



**November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

*We embrace our call to love and serve Jesus Christ  
as we cultivate community and empower our neighbors.*

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# A Service of Divine Worship on the Lord's Day November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Prelude

Welcome

Gathering Song:

*Shout to the Lord*

*My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You  
All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength  
Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.*

*Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King!  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name!*

*I sing for joy at the work of your hands  
Forever I'll love you. Forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.*

**\*The Call to Worship**

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

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

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

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

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

**People: Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude, our worship and honor.**

Liturgist: Friends, let us worship God together!

**\*Opening Hymn:**

*Shall We Gather at the River*

**\*A Call to Confession (Liturgist)**

We stand in the Lord's awesome presence and recognize how we have fallen short – all the times in which we have failed to love with our whole hearts, to take up the cross of discipleship and to share our gifts with our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession (prayed aloud by all)**

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 couldn't make a dent in the world's pain. We squander them on things that do not bring light and love. 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, help us 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 for 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.

**The Silent Confession (please be seated)**

**The Sung Response to Confession: *Sanctuary***

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary: pure and holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

**The Declaration and Assurance of Forgiveness**

Liturgist: You are loved by God and given so many gifts to share God's love and be God's peace.

**All: Let us not fear to use these gifts, for God is with us, continually blessing us with many things and opportunities to serve. So, you and me, brother and sister, let your light shine! Amen.**

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ, Sharing in Christ's Welcome**

Liturgist: Peace be with you.

**All: And, also with you.**

*(Congregation shares peace with one another in the pew, over the phone, across the screen.)*

**Anthem**

*Halle, Hallelujah*

**Small Talk**

**Prayer for Illumination**

*Lord, open our eyes to seek your presence. Open our ears to hear your stories and parables that lead to life. Open our hearts to receive you in the stillness of silence, the beauty of creation, and the eyes of our neighbor. Amen.*

## Scripture Lessons

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

## The Message

*Don't Bury Your Talent*

Rev. Jessica McClure Archer

Hymn of Affirmation: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

## Sharing Our Life Together

### The Offertory

Doxology – Thanksgiving in Song

*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*

\*The Sending Hymn: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

### \*The Charge and Benediction

### \*Postlude

*Offerings are received through a variety of ways – in the plate during the offering, online, by mail or via the office. May our offerings be reflection of God's abundance in our lives, for the glory of God and for the work of God's kingdom in the world. Thank you for being so generous and sustaining our ministry. To give online visit - <https://www.sampsonsmills.org/offering>*

*\*Liturgical Resources adapted from Ministry Matters and Re:Worship*

# 375 Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,  
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,  
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;  
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.  
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

## Refrain

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

# God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 716

Capo 3: (D)

(Bm)

(G)

F

Dm

B<sup>b</sup>



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of  
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your

(D)

(Bm)

F

Dm



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly  
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es  
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to

(G)

(D)

(A)

B<sup>b</sup>

F

C



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn  
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly  
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in

(Bm)

(F<sup>#</sup>m)

(Bm)

(G)

(A)

(D)

Dm

Am

Dm

B<sup>b</sup>

C

F



to you, of - fering up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall  
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,  
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,

(Bm)

(G)

(D)

Dm

B<sup>b</sup>

F



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

# 367 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,  
3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.  
come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

