



Strathmore United Church

October 12, 2025

Thanksgiving Sunday

Rev. Maria Szabone Berces

Greetings & Welcome:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

and also, with you.

Based on 2 Cor. 13:13

Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle:

🎵Song: *It's a Song of Praise to the Maker (Vs 1-2; 4) *MV #30*

Call to Worship:

Happy Thanksgiving as you come into this space to celebrate the abundance with which God blesses us all.

When the leaves begin to turn colour and fall, when the temperature gets cooler and the days grow shorter, we lean into creation's cycle of life as God's gift.

Come as we worship the One who shows us the Way of self-giving love.

We come to rejoice that God has made us for one another and teaches us faithfulness when sharing from our abundance.

Let us commune with God in prayer:

In our listening, O Spirit, may we recognize your whispers of becoming. In our praying, O God, may we discover our union in you. In our singing, O Christ, may we delight in life's possibilities. In our living in your name, may we dedicate ourselves to your purpose. Amen.

Written by Gord Dunbar; Gathering, Pentecost 2; 2022, Page 43; Used with permission

Opening Prayer:

Creator God, provider of seed, water, and sun,

We give you thanks!

For the health and energy of bodies to complete the harvest or carry out other tasks,

We give you thanks!

For the support of families as we labour,

We give you thanks!

For neighbours who pool resources to bring in the harvest, or just provide support when it's needed,

We give you thanks!

For your amazing love and grace, we give you thanks! Amen.

Written by Anne Mathewson; Gathering, Pentecost 2; 2025, Page 43; Modified: Used with permission

 **Hymn:**

We Give Our Thanks **Verse 1 *MV #187**

Story Time for All Ages:

 **Hymn:**

For the Fruit of All Creation ***VU #227**

Prayer of Confession & Word of Assurance:

Sisters and brothers, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God every time we turn toward our home and remember whose we are. Therefore with open hearts, let us pray together the prayer of confession:

Merciful God, we confess that too often we limit you, by limiting our perceptions of you and our acceptance of your grace. You provide us with everything we need, but we are often too preoccupied to notice. We spend our time worrying about things instead of opening our eyes to your bounty and supportive, nurturing presence with us. We designate one day to give thanks, rather than recognizing that thankfulness, like faithfulness, is required each day. Forgive us, God, and set us on a new path. Amen.

Even though we try to limit God, God's love, forgiveness, and grace are limitless.

Be that as it may, we will be more attentive to the God who knows us, forgives us, and sets us free. Thanks be to God.

Written by Catherine Tovell; Gathering, Pentecost 2; 2016 page 46-47; Modified: Used with permission

 **Special Music**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Prayer of Illumination:

Celebrate God's Presence; OMOD; pg. 45; Used with permission

Reading of Scripture

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

Philippians 4:4-9

L: A Word of God that is still speaking,

P: Thanks be to God.

Message:


 **Hymn:** *Let All Things Now Living* ***VU #242**

The Offering Invitation:

Written by Phillis Fleming; Gathering, Pentecost 1; 2025 page 44; Used with permission

M&S Story:

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

 **Dedication:** *We Plough the Fields (Refrain)* ***VU #520**
 All good gifts around us
 are sent from heaven above;
 we thank you, God, O holy God,
 for all your love.

Prayer of Dedication:

As a people who yearn for new opportunities to put our faith into action,

We give thanks for God's presence in our lives.

As a congregation that seeks to build community and to serve with a common purpose,

We give thanks for the Spirit's presence in our lives.

As individuals who seek to follow the teachings of Jesus and to make a difference in our community and in the world,


We give thanks for Christ's presence in our lives.

We seek to share both hope and love through our mission, our service, and our offerings.

Bless that we offer, gracious God. Thanks be to you. Amen.

Written by Bill Steadman; Gathering, Pentecost 2; 2022, page 44; Used with permission

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

 **Hymn:** *Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet* *VU #245

Commissioning and Blessing:

Written by Robin Wardlaw; Gathering, Pentecost 2; 2013, page 31; Modified; Used with permission

 **Response:** *Now Thank We All Our God (Vs 2)* *VU #236

Passing the Peace of Christ

L: May the God of Peace go with you.

P: And also with you.

*Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the
Library after the service.*

MV #30 *It's A Song of Praise to the Maker:* Words: Ruth Duck 1992.
Music: Ron Klusmeier 1992. G.I.A. Publications. Reprinted/Podcast
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MV #187 *We Give Our Thanks:* Words, Music: Andrew Donaldson.
Traditional Song from Botswana. 1986 World Council of Churches.
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VU #242 *Let All Things Now Living:* Words, Descant: Katherine K.
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