



Gathering Music Now Thank We All Our God/Come, Ye Thankful People arr. Berry

Announcements for Missions and Ministry

Choral Call to Worship We Gather Together Choir

**Call to Worship** Luke 16:1-13 (NRSV) Responsively (The Parable of the Dishonest Manager)

LEADER: Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property.

**CONGREGATION: So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer."**

LEADER: Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.

**CONGREGATION: I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes."**

LEADER: So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty."

**CONGREGATION: And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.**

LEADER: And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

**CONGREGATION: 'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?'**

Prayer of Invocation

**Generous and loving God, we come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all we are and all that we have is a gift from you. In faith and love, help us to do your will. We are listening. Speak your words into the depth of our souls, that we may hear you clearly.**

**We offer to you this day all the facets of our lives, whether it be at home, at work, or at school. We seek to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy. Give us the wisdom and insight to understand your will for us and the fervor to carry out our good intentions. We offer our gifts of time, talent, and possessions to you as a true act of faith, to reflect our love for you and our neighbors. Help us to reach out to others as you have reached out to us.**

***Amen.***

†Hymn

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

UMH 694

Joys and Concerns of Congregation

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Anthem With Songs of Rejoicing J.S. Bach

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 29:11

Sermon: The Blessing Rev. Kelley Groce

†Litany of Stewardship

L: O God, we desire to be good stewards of all that you have made: the earth, the world, and all that dwells therein. All that we have comes as a trust from you.

**C: God we give thanks for your gifts to us.**

L: We are called by God to use whatever gifts we have been given in service to others. As you have so freely given to us and lovingly made us what we are, we now freely give back to you the substance of our lives—our time, talent, and money.

**C: We are reminded in the gospel that from the poverty of the cross we have gained the richness of life.**

L: Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to give to the work you have assigned our hands to do in this your earthly kingdom. You have put your divine stamp upon us, endowed us with honor, and created us in your likeness. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. Through providence and grace we offer our tithes and offerings on your altar.

**C: Lord where our hearts and hands are closed, open them. Where our resolve is weak, strengthen us.**

L: Our health and strength have come from you and it is you who made our financial resources possible. Teach us to give as we have received. Remind us that we what we claim as ours is really yours. Without your gifts to us we have nothing. We are called by you, O Lord, to be good stewards of all that has been entrusted in our care. You have called us to honor your name with our presence and our service. Gracious God, our prayer is that we may give a good accounting of our stewardship. We have received the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ as a gift, and we have been made his disciples.

**C: We pray that we shall be good and faithful stewards, sharing with others the light that Jesus has given us, ever giving, and serving from a willing heart. We have freely received, now let us freely give!**

†Gloria Patri

†Hymn O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee UMH 430

Receiving of God's Tithes and our Offerings

Giftng of the Stewardship/Commitment Cards for 2023

Offertory Give Thanks Choir

