

ORDER OF SERVICE

November 26, 2023 • 10:00 AM



PRAYER OF PREPARATION (from Psalm 149)

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song. Sing his praise in the meeting of his people.
Rejoice in your maker; exult in your king. For the LORD delights in His people; he crowns the
humble with salvation. Praise the LORD!

PRELUDE "Prayer of Thanksgiving" arr. Smith & Hustad

Linda Clugston & Laurel Underwood

WELCOME & GREETING

Neil Trainer

SONG OF PRAISE "O Worship the King"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emily Mitchell

Righteous God,

you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

**We confess that we have not bowed before him
and are slow to acknowledge his rule.**

**We give allegiance to the powers of this world
and fail to be governed by justice and love.**

In your mercy, forgive us.

Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all,

that we may be loyal ambassadors,

obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. (silence for reflection)

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 sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SONG OF ASSURANCE "You Are My King (Amazing Love)"

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN & DISMISSAL TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

OFFERING "Thanksgiving"

Calvin Choir

DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READING Colossians 1:9–20

Donna Miller-Parker

SERMON "God in the Midst of Current Events"

Neil Trainer

PASTORAL PRAYER

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come and listen to me.

SONG OF SENDING "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" #5

BENEDICTION



Congregational News

Linda Elton, beloved mother and grandmother and member of Calvin Presbyterian Church since 1976, passed away unexpectedly on November 19, 2023. Please be praying for divine peace for Lisa McCaslin, Linda's daughter, and granddaughters Brianne and Meggan, and for all of Linda's loved ones as they grieve.

A memorial reception will be in Calvin's Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 10, directly following worship (around 11:45 am). Join us to offer your condolences to Linda's family, share stories and remembrances of Linda's life, and enjoy some refreshments.

Oct 2023 Finance Summary

Traditionally, Calvin runs a modest deficit during the early months of our fiscal year, and that is true this year. However, October contributions of \$52,873 were considerably higher than prior months and helped to reduce that deficit. A significant portion of our annual revenue comes at the end of the calendar year, so as you plan your year-end giving, please consider an extra gift to Calvin to ensure our ministries are fully funded. In January we'll have a better picture of how we are doing financially.

// *The numbers for July – October*

- General Fund Contributions: \$168,697 (our budget was 200K);
- Facilities Revenue: \$23,747 (over the budgeted \$19,300);
- Other Revenue: \$26,932;
- Total Operations Revenue: \$219,376;
- Total Expenses: \$265,158 (giving to missions \$28,220);
- NET REVENUE: \$(45,782); and
- Total Assets: \$914,234.

A quick reminder to send in your pledges for the 2024 General Fund if you have not done so already. Questions or concerns? Contact [Kirsty](#) or [Dan Coppin](#).



Below is a repeat from the Stories of Faith column from last year's Friday, November 25th email.

Intentional Gratitude

// *by Kirsty Haining*

The Bible exhorts us to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18). But how do we cultivate intentional gratitude? And why is this so important?

Scientific studies have proven that gratitude is good both for your health and well-being. Thankful people are happier people and they have stronger relationships. Even the world recognizes this. As believers, we see both a spiritual imperative as well as a spiritual impact when we are thankful.

I have been focusing on intentional gratitude for the past five years. As part of this, every day during the month of November I post on social media about something for which I'm grateful. I may have chosen this form of expressing thanks because I live alone. Some people find journaling about gratitude helpful. Those who live within family units may find focusing on specific gratitudes at the dinner table to be a good practice. Certainly the Thanksgiving holiday helps us to remember to give thanks – family occasions in general will bring gratitude (and usually a bit of angst, too 😊).

Just the other day, as part of a discussion of joy and gratitude, I noticed that the famous list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22–23 does not include thankfulness. Not that the list in Galatians is an exhaustive list (although I would argue that those qualities specifically mentioned hold a special place of honor in terms of the Spirit's gifts). I do believe that thankfulness is a gift from God. But noticing that it wasn't listed as a specific gift made me start thinking about it in a different way.

And it occurred to me that it is the *practice* of thankfulness that makes the difference. Think of it as a good work.

Certainly, I've been thankful on many times and occasions in the past. But the practice of posting gratitudes on social media has really changed me. It has altered my perceptions and my thinking. I'm more thankful in general. I've learned to be more content. And I think it was the "doing" part of the thankfulness that made the difference. It helped the gratitude take root in my mind and thoughts.

Over this Thanksgiving weekend, and as we move into Advent, I encourage you to consider how you might practice intentional gratitude. It is a doorway for the Spirit, a way to make room for Him.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. – Romans 15:13



Happy Birthday!

Nisha Mandanas	Nov. 26
Gretchen Scheumann	Nov. 28
Becky C.	Nov. 29
Barbara Janacek	Dec. 01
Arden Snyder	Dec. 03
Greta Juengel	Dec. 04
Lela Jamieson	Dec. 09



Upcoming Events

GriefShare, 10 am	Nov. 29
Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm.....	Nov. 29
Christmas Decorating, 9 am..	Dec. 02
First Fruits Sunday (collecting mac n' cheese and canned chicken)	Dec. 03
Messy Church, 5:30 pm	Dec. 06
Memorial Reception for Linda Elton, 11:45 am	Dec. 10
12-Bells Ensemble, 3 pm at Swanson's Nursery	Dec. 10
Christmas Caroling, 5:30 pm at Cristwood Park	Dec. 13
Longest Night, 7 pm	Dec. 17
Sunday Worship, 10 am	Dec. 24
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm	Dec. 24