

# McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church

November 24, 2024 AM 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING TONES

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *enfleshed, Molly Bolton*

Thank you Oak Trees

**Thank you Children**

Thank you Land Protectors

**Thank you Storytellers**

Thank you Salamanders

**Thank you Neighbors**

Thank you Friends

**Thank you Co-Dreamers**

Thank you Moss

**Thank you Organizers**

Thank you Poets

**Thank you Dusk**

Thank you Wisdom

**Thank you Rebellion**

Thank you Chaos

**Thank you Anger**

Thank you Hope

**Thank you Moonbeams**

Thank you Mountains **Thank you Swamplands**

Thank you Crickets **Thank you Pulse**

Thank you God **Thank you God**

Thank you **Thank you**



LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*enfleshed*

Gratitude—a disposition, a practice, a welling-up of the soul.

**Gratitude—never bypassing all that has been lost, rather holding it & saying thank you, always, for the chance to love again.**

Gratitude—never glorifying the struggle of survival under oppression, always looking for the Sacred Ordinary, always relishing the unlikely wonder of being alive.

**Come, Gracious Spirit, accompany us in our heartbreak and joy today. Amen.**

I invite you to join me in lighting candles of hope for the world.

**May our prayers for peace shine through our lives and into the world.**

*All are invited to come forward and light candles representing prayers for peace.*

## VOLUNTARY

### CONTEMPORARY READING

"For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet," by Joy Harjo

Put down that bag of potato chips, that white bread, that bottle of pop.

Turn off that cellphone, computer, and remote control. Open the door, then close it behind you. Take a breath offered by friendly winds.

They travel the earth gathering essences of plants to clean.

#### **Give it back with gratitude.**

If you sing it will give your spirit lift to fly to the stars' ears and back.

Acknowledge this earth who has cared for you since you were a dream planting itself precisely within your parents' desire. Let your moccasin feet take you to the encampment of the guardians who have known you before time, who will be there after time. They sit before the fire that has been there without time. Let the earth stabilize your postcolonial insecure jitters. Be respectful of the small insects, birds and animal people who accompany you.

Ask their forgiveness for the harm we humans have brought down upon them.

#### **Don't worry.**

The heart knows the way though there may be high-rises, interstates, checkpoints, armed soldiers, massacres, wars, and those who will despise you because they despise themselves. The journey might take you a few hours, a day, a year, a few years, a hundred, a thousand or even more. Watch your mind. Without training it might run away and leave your heart for the immense human feast set by the thieves of time.

#### **Do not hold regrets.**

When you find your way to the circle, to the fire kept burning by the keepers of your soul, you will be welcomed. You must clean yourself with cedar, sage, or other healing plant.

#### **Cut the ties you have to failure and shame.**

Let go the pain you are holding in your mind, your shoulders, your heart, all the way to your feet.

Let go the pain of your ancestors to make way for those who are heading in our direction.

#### **Ask for forgiveness.**

Call upon the help of those who love you. These helpers take many forms: animal, element, bird, angel, saint, stone, or ancestor. Call your spirit back. It may be caught in corners and creases of shame, judgment, and human abuse. You must call in a way that your spirit will want to return.

#### **Speak to it as you would to a beloved child.**

Welcome your spirit back from its wandering. It may return in pieces, in tatters. Gather them together. They will be happy to be found after being lost for so long.

Your spirit will need to sleep awhile after it is bathed and given clean clothes.

Now you can have a party. Invite everyone you know who loves and supports you. Keep room for those who have no place else to go.

Make a giveaway, and remember, keep the speeches short.

**Then, you must do this: help the next person find their way through the dark.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Thanksgiving prayer (When we're tired of giving thanks)

*Elizabeth H. Doolin, Presbyterian Outlook*

Dear God,

We find ourselves in the season of turkey dinners, football games, sweater weather, and requests to share what we are thankful for. We are implored to be thankful; gratitude is the season's theme.

**But what if we are not feeling it? What if the weight of the world feels too heavy for platitudes of gratitude?**

What do we do with the things we are not grateful for, that we wish were different? That list can feel longer than our list of thanks.

**How do we give thanks around our tables, knowing there are many with no table to join?**

How do we share thanks together, when our differences feel so painful, and the hurt feels too deep?

**How do we gratitude-journal our way out of this?**

This Thanksgiving, grant us imagination, compassion and safe spaces.

**Maybe gratitude is not just noticing what we have, but envisioning what could be.  
Maybe giving thanks is not a sign of our piety, but our longing for wholeness.  
Maybe gratitude can be a call not only to notice but to act.**

**When we give thanks for our families, may we welcome those with no family.  
When we find splendor in the fall colors, may we work to protect the earth.  
When we graze over lengthy meals, may we care for those who are hungry.**

May our gratitude be more than lip service to righteousness.

**May our thanksgiving widen God's table of grace.**

**Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE    May the peace of God be with you! **May the peace of God be with us all!**

ANTHEM

Every Day is a Day of Thanksgiving

*Leonard Burkes*

*Jessica Ballard-Lawrence, soloist*

Everyday is a day of thanksgiving / God's been so good to me / Everyday God's blessing me  
Everyday is a day of thanksgiving / Take the time to glorify the Lord today

Verse 1: I thank God for the moments when I worship God's name,  
I thank God for the sacrifice of praise.  
It's no mystery to say, how my God is everyday;  
making my way through clouds so dark, bringing His light into my heart.

Verse 2: Yes, there's pressures all around me when fighting Satan's descending powers,  
that never cease from trying to bring me down.  
But I just lift my hands to glory, believing in God's redemption story;  
thanking God for God's saving grace, as God gives me power just to win this race.

God keeps blessing me, blessing me; God opens the door that I might see, God's blessing me.

CONTEMPORARY READING Thanksgiving Lectionary Improv - Matthew 6:25-33 *Maren Tirabassi*

Therefore, do not worry about your turkey,  
**what you will eat, how much someone will drink,**  
**how the people around the table will behave,**  
 or about distractions ...

**who won't leave the football game.**

Is not life more than a Macy's Day Parade?

And those who gather, **however unruly, more than Black Friday shopping?**

Look at the birds of the air, they do not insist on "last year,"

**but join any formation traveling south,**

**certain that, if they fall, other wings will gather around them,**

**for every nest is valued by God, because that is what life is.**

Which of us can avoid worrying **about our lives and lives of those we love,**  
 about the future of grass and breath itself,

**about drought, flood, and storm, and the fear our climate will become an oven.**

Which of us can avoid worrying **about how our children will eat, will drink, will work?**

Look at the lilies of the field. **they grow without worry where they are planted**  
**and they spread from tiny roots to share the things God knows we all need.**

So set many places and watch your table widen, grateful that God knows what we need,  
**and teaches us to bake pies and cut for everyone a piece.**

REFLECTION

Rev. Heidi M. Weatherford

\*HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing  
 2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,  
 to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;  
 the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;  
 who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,  
 the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains,  
 by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.  
 the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

Harmony G E Am D

God's ban-ners are o'er us; pure light goes be-fore us,  
We too should be voic-ing our love and re-joic-ing;

G Em D A7 D

a pil-lar of fire shin-ing forth in the night:  
with glad ad-o-ra-tion, a song let us raise,

G D G Am D

till shad-ows have van-ished, all fear-ful-ness ban-ished,  
till all things now liv-ing u-nite in thanks-giv-ing:

G C G D G

as for-ward we trav-el from light in-to light.  
to God in the high-est, ho-san-na and praise!

Written for an easy-to-sing folk melody familiar in England as well as Wales, this 20th-century North American text bears many resemblances to both Psalm 148 and the traditional canticle *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* (Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord).

TEXT: Katherine K. Davis, 1939, alt.  
MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; harm. Gerald H. Knight, 20th cent.  
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company  
Music Harm. © Royal School of Church Music

ASH GROVE  
6.6.11.6.6.11.D

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response: **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Maori, from the *New Zealand Book of Common Prayer*)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

*Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Please pass the offering plate down the pew. When it gets to the end turn around and give it to the person immediately behind you.*

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

*enfleshed*

There is a Lakota phrase which translates to “all my relations” —offering language to the reality that each individual’s life is interwoven with every other life form. The Lakota give thanks not only for human relationships but also for their kinship with animals, plants, and the cosmos itself. With this deep wisdom, we gather our offerings today—grateful for ALL our relations.

## Offertory

### \*Doxology

*LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below. O praise God! Alleluia!  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts!  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!  
O praise God! Alleluia! O praise God! Alleluia! Allelu—ia!**

### \*BENEDICTION & PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING     A Thanksgiving Prayer: We Choose Gratitude

*Adapted from Grateful: The Subversive Power of Giving Thanks by Diana Butler Bass*

GOD, there are many days we do not feel grateful.

**When we are anxious or angry. When we feel alone. When we do not understand what is happening in the world or with our neighbors. When the news is bleak and confusing. When there are threats, injustice, violence, and war.**

We struggle to feel grateful.

**But this Thanksgiving, we choose gratitude.**

We choose to accept life as a gift from you, and as a gift from the unfolding work of all creation.

**We choose to be grateful for the earth from which our food comes; for the water that gives life; and for the air we all breathe.**

We choose to thank our ancestors, those who came before us, for their stories and struggles; we receive their wisdom as a continuing gift for today.

**We choose to see our families and friends with new eyes, accepting them for who they are.**

We are thankful for our homes, whether humble or grand.

**We choose to appreciate and care for our neighbors whatever our differences or how much we feel hurt or misunderstood by them.**

We choose to open our hearts to those who dwell among us in the shadows of uncertainty and fear, recognizing their full dignity and humanity.

**We choose to see the world as our shared commons, our home now and the legacy we will leave to the generations to come.**

God, this Thanksgiving, we do not give thanks.

**We choose it.**

We will make this choice of thanks with courage, knowing that it is humbling to say “thank you.”

**We choose to open ourselves to your sacred generosity, aware that we live in an unending circle of gratitude. We all are guests at your hospitable table around which gifts are passed and received.**

We will not let anything opposed to love take over this table.

**Instead of giving into fear, we embrace grace, love, and the gifts of life at this table. In this choosing, and in the sharing of this meal, we are strengthened to pass gratitude on to the world.**

Thus, with you, with all those gathered at this table, and with those at tables far distant, we pledge to make thanks.

**We ask you to strengthen us in this resolve.**

Here, now, and into the future. Around our family table. Around the table of our nation. Around the table of the earth.

**We choose thanks. Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

### Assisting in Today's Service

Liturgist, Leslie Crowley  
Director of Children's Education, Sara McHenry  
Organist, Andrew Woodruff

Pastor, Rev. Heidi Weatherford  
Director of Music, Dr. Alonza Lawrence  
Worship Techs, Josh Harris and Lara Hebert

### How to Contact Church Staff

All church staff may be contacted through the McKinley website at [www.mckinleycu.org](http://www.mckinleycu.org).

### How to Give

Online contributions and pledges are accepted at [tithely.com/give?c=2133263](http://tithely.com/give?c=2133263)  
or by mailing your donations to: McKinley Presbyterian Church, 410 E. Daniel St.,  
Champaign, IL 61820



### Coming this Week:

<b>Sun, Nov 24</b>	11:45 am	McKinley Thanksgiving Luncheon
<b>Mon Nov 25</b>	8:30-12:00pm	Thanksgiving basket delivery
	5:45 pm	McKinley Foundation Board
<b>Tues Nov 26</b>	1:00-3:00 pm	Garden Hills Food Pantry – packaging
	3:30-6:00 pm	Garden Hills Food Pantry – distribution
	5:45-6:15 pm	Garden Hill Food Pantry – clean up
<b>Nov 28 and 29</b>	All Day	Thanksgiving Holiday, Offices Closed
<b>Sat Nov 30</b>	1-2:30 pm	Student Food and Fellowship
<b>Sun Dec 1</b>	10:30 am	Sunday Worship, 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent, Hanging of the Greens

**Connection Articles Due Wednesday** Please submit your items for the newsletter by noon (CT) Wed, Nov 27.



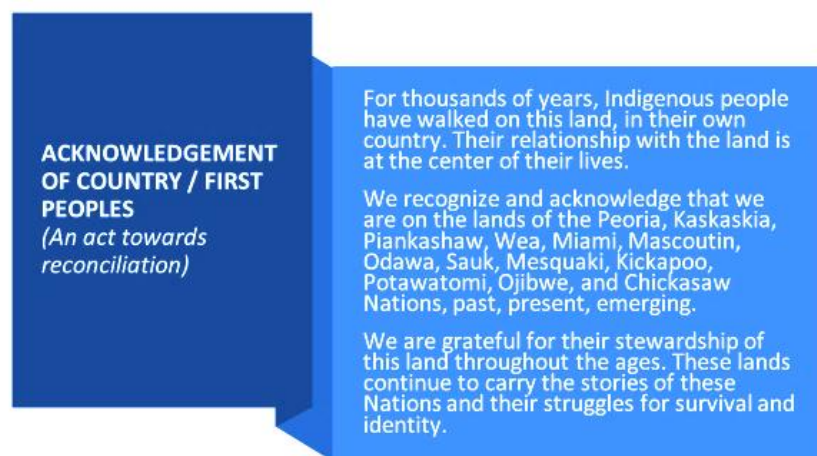
**Thanksgiving Noon Potluck** Plan to stay directly after worship this today for a traditional Thanksgiving meal in the Presby Dining Hall. Turkey, stuffing, a vegetable, and potatoes will be provided. Enter the Foundation through the main door off the patio of the foundation. An elevator is available to reach the upstairs dining hall.

**Condolences to Rev. Andy Sonneborn** Our sympathy goes out to Rev. Andy Sonneborn and his family following the death of Andy's father, Tom. From the family's comments: "Tom Sonneborn died on November 12 "...at his home in Springfield, Illinois at the age of 74 after a shockingly short battle with glioblastoma.... Today and every day, we will celebrate our dad. We ask that you do the same. Do something to help a neighbor. Watch an episode of Yellowstone or really any Kevin Costner movie (other than Waterworld ... Dad never got that one). Read a Hemingway book. Write a short story. Listen to old school 60s rock like Blind Faith and Traffic or some jazz like Miles Davis.... Keep pressure on authority. Go to a high school basketball game this winter. Have a cup of black coffee.... Be a student of history. Visit the Lincoln Museum if you are ever in Springfield. Donate to St. Judes or the Animal Protective League. Volunteer at a soup kitchen. Enjoy some homemade pasta sauce and a glass of wine. Most importantly, love unconditionally those around you."

**2024 Advent Blog** Rev. Connie Bandy and Barbara England welcome you to follow our blog throughout December. This Advent, we will look for hope in surprising places as we think about some of the stories from the Gospel of Luke. For each of the Sundays in Advent, we will provide a scripture reading, a brief reflection and prayer, and then some resources to help you think more deeply about the reading at your own pace. We will end this year's reflections with the Christmas story. Together let's see if we can discover where hope is waiting to bloom in this season and in our lives. Please email Barbara to subscribe to a Sunday email with the link or visit it at [spiritontheprairie.blogspot.com](http://spiritontheprairie.blogspot.com)

**Help Warm Our Community Friends** More than 40 years ago, the McKinley Mitten Tree began with a collection mittens and gloves for the Champaign Urbana Day Care that met in the Foundation basement. Men's winter socks were added when the Times Shelter for homeless community members met nightly for 16 years in the McKinley Church basement. Both groups have moved on to larger spaces, but McKinley continues to collect items each December to be donated to those in need of some warmth during the winter months.

On Sunday, December 15 during worship, the McKinley kids will be placing our donations under the tree in the sanctuary. Children's mittens and gloves and men's and women's warm socks and gloves are especially in demand. If you are unable to attend worship that day, your gifts may be dropped off at the main desk in the Foundation any time before December 15. Please help us continue this long-standing tradition!



**McKinley Presbyterian Church is a community of faith**  
**Offering genuine welcome,**  
**Working for reconciliation, and**  
**Daring to speak words of abundant hope to a world in pain.**

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