

# Thanksgiving Day

November 23, 2023

Eight O'clock

## Chimes of the Trinity

**Prelude** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. Chris Rice

## \* Call to Worship

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit are in our midst.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Leader: The Lord, the Maker of all things, opens abundant arms to satisfy the desires of every living creature. Let us praise God for crowning the fields with blessings and enabling us once more to gather in the fruits of the earth.

Congregation: **Alleluia!**

**\*Hymn 336** "We Gather Together"

## Thanksgiving Prayer (in unison)

**Almighty and gracious Lord, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season, and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty. As you provide for our needs, help us to remember all whose need is greater. To the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Response in Song: "Give Thanks", Hymn 647

**Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ the Son. (repeat)  
And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich  
because of what the Lord has done for!" Give thanks.**

## Scripture Reading

### Epistle Lesson

**II Corinthians 9: 10-15**

The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

## Responsive Psalm

**Psalm 100**

Leader: Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before God's presence with a song.

Congregation: Know this: The LORD alone is God; we belong to the LORD, who made us, we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving; go into the holy courts with praise; give thanks and call upon the name of the LORD.

Congregation: For good is the LORD, whose mercy is everlasting; and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

**\*Hymn 37** "Let All Things Now Living"

**Sermon** *Enduring Faithfulness*

## Special Offering

The Thanksgiving Offering will support the Children's Hope Alliance, which operates the Barium Spring and Grandfather Children's Homes in North Carolina.

**Offertory** "For the Beauty of the Earth" arr. Chris Rice

**\* Doxology** "Old Hundredth"  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

## Thanksgiving Litany (see back)

**\* Hymn 367** "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

## \* Charge and Benediction

**\* Postlude** "Grateful" Mark Hayes

\*Those who are able, please stand

## Thanksgiving Litany

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord who is good.  
 Congregation: **Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**  
 Leader: For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors;  
 Congregation: **We give you Thanks, O God.**  
 Leader: For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared throughout our days;  
 Congregation: **We give you Thanks, O God.**  
 Leader: For work to do and strength to work.  
 Congregation: **We give you Thanks, O God.**  
 Leader: For families; for living together and sharing our lives;  
 Congregation: **We give you Thanks, O God.**  
 Leader: For children; for their energy and curiosity;  
 Congregation: **We give you Thanks, O God.**  
 Leader: For growing up and growing old; for wisdom; for rest; for time made precious by its passing;  
 Congregation: **We give you Thanks, O God.**  
 Leader: For help in times of doubt and sorrow; for the healing of our diseases; for perseverance in temptation and danger;  
 Congregation: **We give you Thanks, O God.**  
 Leader: Give thanks to the Lord who is good;  
 Congregation: **For God's mercy is everlasting.**  
 ALL: **AMEN.**

### Thanksgiving Day Worship Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

Elliott Hipp ..... Pastor  
 Mark Burlison ..... Pianist



After worship, all are invited to the Christian Fellowship Center for Thanksgiving breakfast. May God's blessings be strong in each of our homes as we join later today for family celebrations.



**Your support is going to help us reach more families in crisis.** Many of you know we have taken a bold stand to go into the community and into families experiencing some unfathomable circumstances. We realized years ago that to get ahead of the pain caused by removing a child from a home we needed to see for ourselves what was happening in the home firsthand.

Your generosity is helping us change the way children enter foster care. Your dollars have put teams of professional together to come alongside families that are struggling. And should a child need to be removed for safety reasons, your gifts have made it possible for our agency to correctly place that child into a loving foster home.

The world is changing. The old way of removing children and having them end up in group home care is not ideal. Our agency is doing the hard work to recruit excellent foster families that understand we must reduce trauma on every level. Your gift today is an investment in securing safe caring homes for children who must be removed from an unsafe situation.

If you would like more information, please call Kelsey Elkins at 980-391-0791 and she will put you in touch with one of our staff.

**Join our mission today to make a lasting change in the lives of children and families in your community.**



#BeTheHope   
[www.ChildrensHopeAlliance.org](http://www.ChildrensHopeAlliance.org)  
 800-320-4157 | 194 Barium Springs Dr., Statesville, NC 28677

# Thanksgiving Worship



## Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

November 23, 2023  
Thanksgiving Day

7400 Mount Holly Road  
Charlotte, NC 28214  
(704) 392-0329  
pawcreekpc.org

Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 64  
Paw Creek, NC 28130



finding help in her  
*journey*

Born to drug-addicted parents, the beginning of Kristina's life was full of fear and neglect. She was kept locked up during the day in a make-shift cage — an old playpen with a baby gate attached to the top with bungee cords — so her parents could sleep and recover from their long nights of partying and fighting.

At two years old, she hadn't yet learned to eat solid foods and was found filthy, frail, and with severe asthma.

Kristina was removed from her home and immediately placed in foster care. But her journey to healing was far from over. She was described by one foster mom as "feral," when Kristina began throwing tantrums that would make the room shake. Her trauma wouldn't let her begin to trust just yet. She had been placed in five different foster homes.

That's when Children's Hope Alliance found her the perfect foster parents, Paula and Zen. Their nights were long, but they were determined to do everything in their power to help this little girl. When they felt like giving up, our team was there to support and help them recharge. Through weekly parenting classes, they were guided to become a therapeutic home and created a structured world that began to heal Kristina's hurt.

Today, John and Alice are continuing to raise this Disney Princess-loving, curly-haired girl. They have a whole team of support, including you. Kristina has been able to thrive in her new environment. She participates in gymnastics, soccer, and has become an amazing swimmer when years ago she was too scared to even take a bath.

For the first time in her life, she found love.

**"Kristina has a huge personality. It's so big  
you can't help but fall in love with her.  
If you could just take the trauma away,  
she is absolutely precious."**

— Paula, Kristina's Foster Mom

[www.ChildrensHopeAlliance.org/donate](http://www.ChildrensHopeAlliance.org/donate)