

Purpose:

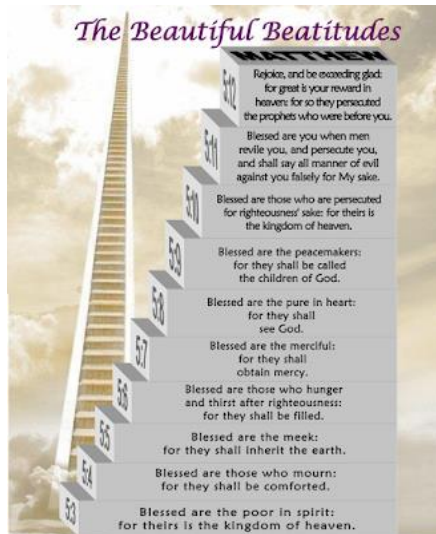
To share the love of Jesus.

Vision:

Beacon of hope, welcoming all.

Mission:

Worship God, Follow Jesus, Rely on the Holy Spirit, and Love Everyone.



November 23, 2025

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven

Mt 5:11

Worship Service for November 23, 2025

Welcome and Announcements Alvie McKinstry

1. Advent readers needed: The joyous time of advent is near! We need Advent readers! If you are interested in reading scripture on a particular Sunday, please contact Pastor Theresa.

2. Cookie decorating & sales:

Christmas Cookie Sale

Thursday Dec 6	Friday Dec 7	Saturday Dec 8
Deliver cookies anytime today or tomorrow by 1 pm	Cookies due by 1pm	8 am set-up 10am - 1pm sale 1pm clean-up &

*Please note: Imitation almond extract is safe for a person with a nut allergy.
Real almond nut extract is not safe for a person with a nut allergy.

**We also need more gluten free cookies.
Russian/ Mexican Wedding cookies are VERY popular.

3. Carolers needed: Come join us for a few hours to bless homebound individual with some Christmas cheer in the Manchester area on December 7 after church. Light lunch available.

4. History of Carols: another way to worship this advent season is to dive deeper into the origin of some of our favorite Christmas carols. Watch for dates.

5. Hanging of the Greens: Come join us as we decorate the fellowship room for the upcoming holiday season. The annual hanging of the greens will take place on December 2 at 9am. See Judy Koch for more information.

6. Manchester food cupboard: There are still a few slots on Thursday to fill. Let pastor Theresa ASAP if you are available.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 6pm Interfaith Council Ecumenical Service choir practice at First Congo Church

7pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving service

Wednesday No office hours. Pastor Theresa will be available by phone, text, or email.

Thursday Happy Thanksgiving

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to:

Kay Keith on Wednesday & David Hall on Friday

Thank you to Alvie McKinstry for the flowers in loving memory of his mother, Janet.

Mission Moment - Bryan Richhiemer

Word of Preparation - Alvie McKinstry

Prelude ~ Give Thanks

Verse

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son

Chorus

And now let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us Give thanks.

Verse 2x

Chorus 2x

Ending

Give thanks

Henry Smith
CCLI Song #20285
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Call to Worship: Please join in reading the bold print.

God in Christ has shown us the beauty of holiness.

We come now to express our gratitude to God with our best gifts.

What are these gifts?

Our prayers, our praise, and the gifts of our hands.

These we should offer unto the Lord, but these are not all the Lord asks. The Lord also asks that we break the yoke of tyranny and let the oppressed go free.

We would do all that the Lord asks.

The Lord asks that we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and house the homeless.

We would do all that the Lord asks.

The Lord asks that we attend the afflicted and give ourselves for those in need.

We would do all that the Lord asks.

Then our light shall rise at midnight and our gloom be as the noonday.

We will do all that the Lord asks.

Hymn - #619 blue hymnal: My Life Flows On; In Endless Song
(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Verse 1

My life flows on in endless song,
Above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far off hymn,
That hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm,
While to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

Verse 2

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? Refrain

Verse 3

What though my joys and comforts die.
I know my savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. Refrain

Verse 4

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing!
All things are mine, since I am His.
How can I keep from singing. Refrain

David N. Johnson, Keith Landis, Robert Lowry
CCLI Song #2153548

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Company, Inc.

Praying Together ~

**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**

Hymn - #515 Red hymnal: Count Your Blessings

Verse 1

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain

Count your blessings, Name them one by one;
Count your blessings, See what God hath done;
Count your blessings, Name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, See what God hath done.

Verse 2

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings every doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by. Refrain

Verse 3

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ hath promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings money cannot buy.
Your reward in heaven nor your home on high. Refrain

Verse 4

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Edwin Othello Excell, Johnson Oatman Jr.
CCLI Song #40416

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Intro to sermon - Rev Dr Theresa Taylor

Scripture text: Ps 119:84; Mt 5:10-12; 5:44; John 15:20; Acts 5:40-41; Romans 8:35; 1 Co 4:12; 2 Co 1:5 Heb 12:1-3

How long must your servant endure? When will you judge those who persecute me?

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

12 and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure;

For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the

cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Sermon – "Rejoice always and be glad" - Rev Dr Theresa Taylor

Song - I lift up my hands

Verse 1

Be still there is a healer
His love is deeper than the sea
His mercy is unfailing
His arms a fortress for the weak
Let faith arise; Let faith arise

Chorus

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge
You are my strength
As I pour out my heart
These things I remember
You are faithful God Forever

Verse 2

Be still, there is a river
That flows from Calvary's tree
A fountain for the thirsty
Your grace that washes over me
Let faith arise; Let faith arise

Chorus 2x

Bridge

Let faith arise; Let faith arise
Open my eyes; Open my eyes

Let faith arise; Let faith arise

Open my eyes; Open my eyes. Chorus 2x

Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio, Matt Maher

CCLI Song #5869884

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Benediction - 2 Co 4:8-10

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies.