

November 2024 Worship Guide

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of November 2024.

As of the time of going to print, Sunday worship is in person, online and broadcast on the radio (you can listen in your car on FM 87.9, in the church parking lot). If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family.

THANKFULNESS

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

The Thanksgiving dinner table is where we usually ask everyone to share something they are thankful for before we start eating. When children are young, they're grateful for toys, books or clothes. Through the years, the items they appreciate varies, we teach them to handmade thank you cards for family and friends who gave them presents. The habit-building exercises seem routine at first, but the objective is through practice our children become authentically thankful. As parents it is our hope that our children will mature appreciative of God's blessings. Thankfulness is good for the soul. It tames the inner man to use the senses, to be observant, and to sharply see goodness around us. As defined, thankfulness is an awareness, without it mere words like 'thank you' are empty and meaningless.

You may have wondered why thankfulness is not a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) – love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control , and gratefulness? It turns out, without thankfulness it is difficult to unconditionally love people, to be joyful in all circumstances, be peaceful in chaos, be patient with things we can't control, to be good and choose the good, gentle to those who don't even deserve it, faithful in the mundane, and long suffering in the trying times. Thankfulness gives the perspective that allows us to see that itty bitty light of hope when nothing makes sense. At times it will have to start as a conscious choice but as we practice thankfulness, then this becomes a habit that could change the way the world looks. A grateful heart is able to receive love, experience joy in the toughest of days, be peaceful. A person who is aware of one's blessings knows his/her imperfections and acknowledges how those flaws can hurt people. That self-awareness leads to wanting God more, as John 15:15 says, it is Christ who makes us something, or a somebody. Everything good we have is from Him. It is right to be thankful to Him.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17

Thanksgiving Day can be challenging. What can we be grateful for if we or a spouse has lost a job; one of our loved ones is sick, or worse, dying. How can we be thankful if there is division within our family or we have strained friendships.

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." Colossians 3:1-3

The heavenward perspective is what sets Christ followers apart. When we set our minds on things above, all these earthly troubles are insignificant. We can thank God that we can look to Him for guidance. It may seem so basic, but let's ask God to help us be more aware, to bring to mind His enduring faithfulness. The Author and Finisher of our faith is committed to complete what He started in our lives. Forget not the benefits of following Him. He is good. Let us look around and ask God to give us eyes to see His kindness to us. Taste and see that the Lord is good, even today.

Pray this prayer: Father in Heaven, help me see your goodness. Help me recognize your kindness. Make me more aware, every day, of your faithfulness. It is easy for me to be confused when my expectations are not coming into place. I forget. I stop thanking you for how you are shaping and molding me through troubles so I can be more like You. There is a purpose for what I am experiencing at this moment. I want to have a thankful attitude towards life. I desire to be a thankful person. Help me, God, to be one. In Jesus name I pray.

November Worship

Nov 3 2024 - All Saints Sunday **Scriptures to read and meditate on**

Ruth 1:1-18; Ps 146; Heb 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34;
Isa 25:6-9; Ps 24 ; Rev 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

Call to Worship

Lazarus, though dead, was called to life by Jesus. May we be called to the light of righteousness. As others witnessed this resurrection, they believed in Jesus. May we, who have heard, believe in the power of Jesus to conquer our fears and doubts. See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. Alleluia! Death is no more. All the saints of God, who from their labors rest, are alive now and forevermore!

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, although we are the communion of saints, we are also a circle of sinners. We cling to death, hiding in tombs that we have carved out of fear and stubbornness, ignoring your call to come out. We fail to unbind each other from oppression, poverty, and abuse. You lay a feast before us, but we fill ourselves with selfishness and wonder why we are hungry. We are convinced that our best days are behind us, not believing that you are making all things new. Forgive us, we pray, and show us the light that we yearn to see. Lead us out of the tomb and into your everlasting way, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. We bless your holy name, O God, for all your servants who, having finished their course, now rest from their labors. Give us grace to follow the example of their steadfastness and faithfulness, to your honor and glory. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, and surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**Nov 10, 2024**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on**

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Ps 127 or Ps 42; Heb 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

## **Call to Worship**

Children of God, take a deep breath. Breathe in the goodness of God's abundance all around you. God's abundance is enough for all that we need. Think of all the things our society calls abundance. Ever-growing bank accounts, possessions galore, status, and fame—what are these things compared to God's abundance? God's abundance is enough for all that we need. God's abundance notices the poor, the downtrodden, those whose labor and unmet needs fill the treasury of corporations and those who are wealthy beyond measure. God's abundance is enough for all that we need. How, then, will you offer yourself up to God? Like the Pharisees or the poor widow? We will give as people who trust in God's provision, because God's abundance is enough for all that we need.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, we often doubt the value of our gifts and talents, questioning how they can be used for your purpose. At times, we underestimate our abilities and ignore opportunities to serve, feeling inadequate. We mistakenly believe that only great talents and riches can please you. Forgive our lack of faith and our focus on worries over your healing words. Heal us, Lord, and remind us of the wonderful blessings you have bestowed upon us. May we use these gifts to bring joy and help to others. We surrender our lives to you and seek your comforting touch and grace.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, whose compassion knows no bounds, We thank you for your provisions of life. We offer these gifts as a reflection of our love and gratitude. Just as the widow gave all she had, may we also give sacrificially, trusting in your provision. Use these offerings to further your kingdom, bringing hope and healing to those in need. Bless our giving, that it may glorify your name and extend your grace to all. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

# November Worship

**Nov 17, 2024**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on**

1 Sam 1:4-20; 1 Sam 2:1-10 or Ps 113; Heb 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8

## **Call to Worship**

We are called to be witnesses who brings the life of Jesus to the world. For God loved the world. We gather together as a community of believers called out of the world and into a hope filled community. Jesus is our hope and we are His hope filled Church. Without Jesus, our hope is lost, our sins consume us, and death has the final say. To God be the Glory, that through Jesus, there is life, there is hope, there is joy, and there is forgiveness!

## **Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, we confess that we are an impatient and selfish people. When you offer us the promise of a new future, we complain that you don't get there fast enough. When you provide for our needs, we complain that it isn't enough. And when our bad attitudes and negative outlooks cause us to stumble, we blame you. Forgive our sinful ways. Teach us to be patient. Instruct us to be grateful. Guide us to be responsible and humble. As we turn ourselves around and look to the cross, let us experience your grace and your gift of new life through Christ our Savior and Lord.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Holy God, above us, among us, within us: we rejoice this day that while you might have chosen to be unknown to us, you have revealed yourself in many ways. Each encounter with you calls us to return blessings with worship, compassion, and service. So, when we give this day, we do so in gratitude for all your parental care for us through your creation. When we give this day, we give because, in love, you gave us Christ, that through him we might find eternal life. When we give this day, your Spirit leads your church to reach out in compassion, mercy, and grace to all your children everywhere. In gratitude, we celebrate you, God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Nov 24, 2024

Scriptures to read and meditate on

2 Sam 23:1-7; Ps 132; Rev 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Call to Worship

Children of God, whom do you follow? We follow Christ, Ruler of us all. Children of God, what kind of Ruler is Christ? Christ reigns with love and truth, justice and mercy, compassion and peace. Children of God, how will you live in the reign of Christ? We will join Christ in choosing love, truth, justice, mercy, compassion, and peace even when our world tells us not to. Children of God, come. Let all hail King Jesus, who reigns over all things in Heaven and on Earth! We come to worship the Lord. Forever his truth shall reign!

Prayer of Confession

God of Eternity, we stand with the courage of those who insisted, even in perilous times, that not even the most powerful rulers of this earth hold our eternal destiny in their hands. We are secure in Christ, whose reign is just, whose power is endless, and whose love is vast! We join the chorus of saints who continue to declare that Christ is our King. Forgive us when our hearts are reluctant to be obedient to your voice. Forgive us when our loyalty to your Kingdom falters. We know you are a grace filled King, who loves and serves. Empower us, O Master, to walk with you and to worship you not only with our words, but with our very lives. Through Christ our King, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord our God; we thank you for sending us Truth in your one and only Son. We thank you for sending us a King who is filled with love, grace, and mercy who guides us with his right hand of Truth and power. Take our gifts that we offer to you now and bless them so that your supreme authority of love and forgiveness will be known in our communities and around the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

GRATITUDE - MINI BIBLE STUDY

Before you read on, what is one thing you are grateful for today?

1. Psalm 100:1 – 4. What do we learn about gratitude from this passage?

Gratitude and gladness are appropriate for every situation in life. Several years ago Martin and Gracia Burnham were serving with New Tribes Mission when they were kidnapped by terrorists. During their year in captivity, they faced near starvation and were sometimes caught in the middle of gun battles. In the end both were shot. Martin was killed, but Gracia lived to tell the story. She said that near the end of their ordeal, one of the passages of Scripture that sustained them was Psalm 100. One night Martin said, “You know, Gracia, I don’t know why the Lord has allowed this to happen, but today I’ve been thinking about Psalm 100, how we can serve the Lord with gladness. Just because we’re here doesn’t mean we can’t serve Him with gladness, so let’s serve the Lord with gladness.” That night Martin was shot and killed, and Gracia was wounded in the firefight. But those words from Psalm 100 never died in her heart. “The Lord has given me joy,” was her testimony.

2. What do we learn about ourselves?

You exist for God. God does not exist for you. He’s a loving Father who loves us. But He’s also our Creator who made us. Why are we to worship Him? Yes, there are benefits and blessings for us—but, ultimately, it comes down to the fact that He is God. We exist for His pleasure (Revelation 4:11). And He is pleased when we worship Him. Why is He pleased? Because people become like that which they worship (Psalm 115:4–8). And He wants us to be like Him.

3. What application do you find in this Psalm?

The book of Psalms is bursting with praise and adoration for God, but only one psalm is singled out as a psalm of thanksgiving. Psalm 100 is a beautiful example of how to thank our Lord. We are to shout with joy, worship Him with gladness, sing for joy, acknowledge His greatness, and enter His presence with thanksgiving. Why? Because He is good, His love never fails, and He is faithful. The next few mornings, read Psalm 100 to begin your day. How will you show God gratitude today?

4. 1 Thes 5:16–18 (NIV) “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” How is this even possible?

“Give thanks in all circumstances”? Is that even possible, or was the apostle Paul trying to make some ironic point to the Thessalonians? People can’t really give thanks when they’ve just lost their jobs, can they? Or when they’ve just been told they have cancer? Or when they are being bullied at school? There is nothing to be thankful for in any of those circumstances, is there? It turns out the apostle Paul wasn’t joking. There are things to be thankful for in all circumstances. We just need to know where to look. If we have trouble seeing beyond the bad in our lives, we can ask God to open our eyes to the things he’s doing that we can’t see. He’ll help us see concerned friends, committed doctors, caring teachers and other resources we may not have noticed.

Even if we can’t see what God is doing in our lives now, we can thank him for the things he’s done in the past. There’s no expiration date on God’s blessings. We can still mention them in prayer, no matter how long ago we received them. If we as a family learn to praise God in all circumstances, we will grow closer to him.

5. What does “all circumstances” include?

Real gratitude doesn’t allow picking and choosing what we’re thankful for. Instead, we’re told to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thes 5:18). Note, all circumstances encompass everything—not just the good stuff! Gratitude is easy when you’re told the cancer is gone, but what if it comes back? If your child makes the soccer team, you celebrate, but what if he’s cut? Marrying someone you love is a gift, but is heartbreak? It is hard to give thanks in all circumstances. Some days it may feel totally impossible. It takes time to get to the point of gratitude.

But hear these words: In Romans 5 Paul rejoices in suffering. What? Why?! Paul knew suffering ultimately produced good. “We know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next” (vv.3–4 MSG). Other Scripture versions say suffering brings endurance, perseverance, character, and hope—and in those we can rejoice!

6. How is life better for the grateful?

Do we know the five game-changing words? The Bible tells us there are five simple words that can transform a miserable, lonely, and angry home into one filled with contentment, meaningful relationships, and an ongoing feast of joy. What are these remarkable words? "Give thanks in all circumstances." It's that simple. When we start each day by together giving thanks for God's character, the generosity of His heart, and the wisdom of His choices over our lives, it begins to transform our environment. When we give thanks for the person we married, the children we've been given, and the family that's ours, it reshapes our perspective. Giving thanks releases God's joy, blessing, and viewpoint on the problems facing us. It defeats the devil's plans to discourage and depress us. We find ourselves rising above our every circumstance with true joy, and we discover we are more than conquerors in Jesus Christ. Giving thanks is the ultimate game-changer.

7 What is gratitude? A feeling? An attitude? An activity? A habit?

We want to talk about how we can be people who give thanks in all things, but before we do, let's explore some of the benefits of gratitude. Nothing predicts happiness like gratitude. No single activity more reliably predicts your happiness as the practice of gratitude. Notice I said the practice of gratitude, not the attitude of gratitude. Gratitude is something you do. For example, you might make a gratitude visit. Think of someone that made a big impact in your life growing up, or someone who means a lot to you right now, but you have never really told them.

8 What are some activities you could engage in that would lead to the attitude of gratitude?

Write down three things you are grateful for every day and why you are grateful for them. Sounds simple enough, doesn't it? In fact, it sounds so simple that there is a good likelihood that you won't take it seriously and you won't actually do it. But it is in the doing that all the benefits come. And, in this case the benefits are huge. "In a study of people who completed this exercise, '94% of severely depressed individuals became less depressed, and 92% became happier, with an average symptom relief of a 'whopping 50% over only 15 days'

9 Hebrews 10.24 – 25. Why is it that some in our group are not here today?

This verse teaches that we should form the habit of encouraging one another daily. By the way, notice the habit is not to sit in straight rows and watch the same event happen on the same stage. The habit is to encourage one another. I encourage you; you encourage me. If it is a habit, we will do it daily.

10 What place does habit have in Christian living?

The vast majority of what we do is simply habit. We either pray or not as a function of habit. We read our Bibles or not as a function of habit. We go to church or not as a function of habit. The writer of Hebrews warned that some people had gotten out of the habit of meeting with fellow believers—to everyone's detriment. They didn't intend to stop meeting together. They didn't stop meeting together as an act of rebellion. They simply got out of the habit. Most of life is that way. Did you exercise today? If not, it is likely you have not formed the habit of exercise. Did you have a Quiet Time today? If not, is almost certain that you have not cemented the habit of Quiet Time. Are you giving regularly? No? Form a habit. Are you memorizing God's Word? What a wonderful habit that is! "Good habits are hard to form and easy to live with. Bad habits are easy to form and hard to live with."

11 How would you form the habit of gratitude?

Here is the key to forming a habit: Set a low bar. Go for ruthless consistency. Get a long list of reasons why you want to establish the habit and what bad things will happen if you don't. Find accountability partners / friends.

12 It still sounds like a lot of work. Will it be worth it?

Gratitude is a mindful awareness of the benefits of life. It is the greatest of virtues. Studies have linked the emotion with a variety of positive effects. Grateful people tend to be more empathetic and forgiving of others. People who keep a gratitude journal are more likely to have a positive outlook on life. Grateful individuals demonstrate less envy, materialism, and self-centeredness. Gratitude improves self-esteem and enhances relationships, quality of sleep, and longevity.¹ If it came in pill form, gratitude would be deemed the miracle cure. It's no wonder, then, that God's anxiety therapy includes a large, delightful dollop of gratitude.

Thanksgiving Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

N F E S U C C O T A S H S N X O N S T S G N I N O S A E S C
I C Z D P R F G S V J O E R P S O N Y R A K D U R V L V R T
K N E L U F E T A R G L T O U G I O C H E A I A I E H A S X
P Q Y L V T U T Q V O I T C M N T I J H O S U T F O N B X F
A C N F E F I N S V F D L N P I A N V S A T S T C B C J B F
N V C U F B B T Q I S A E A K S I U E V U R O E E H F E A R
K W I I T E R R A K N Y R I I S C E S M G V V R D O E K A C
P X N P H M H A A R N I S D N E E R N P E V R E O C X N P H
S G K O N K E B T Y G D M N P L R F S R S Y F T S I V A P E
N D P W O H U G M E Y J E I I B P M S E S N B A C T M P L R
R E N O P N C A S S E R O L E H P H E A I A M H M O B S E R
O R C E D Y E K R U T D E I R F A W U A L R U Y R I L S P Y
C Z A A I G I B L E T S G Y X Y T C Y L T R R A H L L E I P
T D N B E R N B T K L R E D I C E N B G C Y A E O W M Y E I
E C R L H T F Y T N E L P F O N R O H H B V Q R B I S A N E
E N O V E M B E R Y N D J N G S H B K M E A L O G J T S Y X
W O K T O C D D A L A B I Z N C P A E E K R X P J D T R C O
S K P U V M A R L E F O F A I R J V M Q B G T U R K E Y G Y
O L S L E N P C R W N Q E L S W U H B E A T I N G F S O F Y
M Y P P N M R B O S P B L E S Y S X G Q R G U G R Y U J C P
S U O I C I L E D R N C C A E E T E P O N I R O A R H J O I
E T I T E P P A D E N P E V R F D G V I B E C D D N C S R H
J O Y F U L K C E I Z B R E D E Q A R O W B S A S A A T N S
D R A H C R O R W G C E R S H A M E R O L R L N R C S S U D
H I I N L N G D I E N E P E D S H F L A U C A E C E S I C N
C O R N S T A L K N L S L T A T A F N H P I E V O P A N O E
S N A T I R U P I S X C Y P A D Y S T Y D M B D Z D M O P I
S E A S O N S D G B C C O G P A C O R N S G N I K A B L I R
S E O T A T O P D E H S A M M A Z P I H S R O W C J C O A F
E I P T A E M E C N I M K O E P L Y M O U T H R O C K C C H

Find the 89 Thanksgiving themed words

Abundance	Family	Meal
Acorn	Feast	Meat
America	Football	Mince meat pie
Appetite	Fried turkey	Minister
Apple cider	Friends	Napkin
Apple pie	Friendship	November
Appreciation	Gathering	Nutmeg
Aroma	Giblets	Onions
Autumn	Gobble	Orchard
Baking	God	Oven
Berries	Gourd	Parade
Blessings	Grateful	Pecan
Bread	Gratitude	Plymouth Rock
Casserole	Gravy	Prayer
Celebrate	Green beans	Pumpkin pie
Cherrypie	Ham	Puritans
Church	Harvest	Reunions
Cider	Holiday	Rolls
Cloves	Hope	Seasonings
Colonists	Horn of plenty	Seasons
Cook	Hymns	Settlers
Cornbread	Indian corn	Stuffing
Cornstalk	Indians	Succotash
Cornucopia	Joyful	Sweetcorn
Cranberry sauce	Kitchen	Thursday
Delicious	Leaves	Turkey
Dessert	Leftovers	Welcome
Dinner	Mashed potatoes	Worship
Dressing	Massachusetts	Yam
Eating	Mayflower	

WHAT'S HAPPENING? UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY	6th	Weekly Lectio Divina & Prayer - noon to 1pm
FRIDAY	8th	Game Night - 5:30 - 8pm. Bring board games and snacks to share.
SUNDAY	10th	Kids & Youth Club - after service
WEDNESDAY	13th	Weekly Lectio Divina & Prayer - noon to 1pm
SUNDAY	17th	Chilli / Soup cook off, after service
WEDNESDAY	20th	Weekly Lectio Divina & Prayer - noon to 1pm
FRIDAY	22nd	Set up day for Cherry Berry Christmas Shop
SATURDAY	23rd	Cherry Berry Christmas Shop and Craft Fair + Bob's BBQ. 9-2pm
WEDNESDAY	27th	Weekly Lectio Divina & Prayer - noon to 1pm
THURSDAY	28th	Thanksgiving - Church office closed.

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	1st	Advent Season Begins
SUNDAY	1st	Advent Bible Study - 6pm
MONDAY	2nd	WARM Shelter week starts today. (2nd thru 9th)
WEDNESDAY	4th	Weekly Lectio Divina & Prayer - noon to 1pm
FRIDAY	6th	Game Night - 5:30 - 8pm. Bring board games and snacks to share.
SUNDAY	8th	Advent Bible Study - 6pm
WEDNESDAY	11th	Weekly Lectio Divina & Prayer - noon to 1pm
SUNDAY	15th	Advent Bible Study - 6pm
WEDNESDAY	18th	Weekly Lectio Divina & Prayer - noon to 1pm
FRIDAY	20th	Movie Night - 6-8pm
SUNDAY	22nd	Advent Bible Study - 6pm
TUESDAY	24th	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6pm
WEDNESDAY	25th	Christmas Day - Church office closed.
THURSDAY	26th	Church office closed.
SUNDAY	29th	5th Sunday Lunch after service - Theme: Lunch in Italy

DATES AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE REFER TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS BEFORE SERVICE AND THOSE PRINTED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETINS.