

**November 21, 2021**  
**Thanksgiving Sunday**  
**No Sermon Sunday!**

**Prelude**-Big Bright Beautiful World-Andra Moran mp4

**Welcome**

Good morning! Welcome to Disciples Christian Church. I am Rev. Kelley Becker, the Senior Minister. Thank you for being here, whether you are here in-person or online, your presence matters. For some of us, this week will mark the beginning of “the most wonderful time of the year.” And for others, this week brings dread, anxiety, and grief. Know that however this season finds you, you are not alone. Knowing that we don’t have to face life’s hard spots alone is one reason the gift of community is so important. Today we pause to give thanks for that and to draw our attention to gratitude around three themes:

Gratitude for the Earth

Gratitude for Relationships

Gratitude for Faith

I hope, no matter where you are on your journey or how you feel in this moment, there will be something in our time together that sparks a spirit of gratefulness in your heart. Today I am reminded of Maya Angelou’s words, “This is a wonderful day I have never seen this one before.” I am glad you are here.

Every week, we gather to celebrate that darkness cannot extinguish light, and to remember that love will always be more powerful than fear.

We gather to be reminded of what it means to be called people of God. Let us bring in the Light.

(a deacon will light candles)

These candles symbolize God’s presence and steadfast love in our homes, in our lives, and in our world. They remind us that the light of God’s love is not confined to a church building, it is everywhere.

Will you pray with me?

Holy One,

Open our eyes wide to the many gifts in our lives.

Let us meet you humbly today with our thanks.

Settle our restlessness and quiet the relentless wanting of our souls. Help us find what we need in these moments as we turn our attention to you.

Remind us of your faithful presence and all the ways you have shown up for us again and again. Amen.

When it was time for our faith ancestors to come into God's presence, they literally went 'up' to the gates of the temple, singing and chanting as they went into the temple courts where God's presence was thought to dwell.

In our tradition, we tend to think of God's presence not just in one place, like a temple, but in us and all around us everywhere. Though we don't have to hike up a mountain to get to God, it is still appropriate that we sing ourselves into worship this morning!

Please stand in body or spirit as we worship together.

### **Hymns: For the Beauty of the Earth CH #56 v. 1,2**

#### **Centering: Gratitude for Earth**

Within the Celtic tradition, there is the belief that as we experience the beauty of the earth, we do so firmly planted in our physical bodies and also aware in our hearts that what we are experiencing is a holy gift from the One who loved all of creation into existence. With that spirit of gratitude, we come to appreciate God's creativity and our own call to be stewards for all of creation.

From the tradition of the prophet Isaiah, we read:

For thus says the Lord,  
who created the heavens  
(God is God!),  
who formed the earth and made it  
(God established it;  
God did not create it a chaos,  
God formed it to be inhabited!):  
I am the Lord, and there is no other.

On your way into the sanctuary today, I hope you picked up a leaf. If you are worshipping at home, use the comments as your digital leaf. As we reflect on the beauty of nature and all that God created, you are invited to write on your leaf, one part of creation for which you are especially thankful today. When you are

ready, add your leaf to our fall leaf pile in front of the communion table. Rev. Hubbard, will you be sure the comments from the at-home worshipers get added to our pile?

### **Special Music: Everything is Holy Now (Scott Taylor)**

#### **Prayer for Creation**

Thank you seems not enough, Architect-of-All.  
Every creature and utterance. Every rock and smudge of dirt.  
Every grain and root.  
Everything proclaims your goodness and worships your creativity.  
Through color  
Through shape  
Through scent  
Through form  
Through sound  
We pause in gratefulness before you, God.  
This world. This beautiful world.  
Your creation. This ball named Earth.  
Wrapped in healing waters.  
Held in warm light.  
Gifted to be love so that we in turn, love the world.  
Thank you seems not enough.  
May our joy be held today, knit together in the whole of creation. Amen.

### **Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth CH #56 vs. 4,5**

#### **Time for Children**

##### **Centering: Gratitude for Relationships**

An important component of Jesus' ministry was being WITH others, DWELLING with them. How we dwell with one another in thanksgiving and gratitude forms us for deepening relationships. With thanks-full hearts we come together, holding space for one another, loving deeply with each other, and dwelling alongside each other as God's beloved in the world.

May we feel at home with each other through our faith.

One of the ways in which we dwell with each other is by praying with and for each other. Each week, we share what brought us joy that week and also the things that have our hearts troubled. If you are worshipping in-person, you are invited to fill out a prayer request form and put it in the basket on the communion table. The forms are on the table by the door. If you are worshipping online, you are invited to share, in the comments of this broadcast, your prayer requests. We would love to celebrate what is bringing you joy and pray with you this week about your concerns.

### **Prayer Song- Kum ba Yah CH #590 vs. 1,2**

#### **Prayer**

Read prayer requests-Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite in-person worshipers to come forward, one at a time, and light a candle.

### **Prayer Song (cont'd)-Kum ba Yah CH #590 vs. 3, 4**

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **Special Music: Messengers (Scott Taylor)**

#### **Centering: Gratitude for Our Faith**

Within our faith tradition, we follow the teachings and ways of Jesus. Together, we embrace rituals of hospitality, shelter, and table to reflect God into the world. As we gather for worship, we become keenly aware that we are on a journey to more fully and wholistically integrate our faith as we seek to live in relationship with God, made real in the life of Jesus. Together we reflect deeply. We pray unceasingly. We serve faithfully, for this is how we share our gratitude for our God who is the author of love.

#### **Communion**

One of the ways we live out our faith is by gathering at the communion table each week. It is there that we proclaim with confidence that there is a place in the kingdom of God for everyone. There is a place set for each one of us at this abundant table that offers us community, forgiveness, fresh starts, and so much love.

## **Song: Room at the Table (Carrie Newcomer)-Scott Taylor**

### **Building the Community**

Congregational Meeting-right after worship

Advent Decorating-today!

Hanging of the Greens-next week, 11/28

Longest Night Service: Tuesday, December 21 @ 7 pm

This service will be a beautiful, reflective service that will acknowledge that this season is complicated and that not being okay is okay. Your presence will remind others that they are not alone.

Your generosity makes all of this happen and it makes a difference in Bartlesville and beyond.

Please don't forget to give to the church by either going to the church by going to the website ([www.dccbville.org](http://www.dccbville.org)) and clicking "Give" on the homepage, dropping a check in the mail, or if you are worshipping here in person, you can drop a check in the offering box. Thank you for trusting us with your gifts.

**Hymn:** In the Bulb There is a Flower

**Benediction**