



Thornbury, Ontario
Grace United Church
Bold. Nurturing. Liberal. Christian.

Sunday,

October 12, 2025

“Unmediated Thanksgiving”

Find this service at www.graceunitedthornbury.ca/live

Leading us today in Worship:

Worship Leader: (Rev.) John Lougheed

Director of Music: Dr. Christopher Burton

Lay Reader: Shirley Woolner

Leader: regular font ~ All: bold font ~ Sung words: bold italics.

Asterisk * Indicates when the congregation may stand if able.

We Gather Together in Community

PRELUDE:

Some Favourite Thanksgiving Hymns

WELCOME:

“A Stewardship Second:”

*Gratitude and thanksgiving are fundamental to our life as
Christians. Remember to give, and to give thanks.*

LIGHTING the CHRIST CANDLE:

With grateful hearts we light this candle,
so that, with our hearts full of love and light
we might enter into the spirit of thanksgiving with
joy.

May it be so!

SONG: **MV #79 “Spirit, Open my Heart”**

(Refrain, Verse 2, Refrain)

Refrain:

***Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.***

***2. Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.***

Refrain:

***Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.***

OUR COMMITMENT to SAFER SPACE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the LAND:

We believe all people are made in the image of God and are entitled to dignity and respect. At Grace United Church we try to offer a safer, inclusive and generous space for all who are seeking a faith community. We offer full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, all races, ages and abilities in the life and work of the ministry.

Grace United Church is situated on the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. We acknowledge that they are the first stewards of this land and we respect their histories and past and present cultures. We will work to recognize and remove barriers to reconciliation.

CALL to WORSHIP:

**We gather this Thanksgiving Sunday,
with much for which to be thankful; mindful of the needs
of others, and needful of the minds of others.**

To sing and pray, ponder and look ahead, together.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN: VU#227 "For the Fruit of All Creation"**

**1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.**

**For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.**

**2 In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God**

OPENING PRAYER:

Generous God, in this Season of Harvest, we can see your bounty all around us. From the first colours in the trees, to the last corn stocks of the Fall. For some of us it a time of gathering together, for others a time of remembering.

And for others of us, it is both. Be present to us, in the knowledge of your love.

Our Gracious and Loving God, we come to worship with open hearts, knowing that sometimes we fall short of your best intentions for us. As we reflect on some of those times, and your grace – freely given – hear us now in these silent prayers ...

(Silent Prayer)

WORDS of ASSURANCE:

Jesus is remembered for saying: "Come to me, all you that are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart."
(Matthew 11: 28-30)

***HYMN: VU #516 "Come, You Thankful People, Come"**

- 1 ***Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home!***

- 2 ***All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.***

- 3 ***For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take this harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offences purge away;
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.***

4 **Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified,
in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.**

Theme Conversation: “Singing the money to the front”

We Listen Together

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Contemporary English Version

Moses said to Israel:

The LORD is giving you the land, and soon you will conquer it, settle down, and plant crops. And when you begin harvesting each of your crops, the very first things you pick must be put in a basket. Take them to the place where the LORD your God chooses to be worshiped, and tell the priest, “Long ago the LORD our God promised our ancestors that he would give us this land. And today, I thank him for keeping his promise and giving me a share of the land.”

The priest will take the basket and set it in front of the LORD's altar. Then, standing there in front of the place of worship, you must pray:
My ancestor was homeless,
an Aramean who went to live
in Egypt.
There were only a few

in his family then,
but they became great
and powerful,
a nation of many people.
The Egyptians were cruel
and had no pity on us.
They mistreated our people
and forced us into slavery.
We called out for help
to you, the LORD God
of our ancestors.
You heard our cries;
you knew we were in trouble
and abused.
Then you terrified the Egyptians
with your mighty miracles
and rescued us from Egypt.
You brought us here
and gave us this land
rich with milk and honey.
Now, LORD, I bring to you
the best of the crops
that you have given me.

After you say these things, place the basket in front of
the LORD's altar and bow down to worship him.

Then you and your family must celebrate by eating a
meal at the place of worship to thank the LORD your God
for giving you such a good harvest. And remember to
invite the Levites and the foreigners who live in your town.

RESPONSE:

These words from scripture are meant to guide us, nurture
us, and teach us.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM:

"I Will Give Jubilant Thanks"

by J. Paul Williams & Music by Michael Barrett

SERMON: "Unmediated thanks"

***HYMN:** VU#520 "We Plough the Fields and Scatter"

*1. We plough the fields and scatter
 the good seed on the land,
 but it is fed and watered
 by your almighty hand:
 you send the snow in winter,
 the warmth to swell the grain,
 the breezes and the sunshine,
 and soft refreshing rain.*

Refrain:

*All good gifts around us
 are sent from heaven above;
 we thank you, God, O holy God,
 for all your love.*

*2. You only are the Maker
 of all things near and far;
 you paint the wayside flower,
 you light the evening star;
 the winds and waves obey you;
 by you the birds are fed;
 much more to us, your children,
 you give our daily bread.*

Refrain:

*All good gifts around us
 are sent from heaven above;
 we thank you, God, O holy God,
 for all your love.*

3. We thank you then, O Maker,

*for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
accept the gifts we to offer
for all your love imparts,
and, what from us you long for,:
our humble, thankful hearts.*

Refrain:

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.*

We Respond to God's Word

INVITATION to the OFFERING:

In cultures all over the world, there are festivals when the harvest comes in. Times of plenty are celebrated and shared. Today is our turn. Together, we have so much. Let us share and give thanks for what God has given and rejoice in God's abundance.

PRAYER of DEDICATION of OUR OFFERINGS:

Abundant God, in this season of celebrating and sharing, when we learn how little it takes to be content, we will learn to share more. Receive these offerings along with our thanks. Amen.

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Mail: Grace UC, 140 Bruce St. S. PO Box 219, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0
or *Offering Plate at the back of the sanctuary.*

Tap your debit card at the door of the church, or ***Donate to Grace United Church Thornbury through CanadaHelps.org***. Our account is set up with them now and it is easy to register. Tax receipts are given automatically at the time of giving.

Care, Prayer, Share

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE :

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (VU 910)

What's up at Grace?

We Go Out to Serve

***HYMN:** MV #185 "Ev'ry Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving"

***Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving,
God, you've been so good to me.
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.
Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
I will glorify you, O my Lord, today!***

Repeat

***You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
You opened the door that I might see,
you're blessing me.
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing
me.
I will glorify you, O my Lord, today!***

***COMMISSIONING:**

***SUNG BENEDICTION:** "Go Now In Peace"

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.***

**Go now in love, and show you believe.
 Reach out to others so all the world can see.
 God will be there, * within, around, above.
 Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
 Amen, amen, amen.**

* alternate words: watching from above

POSTLUDE:

For the Beauty of The Earth - J. Rutter,
 adapted by C. Burton

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-**Lighting the Christ Candle Prayer:** written by Rev. John G. Smith

-**Call to Worship, Opening Prayer and other prayers:** written by Rev John Loughheed

-**Words of Assurance:** from Matthew 11: 28-30

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Prelude: Some Favourite Thanksgiving Hymns

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Postlude: "For the Beauty of The Earth."- J. Rutter, adapted by C. Burton

