



*How  
great is  
thy goodness!*

PSALM 31:19

**Ithaca Community Thanksgiving Service**  
***Hosted by Ithaca First Presbyterian Church***

**November 24, 2019**

**6:00pm**

*\* indicates that the congregation may stand as they are able.*  
***Bold text*** indicates where the congregation joins in unison.

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude & Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Pastor Dave Perry

**\*Call to Worship** (responsive)

Pastor Dave Perry

This is a time for giving thanks;  
a time to be mindful of the good that encircles us.

**Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

Friends and family encourage and care,  
and this community shows us God's loving ways.

**Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

We find a home in God's creation  
and the earth gives us good food to make us grow.

**Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

The seasons change.  
Sunshine comes and goes,  
yet your loving care for us is eternal.

**Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

**\*Opening Prayer (unison)**

Pastor Dave Perry

**O God, in your Son Jesus Christ you richly bless us with all that we need: bread from the earth and the bread of heaven, which gives life to the world. Grant us one thing more: grateful hearts to sing your praise, in this world and the world to come. May our worship this evening be pleasing and acceptable in your sight, as we gather as a community to give thanks to you, Almighty God. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #551**

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

**Call to Confession**

Pastor Gary Simmons

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

**Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Pastor Gary Simmons

**Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth. Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing. Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our hands to share. May our feet touch lightly on the path we tread, and our footsteps be worthy of following, for they lead to you.**

**Silent Confession**

**Sung Response**

*Come and Fill Our Hearts*

sing twice

***Come and fill our hearts with your peace.***

***You alone, O Lord, are holy.***

***Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!***

**Assurance of Pardon**

Pastor Gary Simmons

Take comfort: we, and the whole world with us, are always embraced in Christ's love. In Christ, there is always enough.

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Pastor Gary Simmons

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Exchange words of peace and reconciliation with one another.*

**\*Sung Response**

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

***Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!***

***Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer of Illumination (unison)**

Pastor Chad Markwell

**Overwhelm us with Your Spirit, O God, that the words we hear will speak to our hearts as Your Word, made known to us in Christ the Lord. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

Colossians 3:12-17

Pastor Chad Markwell

**Sermon**

Pastor Christina Jensen

"Be Thankful People"

**\*Hymn #559**

*We Gather Together*

## WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

**Evening Offering**

Pastor Tom Whitesel

*100% of this evening's offering will go to support  
Love Inc. of Gratiot County.*

*Checks may be made payable to: Love Inc Gratiot County.*

**Offertory**

*A Harvest of Thanksgiving  
Combined Choirs*

Thornhill/Nordmeyer

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Pastor Tom Whitesel

**God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world, Amen.**

**\*Thanksgiving Litany**

Community Pastors

Let us give thanks to God, the God of all peoples of the earth. For the color and forms of Your creation and our place within it, we bring our thanks, good Lord:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

For our daily food, and for those whose work and skill bring Your good gifts to us, we bring our thanks, good Lord:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts; for insight and imagination, for the skills of research which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many; we bring our thanks, good Lord:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

For the light and shades of the changing seasons, and their variety and dependability; for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay; we bring our thanks, good Lord:

**Your mercy endures forever.**

For new hope and strength in our communities, especially in Your Church and among all You call to serve You, we bring our thanks, good Lord;

**Your mercy endures forever. Amen.**

**WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME**

**\*Hymn #555**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Christina Jensen

**\*Postlude**



**Love INC**  
**Love In the Name of Christ**

Tonight's offering will go to support  
Love INC of Gratiot County.

When one of our neighbors in need  
is referred to Love INC through either  
community churches, agencies, or self-referral,  
they are taken through a loving process of  
having their stories heard, and being connected  
with those who can help them in their need.

Love INC of Gratiot County is committed  
to making sure each individual client is cared for  
as a person, and not simply seen as their need.

Your support this evening will help Love INC of  
Gratiot County continue their important work in our county.

If you'd like more information,  
or would like to volunteer your time,  
please call 989-462-0676  
or email Mona Hirson at [MonaHirson@msn.com](mailto:MonaHirson@msn.com).

God bless you in the work you do.

**Worship Leaders This Evening:**

The Rev. Christina L. Jensen, Pastor  
*Ithaca First Presbyterian Church*

The Rev. Dave Perry, Pastor  
*Edgewood Church of God*

Pastor Chad Markwell, Youth Pastor  
*Oasis Community Church*

The Rev. Gary Simmons, Pastor  
*Ithaca United Methodist Church*

The Rev. Tom Whitesel, Pastor  
*Ithaca Church of God*

Mr. Bob Crist, Music Director  
*Ithaca First Presbyterian Church*

**Churches Participating in Worship This Evening:**

Ithaca First Presbyterian Church  
*218 E. Newark St.; 875-4437*

Edgewood Church of God  
*160 S. Barry Rd.; 875-3607*

Oasis Community Church  
*1250 E. Washington Rd.; 875-7080*

Ithaca United Methodist Church  
*327 E. Center St.; 875-4313*

Ithaca Church of God  
*624 E. Barber St.; 875-4177*