

# Fredericksburg Thanksgiving Ecumenical Prayer Service

SAINT MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, 24 NOVEMBER 2020

Our Christian Unity is the strength of our community. We gather together to celebrate in thanksgiving the many blessings bestowed upon each of our congregations and the Fredericksburg community. May God continue to bless us abundantly.

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

PRIEST: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

PEOPLE: **God's love is everlasting.**

PRIEST: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

PEOPLE: **Let us come before God with thanksgiving.**

## GATHERING HYMN

### Come You Thankful People, Come

*ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR*



1. Come, you thank - ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of  
2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to his  
3. For the Lord our God shall come And shall take his  
4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To your fi - nal



har - vest home. All is safe - ly gath - ered in  
praise to yield; Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown,  
har - vest home; From his field shall in that day  
har - vest home. Gath - er all your peo - ple in,



Ere the win - ter storms be - gin. God, our Mak - er,  
Un - to joy or sor - row grown. First the blade, and  
All of - fens - es purge a - way, Giv - ing an - gels  
Free from sor - row, free from sin, There, for ev - er



does pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied.  
then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,  
pu - ri - fied, In your pres - ence to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come.  
Lord of har - vest, grant that we  
But the fruit - ful ears to store  
Come with all your an - gels, come!



Raise the song of har - vest home.  
Whole - some grain and pure may be.  
In God's gar - ner ev - er - more.  
Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

## GATHERING PRAYER

Loving Father, from whom all blessings flow, we know it is you who turns our minds to thoughts of peace. Hear our prayer in these difficult times. Your power changes our hearts. Enemies can begin to speak to one another; those who were estranged can join hands in friendship; nations can seek the ways of peace together. Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these truths by the way we live. Give to us: Understanding that puts an end to strife; Mercy that quenches hatred; and Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance. Empower all people to live in your law of love. **Amen.**

## COLLECT

Gracious God, who supplies us with every blessing in abundance, lift up our hearts in gratitude and thanksgiving. Open us to remember the gifts we seldom notice, the bounty we take for granted, the rich possibilities you provide. For bread without scarcity, for water that is pure, for houses to live in and friends to enjoy, we give you humble thanks. For beauty and bounty, for healing and hope, for the power of your Word, we lift our voices in joyful praise. Dwell with us now and always. **Amen.**

## GOSPEL READING Luke 17:11-19

As he continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met [him]. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

## REFLECTIONS BY CLERGY

### HYMN of THANKSGIVING

#### Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE



1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing  
2. God rules all the forc - es: The stars in their cours - es



To God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
And sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,  
The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,



And guides us with care to the end of our days.  
The deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be - fore us,  
We too should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing;

A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
With glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

Till shad - ows have van - ished And dark - ness is ban - ished,  
Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing:

As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
"To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

#### PRAYERS of the FAITHFUL

For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors.

**We give thanks to you, O God.**

For the sanctity of human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying.

**We give thanks to you, O God.**

For work to do and strength to work; for the comradeship of labor; for exchanges of good humor and encouragement.

**We give thanks to you, O God.**

For marriage; for the mystery and joy of flesh made one; for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared; for secrets kept in love.

**We give thanks to you, O God**

For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures and our children for their energy and curiosity.

**We give thanks to you, O God.**

For the young; that they may know the love of Christ and to embrace that transforming expression into love for others in their search for relevance and freedom.

**We give thanks to you, O God.**

For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing.

**We give thanks to you, O God.**

For your help in times of doubt and sorrow; for healing our ills; for preserving us in temptation and danger.

**We give thanks to you, O God.**

For our community of churches into which we have been called and for our life of service together.

**We give thanks to you, O God.**

For your Spirit who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love; who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship.

**We give thanks to you, O God.**

We praise and thank you, Eternal God, for all your goodness to us.

**Give thanks to the Lord, who is good. God's love is everlasting!**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering all of our prayers and praise into one, let us pray as Jesus, our Savior, has taught us:

**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 trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, You gather us together as one people, grateful not only for the gift of life itself, but also for the many gifts of friendship, love, devotion and forgiveness that we share in common.

We thank You for showing us how to return our thanks by living lives of service, by genuine deeds of hospitality, by extending kindness to the stranger and by our showing of concern for each other.

Help us live our lives with ever grateful and humble hearts. Bless us this day and all days without end, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

#### COMMISSION and BLESSING

May thanksgiving be more than a special day; may it be for us a way of life.

**We have been enriched in every way for great generosity. Thanksgiving to our God!**

Appreciate anew the good earth that is our inheritance from a loving God.

**We celebrate again God's goodness to our ancestors and God's continuing provision for us.**

The God who has answered our prayers asks our help in answering the prayers of others.

**We will not forget the source of our good life or think we can keep it by hoarding it.**

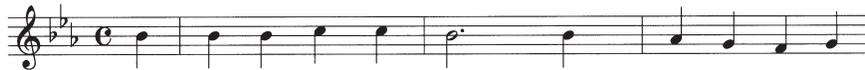
God, who raised mountains and stills roaring seas, will dwell with us to calm and uplift.  
**Grant us, O God, to live peaceably with all your love and with thankfulness at the heart of all we do.**

Let us go in peace – to love and serve God and one another!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## CLOSING HYMN

### Now Thank We All Our God

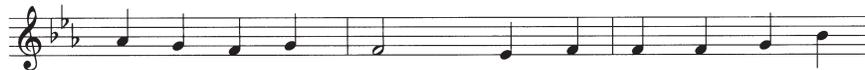
NUN DANKET



1. Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and  
2. O may this gra-cious God Through all our life be  
3. All praise and thanks to God The Fa-ther now be



voic-es, Who won-drous things has done, In  
near us, With ev-er joy-ful hearts And  
giv-en, The Son, and Spir-it blest, Who



whom his world re-joic-es; Who, from our moth-ers'  
bless-ed peace to cheer us; Pre-serve us in his  
reigns in high-est heav-en, E-ter-nal, Tri-une



arms, Hath blest us on our way With  
grace, And guide us in dis-tress, And  
God, Whom earth and heav'n a-dore; For



count-less gifts of love, And still is ours to-day.  
free us from all sin, Till heav-en we pos-sess.  
thus it was, is now, And shall be ev-er-more.

## POSTLUDE

*Let All Things Now Living*, text by Katherine K. Davis, © 1939, 1966, E. C. Schirmer Music Co. Used with permission. OneLicense.net License #A-714779.



SAINT MARY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA