is something we give to God together.

After each person shares, the circle responds:
Thanks be to God.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

This is the joyful feast of the people of God. All who seek the presence of Christ—children and adults—are welcome here.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right...

For even in seasons of uncertainty, your blessings rise like dawn—
bread on the table, family and friends around us,
hope that carries us forward.

And so we join our thanksgiving with all creation, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are
full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Words of Institution

Prayer of the Spirit

**Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that this bread and cup may be for
us the body and blood of Christ, and that gathered at this table of gratitude, we may
become one people, overflowing with generosity and love. Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,

**Thank you for feeding us with spiritual and physical bread. Make us your grateful
people— quick to notice blessings, eager to share them, and ready to shine your love
into the world. Amen.**

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God’s own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest
home; from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in God’s garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home!

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Patty Hammer

SHARED MEAL

Let us bless this simple meal as Jesus blessed the bread shared among friends.

**Lord of abundance, thank you for the food that nourishes us,
for hands that prepared it, and for hearts gathered around this table.
Make this meal a taste of your kingdom, where all are fed and loved.
Amen.**

