TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

November 19, 2023, 9:30 AM THE REV. RICHARD G. REED



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

-WE GATHER AS GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE – STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

During the month of November, we observe and honor Native American Heritage Month. Today we celebrate by including a Call to Worship and Benediction written by Native American United Methodists.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, all who have gathered to worship God together – those here in person, and those live-streaming with us on ZOOM. Are there any **BRIEF** announcements?

PRELUDE "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" George

George Windsor

GREETING

Celebrant: Every day is a day for thanks – giving to God. And this day we set apart to especially remember God's great care, and the love of our families, and the rich bounty that is all around us. So serve God with Gladness! Come before God's presence with singing! Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise! Give thanks and bless God's holy name!

CENTERING CHORUS

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

His mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning.

Great is thy faithfulness, O Lord, Great is thy faithfulness.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeff Ramsland, Mohawk

Liturgist: Creator made all that is, and proclaimed that 'it is good.'

People: Creator, help us to discover in all You have made in Nature, the good wisdom about the interconnectedness of all things, about balance and about living in harmony.

L: We are not above nature, we are part of Creation; we live by the same laws as all of nature, and need to learn from what God has made.

P: Creator, help us discover the power that lies in the wisdom and understanding of our role in the Great Mystery, and in honoring every living thing as a teacher.

ALL: Creator God, may our spirits be in harmony with Yours as we gather in Your worship!

PRAYER

Liturgist: Let us pray.

Bounteous God, you have lavished your finest gifts on each one of us. We thank you for the many ways in which you have blessed our lives; with love, hope, friends, our church, and so many other things that we cherish. Help us be a blessing to others that they may come to know you and rejoice in your love. Give us hearts of courage and confidence to step out into the world in service, bringing hope where there is doubt, peace where there is strife, love where there is discord. These things we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- 1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens his will to make known; The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.
- 2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; So from the beginning the fight we were winning; Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!
- 3. We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, And pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

PASSING THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us share signs and words of welcome and peace with one another!

SPECIAL MUSIC "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" George Windsor Kay Crosley Bell Choir – Laura Rankin, Director

-WE OPEN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO THE WORD-

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Liturgist: A reading from the book of Deuteronomy, which means, "Second Law." The people are reminded that all good gifts come from God.

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

"Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes that I am commanding

you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them and when your herds and flocks have multiplied and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock. He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Here ends the reading.

PSALTER Psalm 65 #789

R Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices.

Liturgist: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, People: and to you shall vows be performed,

L: To you who hear prayer all flesh shall come because of their sins.

P: When our transgressions prevail over us, you forgive them.

L: Blessed are those whom you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts!

P: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple!

L: By dread deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;

P: who is the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of the farthest seas; who by your strength established the mountains, being girded with might;

L: who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples;

so that those who dwell at earth's farthest bounds are afraid at your signs;

P: you make the morning and the evening resound with joy. R

L: You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it;

P: the river of God is full of water; you provide its grain, for so you have prepared it.

L: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

P: You crown the year with your bounty; the tracks of your chariot drip with fatness.

L: The pastures of the wilderness drip, the hills gird themselves with joy,

P: the meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain; they shout and sing together for joy.

SECOND LESSON Second Corinthians 9:6-15

Liturgist: A reading from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Church at Corinth in which he encourages thankfulness and generosity.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 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. As it is written,

"He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

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. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 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 partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Here ends the reading.

**GLORIA PATRI #70

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.

**THE GOSPEL

+ Luke 17:11-19+

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Celebrant: This is the Word of God. **People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

**RESPONSE

"Let All Things Now Living"

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
 To God the creator triumphantly raise.
 Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
 Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
 His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,
 A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
 Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
 As forward we travel from light into light.

2. God's law he enforces, the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!

- WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER -

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (using "Sins")

Bidding: We give you thanks, O God; **Response:** and bless your name for ever.

Celebrant: God of Creation, God of Wonder, hear this offering of prayer and praise as a gift from our thankful hearts as we say:

We give you thanks, O God; and bless your name for ever.

Liturgist: We thank you for the wonders all around us. Thank you for the shifting of the seasons, for the smell of dry air and dry leaves, for the cool breeze and the gentle flurries in the air, for the warmth of sun and the warmth of hearth and home.

We give you thanks, O God; and bless your name for ever.

We thank you God for one another – for the joys and struggles of relationships that nurture us and help us to grow. We thank you for our friends and loved ones, for those who loved us and who have passed, for new friends and new relatives and new life all around us.

We give you thanks, O God; and bless your name for ever.

God, we thank you for your eternal presence in our midst and for the good news of your deep abiding love for all of creation. We thank you that salvation is not for us alone, but also for the world which you have created. Make us cocreators and co-saviors as we seek to live more gently with our world and help heal it of the harm we have done.

We give you thanks, O God; and bless your name for ever.

We pray for peace and justice throughout the world, and especially for the people of Ukraine, the Israelis, the Palestinians, and the Kurdish people, that those driven to prejudice and hate, violence and terrorism against them may find new paths to walk that will bring them peace and compassion, welcome and security.

We give you thanks, O God; and bless your name for ever.

Even as we give thanks, we lift up the concerns that burden us this day. We pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit and for all who provide care for the needs of others. We pray for the lonely and the despairing...for those who struggle with addiction...for those who feel trapped in situations of

abuse...for those who are making difficult decisions in life. We ask your peace and blessing on all those we have named in this place today and all whose names and circumstances we lift to you now in the silence.

We give you thanks, O God; and bless your name for ever.

We pray for your church, O God, and its mission in the world. Give to this faith community a passion for ministry to our neighbors in Tully and nearby and around the world. Help us see that we already have the resources we need for the mission to which we are called. Open our eyes to the opportunities to share your love, your grace, your welcome.

We give you thanks, O God; and bless your name for ever.

Celebrant: Bless all of your children God, and pour your Spirit upon us, bringing healing, comfort and strength wherever it is needed. All this we ask in the name of the One who calls us forward in faith, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen."

CHORAL ANTHEM

"All Good Gifts"

Eugene Butler

Laura Currie Chancel Choir

-WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD-

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Celebrant: We are a blessed people. In this season of Thanksgiving, it is good that we recall God's many gifts in our lives, and the grace which God has given us to help us use them all for good; for the gifts of God are many and the needs of many are great. So let us bring forth our tithes and offerings.

**DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God, above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Word, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Celebrant: Give us thankful hearts, O God, for your grace to us in life and health and strength. Let these gifts of your bounty and of our hands be used to glorify you now and in your church's work forever, in Christ's name. Amen.

- WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS -

**HYMN

"We Plow The Fields And Scatter"

Insert

BENEDICTION

Justin Matthew Phillips, Cherokee/Ponca

Celebrant: Let us pray this benediction together.

Dear God,

Look out for us today as we travel into the unknown. Stand by us and point us in the right direction as we look for answers. Bless our minds so that our thoughts can render good actions to give to the world. We trust your judgment just like you trust ours...thank you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Celebrant: Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord! **People: Amen. Thanks be to God!** (Please be seated)

**CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Bless This House"

Arr. Martin

Laura Currie Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE "We Gather Together" Joel Raney

Thoughts to Ponder After Worship:

- In what ways do we take for granted the bounty that is around us?
- Do you pause to give thanks to God that you have plenty to eat?
- What are your prayers for the leaders of our nation and of the world? In what ways are they different or the same as last year?
- What makes you worry? How can we encourage one another as we seek to rely on God for help?

^{**}Indicates to rise if you are able

566 We Plow the Fields, and Scatter

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. James 1:17

