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Welcome to a church where everyone matters
and everyone belongs.

Prelude

Welcome

Special Music "I Will Give Thanks" M. Jothen
Junior Choir – Althea Madigan, director
(All children are downstairs for the Advent Workshop.)

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad

He has made me glad, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for he has made me glad
He has made me glad, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for he has made me glad
Light of Christ

*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.

*Call to Worship/Prayer Michelle Bower

Leader: This is a time for giving thanks; a time to be mindful of
the good that encircles us.

People: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

Leader: Friends and family encourage and care, and this
community shows us God's loving ways.

People: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

Leader: We find a home in God's creation and the earth gives us
good food to make us grow.

People: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

Leader: The seasons change. Sunshine comes and goes, yet your
loving care for us is eternal.

People: Thank you, God, for all you have given us!

Leader: Let us pray...

O God of steadfast love, we entered this space today to worship you in gladness. We come into
your presence singing your praises. You are our creator; we are your people. Be with us, O God,
as we celebrate all of creation: We give thanks for the sun, water, air and winds that nourish
your earth which provides the bounty we enjoy. Bless us as we bless your name. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #717 "Let All Things Now Living"

Anthem "Morning Has Broken arr. Sherman

“We Gather Together” arr. Burr

Bell Choir

Scripture Psalm 138

Sermon

Rev. Robin Bird

*Hymn #528 “Give Thanks”

Sharing of Joys and Concerns/Morning Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

Offertory “Give Thanks in Everything” D. Nolan

Leanne Connolly, Minister of Music

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, we have known your unfailing love and faithfulness, your care and provision, your protection and salvation. And so, we respond with deep gratitude, offering back to you a portion of what you have given to us. Accept the gifts we bring - tangible expressions of our love and gratitude for what you have so generously given to us. Amen.

*Closing Hymn #601 “I Am Thine, O Lord”

*Benediction

Postlude “Sing to the Lord of Harvest” arr. Janzer

*All who are able are invited to stand.

Please join us downstairs after the service
for coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

Today’s Preludes

James Burr, Organist

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” arr. Broughton

“Now Thank We All Our God” arr. Hughes

Debi Hockenberry, Director of Christian Education. Reminder...Sunday School ends at 11:15 AM.

Today is Harvesting of Gifts Sunday when we bring our 2017 Giving Commitments. If you forgot your Giving Card, cards are available in the Narthex and downstairs at Coffee Hour. Whatever your giving commitment, we pray that you feel God's love in your life, and that worshipping amongst our church family nurtures you and assists you in your faith journey.

Bell Choir Members: Dave Bower, Michelle Bower, Jane Burr, Dan Cima, Kate Fowler, Margaret Klukas, Althea Madigan, Joanne Myer, Sally Sullivan

In Our Ongoing Prayers

James Purnell, Cheryl Purnell's son; Linda Dayton; Bob Mooers, Gerry Dyar's half-brother, recently diagnosed with lung cancer; Sara Levy, Ron Burr's daughter, dealing with medical issues; Julie, friend of the Turner family, dealing with difficulties; Geraldine Strong; Tim Madigan; Lorraine Grork, Pam Lyons' friend; Pat Lazeren; Shirley McElroy; Helen Dyar; Dean Hockenberry; Helen Dahling; Dave Hollister; Ryan Meneses; Joyce Smith; John Arthur; Brian, 11 years old, fighting cancer; Meg, Bill and Holly Boutwell's sister/sister-in-law; Daniel Burnett-Pollack; Debbie Chase; Dick Myer; Margaret Klukas; Paul Westerberg; people struggling with mental illness, and their families; the people of Syria; Heidi Howie; Mason Bower; Michael Turner; Martha Fowler; Michael Bebrin; Cooper Doyle

New additions in bold print

Today after Worship downstairs in Fellowship Hall

[If you ordered a Thanksgiving Pie from Women's Fellowship, please pick it up today.](#)

Today's Activities

Junior Choir Rehearsal: 11:30 AM, Kellogg Hall

Memorial Garden: 11:30 AM, Jesus Junkies classroom

ONA Cottage Meeting: 3 PM, Fellowship Hall

This Week's Activities

Bible Study: Monday, November 21, 11 AM, Kellogg Hall

Men's Breakfast Group: Tuesday, November 22, 6:30 AM at Vernon Diner

Stewardship & Evangelism: Wednesday, November 23, 6:30 PM, Kellogg Hall

J*Walkrz Jr's Thanksgiving Eve Sleepover: Wednesday, November 23, 7 PM at church. Join us for pizza, snacks, games, movies, and maybe even some sleep. We'll attend the Thanksgiving breakfast in the morning (concludes about 8 AM). If you can't come for the sleepover, but can come for some of the activities, please let Kate or Taunya know.

THANKSGIVING DAY BREAKFAST and SERVICE

Thursday, November 24, 7:30 AM

Grief Support Group: Friday, November 25, 10:30 AM, Kellogg Hall

Scrip-Your-All Update: Only 5 weeks left to meet our \$5,000 goal for 2016! To date, we have earned \$3,800. With your participation, we can make it! Stop by the Scrip-Your-All table to order and for more information. Following are the dates we will be placing orders followed by the pick-up date: Nov 22/Nov 27, Nov 29/Dec 4, Dec 6/Dec 11,

Dec 13/Dec 18.

Please Note: During the month of November, our Sunday School kids are collecting "Pennies for Peace" to help this wonderful organization build and fill schools in the mountains and hard to reach places of the Middle East. Please ask a child if you can help. Thank you!

If you have outdoor lights you are willing to lend the Grounds Committee over the holiday season, please contact Gaile Dembeck ([HYPERLINK "mailto:kurtgaile@sbcglobal.net" \t "_blank" kurtgaile@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kurtgaile@sbcglobal.net)).

Haven and Support Group

(for unburdening life's cares-worries-fears)

A Christian journey toward joy!

"You can't start the next chapter of your life if you keep re-reading the last one." (I like to quote.com)

This support group (formerly known as the Mind and Spirit Support Group) is designed for those in our faith community who are challenged at times by life situations (sudden shocking events, overwhelming care-giving, extended family grief or any troubling life situations). It's helpful to have a safe place to talk about these issues – a place where wisdom about life situations may be shared.

We are NOT counselors. This group will NOT be a therapeutic session and is NOT intended to replace a person's medical or behavioral health provider and/or therapist. It IS designed to be a sharing, caring and revolving group. You may attend once or as many times as you need - the choice is yours. We meet the LAST Monday of each month.

Our First Congregational Church of Vernon, United Church of Christ building and grounds are a sacred space, blessed by prayer, faith and the love of God. Devotions will be a part of every meeting. A covenant and guidelines will be reviewed at every meeting to assure safety and confidentiality in order for there to be trust among those attending.

And [our] God, with all His abundant wealth in Christ Jesus, will supply all [our] needs. (Phil. 4:19)

Coming Soon – “A Teddy Bear Ministry!” Beginning in December, there will be a Teddy Bear sitting in the pew with you! A tag on each bear states that “this bear comes to offer you comfort and peace with all the blessings of worship and love. It is shared with you by a faith community member or friend.” The idea is for you to take a bear and give it or send it to someone in need of a bit of caring love. Teddy Bears in churches that provide this ministry have been sent all around the world.

Parents, we ask that you explain to your children that the bears are for people who are sad, hurt or sick. Certainly children may take a bear for a friend in need. Your very young toddlers may have a bear, but we ask that you remember to bring their “special” bear with them each Sunday so they “know” they already have one. As always, we strive for love, peace, harmony, comfort, joy, and a relaxed atmosphere for worship, so the above suggestions for your children are certainly bendable.

The “start-up” money for the “Teddy Bear” ministry has been given by Women's Fellowship. In order to keep this ministry possible, we are asking for monetary donations to the Women's Fellowship Teddy Bear Ministry Fund, or you may buy a NEW 10"-12" bear and leave it in the Church Office. Questions? Contact Joanne Myer at 860-872-9222 or [HYPERLINK "mailto:jmyer0146@yahoo.com"](mailto:jmyer0146@yahoo.com).

Child Care is available for church activities/events when notice is given 3 days prior to the event. Contact Child Care Coordinator, Jen Jensen, 860-836-5824.

The Care Network is offered by the Deacons as a helping hand during difficult times. If you are in need of a ride to church, the doctor, hospital, grocery store, etc., in need of meals or a visit, contact Cheryl Purnell, 860-712-8124 or Sue Pilkons, 860-875-4122.

To request a visit with the pastor, please call the Church Office, 860- 875-7580.

Church Office 860-875-7580

Email [HYPERLINK](#)

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