A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Leader: God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace,
We thank you for the gift of life:

People: for the breath that sustains life,
for the food of this earth that nurtures life,
for the life-giving love of family and friends.

Leader: We thank you for the mystery of creation:

People: for the beauty of the Earth that the eye can see,
for the unfolding universe that draws us beyond our imaginings.

Leader: We thank you for the communities to which we belong:

People: for families, for friends,
for neighbors and for companions at work.

Leader: We thank you for the strangers who welcome us into their lives and whom we invite to be part of ours.
We thank you for our brothers and sisters of all ages, all races, all nations and all faiths.
We thank you for the multitude of ways that you call us to steward the gifts of creation and to serve others in your name.
We thank you for this day, for the companionship we share and the bountiful goodness of the bread we break together.

All: God of all goodness, we pray in thanks for your presence among us as we gather together, and your promise to be with us now and always. AMEN.

*CLOSING HYMN ***"Now Thank We All Our God*** **#589**

*CLOSING PRAYER

*COMMISSIONING

May thanksgiving be more than a special day; may it be for us a way of life. Appreciate anew the good earth that is our inheritance from a loving God. Celebrate again God's goodness to our ancestors and God's continuing provision for us. Live peaceably with all our love and with thankfulness at the heart of all we do. Amen.

Please join us for our Community Thanksgiving Dinner following the service in the Dining Room (lower level of the church). All are welcome.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

William J. Wassner, *Senior Pastor*
William J. Barrett, Organist

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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE - 5:30 PM

November 22, 2016

OPENING MUSIC — Bill Barrett

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
People: God's love is everlasting.
Leader: Come, let us praise God joyfully.
People: Let us come before God with thanksgiving.

GATHERING STATEMENT — Pastor Bill

*OPENING HYMN ***"We Gather Together"*** **#590**

*THANKSGIVING INVOCATION

Leader: As the pioneers of the Plymouth colony gathered around the feasting table with native Americans in 1621 to give thanks for all that they had been given by our Bountiful Provider, so we too gather in this week of Thanksgiving to offer thanks for all those gifts the Lord has given us. Let us pray together…

All: Almighty and Generous God, we bring before You, in our hearts and on our Thanksgiving table, the gifts and blessings which You have given us this year. And, in humble gratitude, we give You thanks for them. We praise You, and we thank You, O God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING — Psalm 92

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

The response is: "Help us, O God, to be faithful."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MEDITATION — **PRAYING WITH OUR HANDS FULL**

(*) All who are able should please stand when noted.