Serve & Enrich Zion United Church

of Christ





Thanksgiving Worship

We Gather Together, Kaylee Gephart on cello

**Gathering**—Rejoice and give thanks! This is a day to remember the gifts and blessings that God showers in our lives. This is a season to trust God's providential care and to rest assured that we are held in Christ's gentle arms of love. In a world that instills fear and worry that nothing we have will ever be enough, we discover in Christ's arms that we have everything we need.~

## \*\*Hymn

## Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

we were like those who dream. <sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with

laughter

Choir

and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations,

"The Lord has done great things for them."

We Gather Together, 81, with Bell Choir

<sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

<sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup> May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Happy Are They with Judy Prosch

**30 Days of Prayer**: Pairs and Spares, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, 7 Star Praying Mantis Kung Fu, Indy Blackout Basketball, Volleyball Group, Indy Klutch Softball

**Prayer**—O God, we long to come into your presence undistracted by our hectic lives. But instead, we fight our way in, amidst the clutter and stress. Our minds are full of worry. Our hearts are buffeted this way and that. Our souls are tired and sore. We yearn to rest in the assurance of Jesus: "Look at the birds of the air," he says. "Your heavenly [Creator] feeds them. You are even more precious to God! Consider the lilies of the field. Even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed so fine!" O God, you know our need. Grow our vision and nurture our trust until our worries fall away. Restore us in your grace that we may breathe again.~

# Prelude

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison)—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.

Choir *Give Thanks and Glorify His Name!* accompanied by Judy Prosch

#### Exploring Together—Naming Our Gratitude

We Hear God's Word—*Matthew 6:25-33 (NRSVUE)* Vivian Thomas <sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Bell Anthem	Simple Gifts
Meditation	Simple Gifts
Choir	We Thank You, Lord, Collin Bennington on violin accompanied by Judy Prosch
L	Word with Our Giving

**Invitation**—God asks for hearts of generosity and gifts lovingly given. Out of gratitude for God's trustworthy love and generous gifts, let us return gifts of gratitude to God.~

Hymn Come, Ye Thankful People, Come, 721, with Bell Choir

**Opportunities to Serve:** Angel Tree and Food Drive

November Benevolence—Our Church's Wider Mission

Give Thanks, 359 (2x)

Canzona

#### **\*\*Doxology**

**Song of Reflection** 

**\*\*We Give Thanks**—Gracious and abundant God, like the birds of the air, we can trust your provision. You take care of us. Like the lilies of the field, all that we have is yours. Every good thing is a gift from you. You take care of us. [As we prepare to gather at tables to feast this week, we especially remember those in our community who face hunger, who have to choose between electricity or groceries. May our gifts for God's Bounty help ease the hunger our neighbors know, and may they bring glory and honor to you as we answer your call to serve and to love. Bless us this Thanksgiving [season], and bless [all] the gifts we bring, that in all we make and say and do: trust may grow, beauty may flourish, generosity may flow, and your name may be praised. Through Jesus Christ our [Savior], we pray. Amen.~

### \*\*Hymn

**\*\*Benediction**—This Thanksgiving, be filled with thanks and praise. Let it overflow, bursting through every stress and anxiety. May it trickle gently over every grief and sadness, until thanks and praise are in every word you say, every choice you make, every moment you live. Glory and praise to God. Peace be with you.~

## Postlude

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