

Thanksgiving Day



Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church

November 25, 2021

Welcome to this morning's service of thanksgiving! Today we acknowledge that the past months have been filled with reasons to celebrate as well as grief and anxieties. We will use Psalm 46 to help us reflect on our blessings and our assurance of God's steadfast love.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND ASSURANCE

Prelude of Praise and Thanksgiving Karen Unruh
Siciliano ~J.S. Bach
Sicilienne ~Poot Sherie Klassen, flute
We Plow the Field and Scatter ~Powell
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow ~Burkhardt

Welcome Pastor Caleb Yoder

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Based on Psalm 46)

All: *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

Leader: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

People: *though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

People: *God is in the midst of the city, it shall not be moved;*

Leader: God will help it when the morning dawns.

People: *The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.*

Leader: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

People: *Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolation he has brought on the earth;*

Leader: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

People: *"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."*

Leader: Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.

All: *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

Invocation

***Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving**

Come Away from Rush and Hurry VT 9
God of Our Strength VT 47

Scripture Reading Psalm 46:1-4

Reflection "...we will not fear" Steve Banman

Hymn of Response *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* VT 421

Scripture Reading Psalm 46:5-7

Reflection "The nations are in an uproar" Cambry Duerksen

Hymn of Response *When I Can't Find My Way* VT 591

Worship With Our Tithes and Offerings First Fruits Giving

Offertory *We Gather Together* ~arr. Helvey Karen Unruh

***Song of Dedication** Lois and Tom Harder

In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful (VT 118)

Scripture Reading Psalm 46:8-9

Reflection "Come, behold the works of the Lord" Pastor Lois Harder

Hymn of Response *Let There Be Light* VT 714

Scripture Reading Psalm 46:10-11

Litany of Reflection Written by Judy Unruh (adapted)

All: *The Lord of hosts is with us.*

Leader: One God – creator of all that exists, Wisdom who spoke in the Old Covenant. You sent your only Son who died for us. And Jesus rose that we might live forever with Him.

People: *The Lord of hosts is with us.*

Leader: You sent the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire. You saw the stumbling church through the ages.

People: *The Lord of hosts is with us.*

Leader: You inspired Blaurock, Mantz, Grebel to baptize each other – adults all! Following the words and example of Jesus to love enemies, you gave supreme strength to martyrs who sang as they were led to the pyre.

People: *The Lord of hosts is with us.*

Leader: You raised up Menno to teach, nurture, lead. You watched while a little village congregation was founded in West Prussia, on the Vistula.

People: *The Lord of hosts is with us.*

Leader: You accompanied your people to Ukraine for conscience's sake where militarism raised its head. You were faithful as they immigrated to Kansas and sowed the wheat.

People: *The Lord of hosts is with us.*

Leader: In spite of our mistakes and disobedience you show your love to the world through us, as we worship at the Alexanderwohl Church standing solid beside Highway K-15 and as we live beyond these walls, grateful and faithful, your people on the prairie.

All: *The Lord of hosts is with us.*

***Closing Hymn** *Now Thank We All Our God* VT 114

***Benediction** Pastor Caleb

***Postlude** *Now Thank We All Our God* ~Karg-Elert Karen Unruh

*All who are able are invited to stand.

Song leader: Renae Peters

Visual Arts: LaNae Unruh

The church offices will be closed today and tomorrow. You may call the pastors or deacons at home if a need arises.

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About Cambry's artwork:

The inspiration for this piece came from the news and how everything bad in the world was happening and still is. The artwork that I have created is more of an abstract type of artwork. It's made in mixed medium, and that just means that more than one type of art medium was used. You can look at the piece in many perspectives, one of those perspectives being that God is within you always, even through the tough times when bad things happen.