



**Rutherfordton Community  
Thanksgiving Service**

**Sunday, November 22, 2020  
An Online Worship Experience  
Presented by the Rutherfordton Ministerial Alliance**

**Welcome**

**Dr. Don Scofield**

**Welcome from the Rutherfordton Ministerial Alliance**

**Rev. Tim Marsh**

**Call to Worship**

**Rev. Andrea Purcell**

*You are holy, Lord, the only God  
and your deeds are wonderful.*

*You are strong.*

*You are great.*

*You are the Most High,*

*You are almighty.*

*You, holy Father, are*

*King of heaven and earth.*

*You are Three and One,*

*Lord God, all good.*

*You are good, all Good, supreme Good,*

*Lord God, living and true.*

*You are love,*

*You are wisdom.*

*You are humility,*

*You are endurance.*

*You are rest,*

*You are peace.*

*You are joy and gladness.*

*You are justice and moderation.*

*You are all our riches,*

*And you suffice for us.*

*You are beauty.*

*You are gentleness.*

*You are our protector,*

*You are our guardian and defender.*

*You are courage.*

*You are our haven and our hope.*

*You are our faith,*

*Our great consolation.*

*You are eternal life,*

*Great and wonderful Lord,*

*God almighty,*

*Merciful Savior.*

(St. Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226 in *The Oxford Book of Prayer*, p. 63)

**Invocation**

**Rev. Sam Burleson**

**Special Music**

**Rutherfordton Presbyterian Handbell Choir**  
**“For the Beauty of the Earth”**  
**Arranged by David Christensen**

**A Liturgy for Thanksgiving**

**Rev. Don Ledbetter**

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,  
so we lift our hearts up to you, God,  
in praise and thanksgiving.*

*As we count our blessings, and acknowledge your goodness,  
our hearts go out to those who do not have,  
and who are in need.*

*We thank you for plentiful harvests and full refrigerators  
and ask that you supply the needs of those who are hungry.*

*We thank you for jobs that provide for our families  
and supply the needs of our society,  
and pray that you would care for those who have no work,  
or the dignity and purpose that it brings.*

*We thank you for opportunities and choices,  
for meaning and challenges,  
and pray that you would give a sense of purpose  
to those who feel trapped.*

*We thank you for family and friends who love and care for us  
and pray that you would befriend those who are alone.*

*The abundance of the harvest  
is a symbol of the abundance of your love in our lives.  
May we live in a spirit of gratitude to you  
and generosity to our neighbor.*

*Loving God, in this season and all year long,  
give to us the gift of a thankful heart,  
so that we may acknowledge you as the giver  
of all that is good in our lives  
In the name of Jesus we ask it. Amen.*

(<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/08/litany-for-thanksgiving.html>)

**The Written Word**

**Rev. Erin Burleson**

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15, NRSV**

*<sup>6</sup> The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup> for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup> Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, <sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

**The Spoken Word**

**Rev. Bruce Walker**

**"Holy Extravagance"**

**Response to the Word**

**Rev. Arrie Melvin**

*Today, O Lord, I yield myself to you.  
May your will be my delight today.  
May you way have perfect sway in me.  
May your love be the pattern of my living.*

*I surrender to you  
    my hopes,  
    my dreams,  
    my ambitions.  
Do with them what you will, when you will, as you will.*

*I place into your loving care  
    my family,  
    my friends,  
    my future.  
Care for them with a care that I can never give.*

*I release into your hands  
    my need for control  
    my craving for status,  
    my fear of obscurity.  
Eradicate the evil, purify the good, and establish your kingdom on earth.*

*For Jesus' sake,*

*Amen.*

(Richard Foster, *Prayers from the Heart*, p. 24)

**Special Music**

**Rutherfordton Presbyterian Handbell Choir**  
**“We Gather Together”**  
**Arranged by Matthew Prins**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Dr. In-Yong Lee**

*We are your people*

*We come with...trembling lips, needy hands, fallen faces, quiet in despair.*

*Because we do not have what we need, by ourselves – to make a future. And so we ask.*

*And you give! Generously, abundantly, inexplicably.*

*You give more than we ask or think or need,*

*enough for all our futures,*

*enough for joy,*

*enough for well-being beyond our trembling neediness.*

*You give...and we receive.*

*We receive and sometimes we covet and possess.*

*We receive and imagine it is our purchase.*

*We receive your good gifts like property.*

*We receive and want more.*

*You give...and we receive...*

*Sometimes we only thank in amazement,*

*Sometimes we yield in gratitude.*

*Sometimes we turn our joy into sacrifice and give back.*

*Sometimes we become more fully yours*

*in obedience and gladness.*

*And now is some such sometime. We pray in thanks. Amen.*

(Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*, p. 134)

**Benediction**

**Dr. Don Scofield**

*“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace!”*

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!**

**Rutherfordton Ministerial Alliance Members:**

Rev. Erin Burleson, United Methodist Minister  
Rev. Sam Burleson, Pastor, Salem United Methodist Church, Bostic  
Rev. Reginald Coffey, Pastor, St. John's AME Zion, Rutherfordton  
Rev. Connie Jenson, Retired Episcopal Minister  
Rev. Don Ledbetter, Retired Chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Educator  
Rev. Dr. In-Yong Lee, Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Rutherfordton  
Rev. Tim Marsh, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Rutherfordton  
Rev. Arrie Melvin, Pastor, Russell Tabernacle CME, Spindale  
Rev. Lisa Moore, Pastor, Pleasant Grove UMC and Wells Spring UMC, Forest City  
Rev. Keys Pendleton, Pastor, Shiloh UMC and First UMC, Sunshine  
Rev. Andrea Purcell, Pastor, Matthew's Chapel AME Zion, Rutherfordton  
Rev. Dr. Don Scofield, Pastor, Rutherfordton Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Dr. Keith Stephenson, Pastor, Second Baptist Church, Rutherfordton  
Rev. Bruce Walker, Interim Rector, St. Francis Episcopal Church

**Resources for Worship**

*2000 Years of Prayer*, ed. Michael Counsell, Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 1999.  
*Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*, ed. Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, Enuma Okoro, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.  
Brueggemann, Walter. *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.  
Foster, Richard. *Prayers from the Heart*. New York: HarperOne, 1994.  
Hauerwas, Stanley. *Prayers Plainly Spoken*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 1999.  
Wells, Sam and Abigail Kocher. *Shaping the Prayers of the People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014.  
*The Oxford Book of Prayer*, ed. George Appleton. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.  
*The Book of Common Prayer*. New York: Church Publishing, Inc., 2007.  
*The Abingdon Worship Annual*, Mary J. Sciffres and B. J. Beu, ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.