Grace Presbyterian Church

Fort Wayne, IN – Nov. 8, 2026

Pledge Sunday

"As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." — Joshua 24:15

Service Notes: Prayer cards are available in your pews for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. You can give them to Sandy Garcia. We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in ***BOLD.*** **Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.*

Worship Volunteers: Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Garcia – Lay Leader: Jill Werling – Children's Message: Rachel Lilly – Ushers: Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler – Tech: Stacey Monnier & Bill Werling – Counters: Stacey Monnier & Bob Bausser – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude — *We Are An Offering* by Liles and Malan

Welcome — Rev. Sandy Garcia

***Call to Worship —**

Give thanks to the LORD, whose steadfast love endures forever.
We remember the ways God has led and sustained us.
Today we are invited to choose whom we will serve.
We will serve the LORD.
Come, let us worship with grateful hearts and willing lives.
We belong to God, and we offer ourselves in praise.

***Opening Hymn — #708 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"**

***Call to Confession —**

God has been faithful to us in every season, yet we do not always respond with trusting hearts. Confident in God's mercy, let us confess our sin together.

***Prayer of Confession —**

Faithful God, you have given us life, love, and gifts to share. Yet we confess that we sometimes hold tightly to what we have, forget your generosity, and hesitate to follow where you lead. We place our security in possessions instead of your promises. Forgive us. Renew our trust, awaken our gratitude, and teach us to offer our time, talents, and resources with joyful hearts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Time for silent confession

***Assurance of Pardon —**

God's mercy is not measured by what we give or achieve. In Jesus Christ, grace comes to us freely, and we are made new.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Responsive Hymn #583**

***Passing the Peace**

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

And also with you.

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Children's Message

Time for Music & Meditation

Prayer for Illumination

Generous God, open our ears to hear your Word and our hearts to receive it. As we remember your faithfulness, show us how to respond with courage, readiness, and love. By your Holy Spirit, guide us in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading — Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 p.368

1 Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

2 Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. 3 But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants.’”

14 “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! 17 It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. 18 And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”

19 Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. 20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign

gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you."

21 But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the LORD." 22 Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD." "Yes, we are witnesses," they replied.

23 "Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." 24 And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him." 25 On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.

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

Choir Anthem — #697 *"Take My Life"*

Gospel Reading — Matthew 25:1-13 p.1540

1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ 9 ‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

10 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ 12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

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

Message *More Than a Pledge*

***Affirmation of Faith:** *The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn of Response — #712 "As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought"**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Faithful and generous God, you have walked with your people through every generation. You have provided for us in times of plenty and sustained us in times of uncertainty. Today we give thanks for the gifts of this congregation: the hands that serve, the hearts that welcome, the prayers that sustain, and the love that reaches beyond these walls. *We ask Thee . . .*

Faithful God, teach us to serve with grateful hearts.

As we commit ourselves to the coming year, free us from fear and scarcity. Help us to discern wisely, give joyfully, and remember that everything we have is entrusted to our care. May our pledges reflect not simply what we give, but our willingness to participate in your work. *We ask Thee . . .*

Faithful God, teach us to serve with grateful hearts.

We pray for those who are weary, grieving, lonely, or facing difficult choices. Surround them with your peace and strengthen them with your love. Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors, and make Grace Presbyterian a place where all may find friendship, hope, and belonging. *We ask Thee . . .*

Faithful God, teach us to serve with grateful hearts.

We pray for our community and our world. Guide those entrusted with leadership, comfort those living with uncertainty, and strengthen those working for justice and peace. Teach us to be faithful witnesses to your love in all that we say and do. *We ask Thee . . .*

Faithful God, teach us to serve with grateful hearts.

We now lift before you the prayers of our congregation, both spoken aloud and held silently in our hearts.

[Invite prayers from the congregation.]

For the prayers spoken aloud, for those held quietly in our hearts, and for needs we do not yet know how to name, hear us, gracious God.

Gathering our prayers into one, we pray as Christ taught us, saying:

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.

Call to Offering – An Invitation to Reflection

As we prepare to receive our offering and pledge cards this morning, let us pause to remember the many gifts God has given us. Our families, friendships, church community, and opportunities to serve

are all reminders of God's generosity. We do not give to earn God's love. We give because we have already received it. Let us take a moment of silence to reflect on God's blessings and how we might share them in the coming year.

(Pause for 15–20 seconds.)

As the ushers come forward, you are invited to place your pledge cards in the offering plates along with your regular offerings. Let us give with grateful hearts, trusting God to use our gifts for the ministry we share.

Offertory — *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* by Beethoven

***Doxology — #606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

***Prayer of Dedication —**

Let us pray: **Generous and gracious God, before we ever offered anything to you, you offered us your love. You have blessed us with life, with community, with opportunities to serve, and with the gift of your abiding presence. Today, we bring our offerings and our commitments before you with grateful hearts. Bless these gifts and the intentions behind them. Guide us in using them wisely, faithfully, and compassionately. May they become instruments of your grace—bringing hope to the weary, welcome to the stranger, comfort to those who grieve, and love to our neighbors. Continue to root us deeply in your grace, that together we may grow in faith, generosity, and service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Announcements

***Closing Hymn — #711 "Lord of All Good"**

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude — *O Worship the King* by Haydn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Mission Project: MOE is now collecting donations of food and cash for East Wayne Street Center Thanksgiving dinners for their food bank clients. This ministry has been serving the central city since 1965; they focus on strengthening families and individuals in order to help them become self-sufficient. The center has gratefully received our help for many years. The items needed are instant potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy, canned fruits and vegetables, cranberry sauce, Jell-o,and muffin mixes.

Cash donations are accepted to help purchase turkeys. Please make checks out to Grace Presbyterian Church and place in offering plate. Please place all food donations in the Narthex by November 16th.

Advent Poinsettias: We are taking orders for Advent poinsettias. Each year members purchase these to use as decorations for our sanctuary's Christmas season. Then, after Christmas day, they go home with the purchaser (or are left for Grace office decorations). Order forms are in the narthex. Small flowers are $12 & large flowers are $25. Due date for forms and money November 22nd.

Annual Christmas Family: Our annual giving opportunity to bless a family in need is on us. Check out the narthex for gift tags and

instructions for giving are in the narthex. Gifts are due back here, in the narthex, November 29th. Please keep tags with the gifts.

Hanging of the Greens: Following the service on November 22nd, we'll be putting up our Advent decorations. Everyone is invited to help.

Session Meets Next Sunday: If you have a report, please get it to the office by Thursday, November 12th, by 10 AM.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers of Peace for the family of Barbara Springer
- Prayers of Peace for the family of
- Recovery and patience for Judy Bellis
- Peace and strength for Bruce Barnet during his cancer treatment.
- Your continued presence and healing for Sue.
- Healing for Jenny, JoAnn's niece, in her cancer treatment.
- Prayers of gratitude for those who participated in our Halloween event.

Birthdays

Nancy Current – November 9
Gabrielle Monnier – November 11
Eleena Allen – November 13

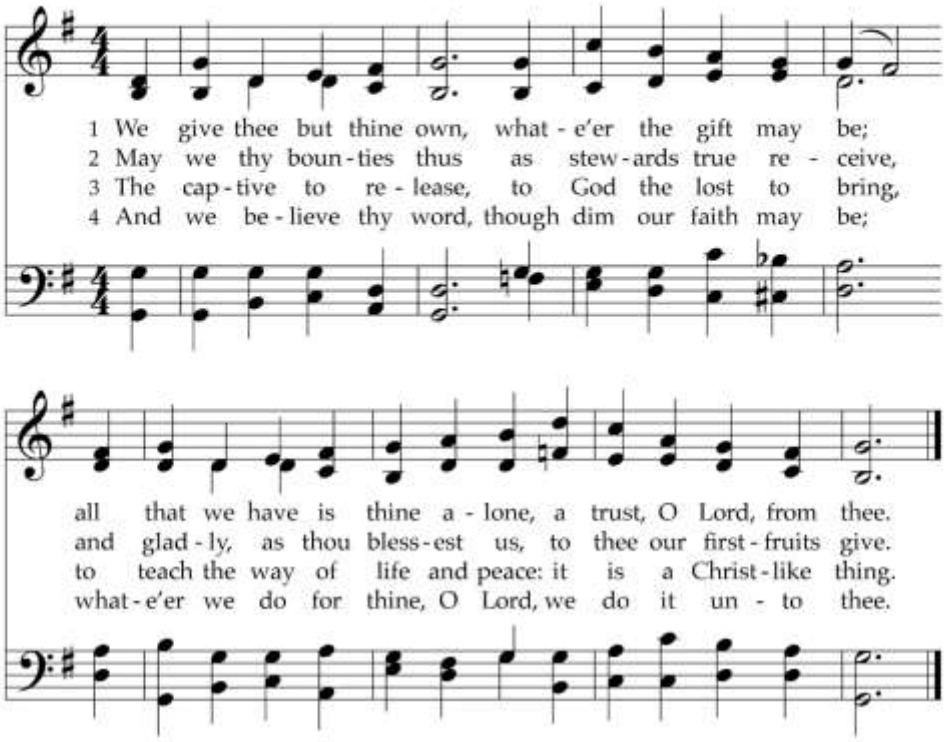
Anniversaries

Tom & Pam Callahan
November 10, 2017

Worship Volunteers for November 15, 2026

Lay Leader – Volunteer
Children's Message – Cathy German
Ushers – Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler
Technology – Stacey Monnier & Bill Werling
Counters – Stacey Monnier & Bob Bausser

We Give Thee but Thine Own 708
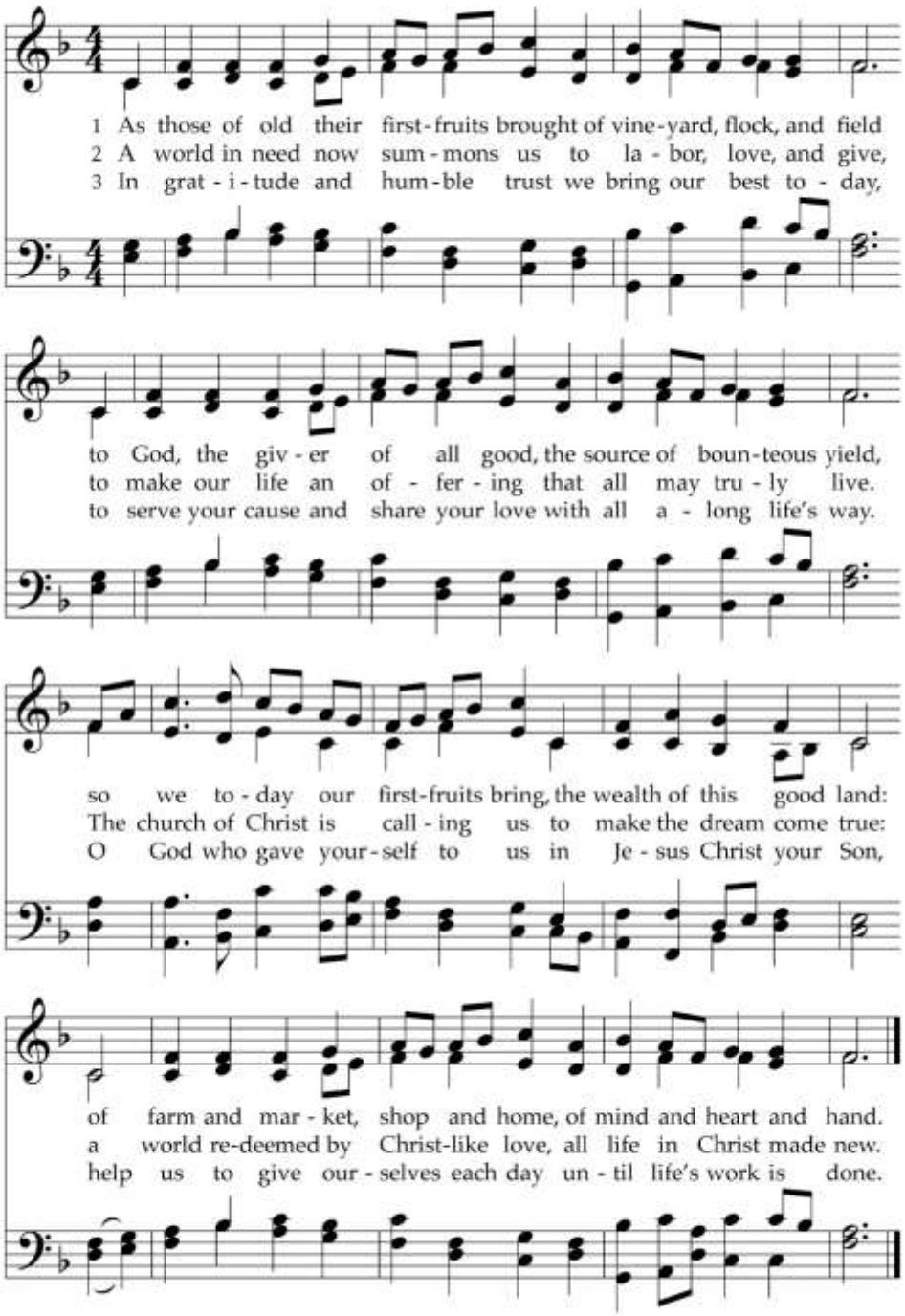


Each successive stanza here expands the implications of the familiar affirmation of the first one. Much more than a concern with money, stewardship shapes our relationship with God and with other people. Despite this tune's name, no source has been found in Schumann's works.

TEXT: William Walsham How, c. 1858
MUSIC: Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis*, 1850

SCHUMANN
SM

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought 712
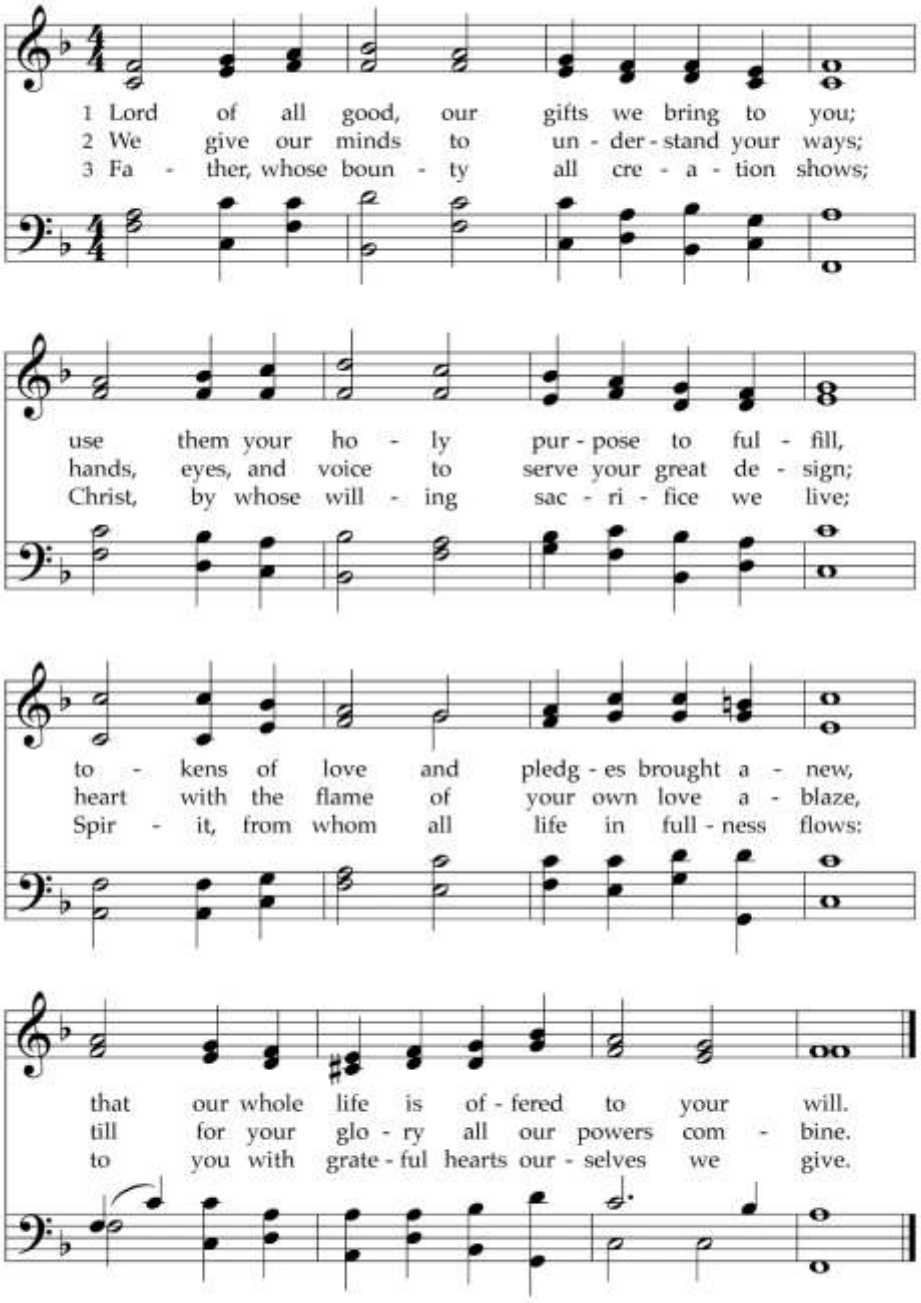


This text by a Presbyterian pastor in California expresses the conviction that being a good steward is an essential part of the Christian life, for self-giving is God's own nature. The tune is named for the village in Surrey where the arranger collected this tune in 1903.

TEXT: Frank von Christierson, 1960, alt.
MUSIC: English folk melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
FOREST GREEN
CMD

Text © 1961, ren.1989 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

711 Lord of All Good



A pastor wrote this text for a Christmas fair, which perhaps added echoes to the words "gifts" and "give" in the first two stanzas. But no hints are needed to grasp the full meaning of this hymn's final line. The text is set to a shortened form of a widely used Genevan tune.

TEXT: Albert F. Bayly, 1962, alt.
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551; adapt. from GENEVAN 124
Text © 1962 Oxford University Press

TOULON
10.10.10.10

Songs reprinted with permission under CCLI 1292718 or ONE LICENSE A-731346.