

Welcome to Harwich United Methodist Church



November 19, 2023

Thought for the Week

"The purpose of life is to discover your gift; the work of life is to develop it; and the meaning of life is to give your gift away." — David Viscott

~~Gathering and Welcome~~

Sharing joys and concerns

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

L: The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

P: We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.

L: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

P: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.

L: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

P: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

#694

Opening Prayer

Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. You called us from slavery into witness and service. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you. Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service. For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

We are "pack rats", O Lord. You continually pour gifts and blessings into our lives, and we hide them away for fear that they might disappear or not be worthy of acclaim. We squander them wastefully on things that are not healthy or helpful to others. We confess that we have not always recognized the talents we have been given. We find it easier to belittle the gifts than to honor the giver. As Jesus reminded his listeners to honor the giver of the gifts by using them to create something better, for healing, for hope in the world; remind us that the message of Jesus is truly pertinent to us today. Forgive us when we have treated it as a nice story. Help us to take the gifts you have given us, to develop them, and use them in ways which will offer healing and hope. In Jesus' blessed Name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Response: "He Has Made Me Glad" #2270

Passing the Peace of Christ

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 76 #797

~~The Church Proclaims the Word~~

Scripture Reading Judges 4:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Anthem "Light of the World" M. Card

Gospel Reading Matthew 25:14-30

L: The word of God for the People of God

P: Thanks Be to God

Message "Dancing with the Stars" Pastor Dianne

*Hymn "I Want to Be Ready" #722

*A Modern Affirmation of Faith #885

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

*Doxology #94

*Dedication of Pledges

*Offering Prayer

There are no limits to the gifts you have given us, gracious Lord. Now we return thanks to you for these gifts and we bring these tokens to you, asking for your blessing on givers and gifts. Help these gifts and givers to be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen.

~~The Church Goes Forth~~

*Final Hymn

"Thank You, Jesus"

#2081

*Benediction

*God Be With You

from #673

*Postlude

Liturgist: Pat Thayer

Ushers: Rose Higgins and Carl Johnson

Coffee Hour: Wendy

You are welcome here. No matter who you are. No matter what.

Scripture Readings for Sunday, November 26, 2023

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23;

Matthew 25:31-46

Calendar

Sunday, November 19: Administrative Board after worship

Sunday, November 26: Charge Conference held at Chatham UMC at 1pm

SPRC meets at 12:30

Announcements

"Dress a Live Doll." The list of children is in Fellowship Hall. If you prefer not to shop, please consider donating generously in the form of cash or a check to Rose. Make your check payable to "Rose Higgins," and Rose will get appropriate gifts for the children.

You will receive credit for a donation to the church.

Thanksgiving Service: Chatham UMC has invited HUMC to participate in an ecumenical service at Our Lady of Grace, (Rte. 137 in South Chatham) at 3pm.

Prayers

Innocent civilians in Israel, Gaza and the Ukraine

All impacted by wars, including veterans

The Lewiston, Maine community

United States Congress

Civility

Hospice: David Thyng

Ronald Donahue and others facing eviction

Healing: Don Howell, Laurie Bonin, Linda Todenhagen, Elizabeth Chase,

Don Gould, Sr., Ruth Zeller, Joan Felahi, Bruce Gibbs, Dan and Lil Murphy, Kathleen Sullivan,

Karen Shaper, Ashley, Jeannie Valentine

Continued Prayers: Brian Mielke, Don Howell, Al Thompson, Donald Turcotte,

Kenny Souza, Joan Stevens, Pauline Doliber, Michael Chatham,

Greg Legeyt and Karen Daffinee

