

*Please stand in body and/or spirit

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Words to Ponder: "The measurement of our commitment is not in how much we give, but in how much we hold back". "Our financial resources should serve the causes of Christ".

Prelude

Welcome, Acknowledgment of first-time visitors and Announcements

Introit "Sanctuary" Thompson & Scruggs Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship (Responsively)

Leader: The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

People: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.

Leader: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

People: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.

Leader: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

People: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. AMEN.

*Opening Hymn "Opening, I am thine, O Lord" #419

Opening Prayer (*Unison*)

Eternal God, we bow before you today in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us. Help us to remember your generosity, and to thank you for every good gift and every perfect gift that we enjoy and for your faithfulness in times of adversity. Help us to remember your sustaining presence at every moment of discouragement. Just as you are always faithful to us, help us to remember our responsibility to be faithful to you. As we make decisions about how to use the many gifts we have received from you, guide us by your Holy Spirit to be good stewards so that we will make the best use of those gifts for the sake of your kingdom. In strong and holy name of Jesus, our Example, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

Leader: Lord God, we confess to you our sin: those things which have hurt others and which have offended You.

People: Forgive us for not investing your gifts wisely. We have been

negligent with the time and energy you give us - often spending it all on ourselves while others have had to do more than their share of helping and caring. Silent prayer

Leader: We confess, O Lord, that through fear, greed, or ignorance, we have not always used in a faithful and responsible manner the wealth you give us.

People: Forgive us for being satisfied with sharing so little with those who are in need, while spending so much, not only on our needs, but also on our desires. Silent prayer.

Leader: We confess, O Lord, that we are prone to forget the purpose behind what you do for us. We forget that you judge us by what we do with your gifts.

People: Forgive us for when we have buried the talents and failed to work with all the things you give us.

Silent prayer of confession

Words of Assurance

Gracious God - forgive us. Touch us and make us whole. Amen

Anthem "All Things Bright and Beautiful" Rutter Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading: 1Peter 4:7-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Moment

(*Children go to Junior Church*)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Stewards of God's Grace" Rev. Rhonda R. Taylor

*Hymn "We all are one in Mission" See Insert

Pastoral Prayer

Stewardship Moment Pastor Rhonda and Sharon Minick

Offertory

*Doxology

#95

*Prayer of Dedication (*Responsive*)

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.

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

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Lord's Prayer

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us
from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn "A Charge to Keep I Have" #413

*Benediction

Let us go forth as workers together with God proclaiming the Good
News of Jesus. Let us go forth serving God and the people of God giving
evidence of Christ's love in all that we do. May our hearts and minds be
open, our hands and feet ready to impact our church, community, and
world as we generously share our time, talent, and money. Amen.

*Response "Bless Us Now" Frank Milnes
**Bless us now as we depart, Watch o'er us, God, while we're apart; Give
strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy house again.**

Amen

Postlude

Flowers today are from Liz Egan.

***The United Methodist Church
12 Commerce St.
Clinton, Connecticut
26th Sunday after Pentecost***



***Morning Worship
November 17, 2024
10:00 am***