

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SOUNDING THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Morning Has Broken*

Pianist Terry Heller

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 90)

Holy One, you have been our God from generation to generation. Before the universe exploded and the earth was without form, you have been with us. .

Creator, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

We enter your presence to worship and praise your holy name.

Mighty One, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Teach us to count the days with joy and appreciation for all your marvelous works and steadfast love.

Everlasting God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

*OPENING HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God*

1. *Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

2. *O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!*

3. *All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
The Son and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

*GATHERING PRAYER with WORDS OF CONFESSION

Generous God, You pour your Spirit into us. You bless us with Your love. In your presence, there is fullness of joy, comfort for those in despair, and peace in the midst of chaos and confusion. You do not abandon us in time of need or of celebration. We turn toward You

now seeking to receive Your message, to give You honor, and to commune in Your presence. Help us seek wisdom and clarity, compassion and presence, hope and peace today, tomorrow and always. We pray this in Your most merciful name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*PRAYER RESPONSE

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents

SERMON & STORY "For It Is as if..."

*HYMN OF REFLECTION *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

1 *God, whose giving knows no ending,
From your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door,
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Off'ring up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.*

2 *Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at Your throne.*

3 *Treasure, too, You have entrusted,
Gain through pow'rs Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.*

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE MORNING OFFERING

*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ and Spirit one.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, we bring the gifts of ourselves and our abundance.
**Magnify and multiply these offerings to meet the needs before us.
Continue to cultivate the spirit of generosity among us and make us
good stewards as we allocate the use of these gifts in your name.
Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN** *Songs of Thankfulness*

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise

*Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,
God revealed by guiding star
to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem,
in your birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to you addressed,
God in Christ made manifest.*

*2. Manifest on mountain height,
shining in resplendent light,
where disciples filled with awe
your transfigured glory saw;
from that place you went with them
steadfast to Jerusalem;
cross and Easter day attest
God in Christ made manifest.*

*3. Grant us grace to see you, Lord,
mirrored in your holy word;
may we imitate you still
and obey your perfect will,
that we like to you may be,
at your great Epiphany:
may your glory be confessed,
God in Christ made manifest.*

***BENEDICTION**

**Please stand if you are able.*

We remember in our prayers: Tiffany Beaucage, Marie Cooper, Ruth Bryant, Ellen Keefe, Gary Spurgat, Beverly Parsons, Rose Young, Poppy Truchon, Virginia and Carroll Chubbuck, Amy Poole, Joe Dee, Kathleen Grigg, George & Pat Greene, Jeff & Jeanne Sewall, Carol & Eric Johnsen, the Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgecomb Green.

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Edgecomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

*"To bring together our communities in spirituality and loving service
to humankind."*



November 19, 2023

Twenty Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

"God is still speaking"



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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