

**Service of Worship**  
**Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ**

Giving Sunday

November 19, 2023

Congregation responses are in **bold type**.

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude *“We Gather Together”*

Lighting of the Candles

Words of Welcome and Announcements Wilson Boveland

Introit *“I Will Bless Thee, O Lord”* Esther Watanabe

\*Call to Worship Norman Robinson

Lift up your eyes, to behold our God, who is among us.

**We lift up our hearts, to sense God’s presence and power with us.**

Lift up your spirits, and allow God to make a difference in your life.

**Let us worship the Lord our God!**

\*The Opening Hymn *“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”* AAHH #194

**\*Invocation**

**O Lord, we lift up our eyes to see Your Goodness radiated in the love and compassion of this community, gathered in the name of Jesus. We lift up our eyes to see Your mercy, which showers us with grace and renews us again and again. We lift up our eyes to behold Your glory and to worship You with uninterrupted praise. Amen.**

The Anthem *“Song of Thanksgiving”* Malcolm Archer

The Scripture Readings

The Psalter

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

The Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30 (*The Message*)

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

Children’s Time (All children are invited to come forward as all sing) Pastor Brockett

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.**

**Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:**

**This is where children belong.**

Call to Reconciliation

When we remember all the mistakes we have made, all the careless words we have spoken, all the contempt we have given to those around us, we have trouble looking God in the eye. But God gazes at us with mercy and love, waiting to forgive us, even as we hesitate to speak of the brokenness of our hearts. Join me as we pray, saying,

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

**Again, we must confess, Master of the Universe, our struggles to be faithful disciples. Entrusted with all Your gifts, we become fearful once again of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others. Invited to dance in the light of Your love, we stand against the wall once again, keeping company with our old friend, sin. Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves once again, with scorn for the poor choices they make.**

**Have mercy, Journeying God, have mercy on us. Once again, open our eyes to Your kingdom in our midst, so we might discover that Your day of hope and grace has already come in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon

This is the good news: God intends for us to find life, to embrace hope, to receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Servant.

**The end of our journey is not rejection and emptiness, but the fullness of grace and hope in our God. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

\*Pulpit Hymn *“Let All Things Now Living”* TFWS #2008

Sermon *“The Danger of Playing it Safe”* Rev. Philip K. Brockett

\*The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Call to Communion

The Words of Institution

The Distribution of the Bread and Cup

*If you are watching online, please use whatever elements you have available.*

**All are welcome at the table!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer

The Offering

Offertory Sentence

Psalm 103:2

*“...Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all His benefits.”*

Offertory

*“Ground” in C Minor*

Henry Purcell

Doxology

*“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

AAHH #651

Prayer of Dedication

