**Thanksgiving Eve Community Service ­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 ***As you enter to worship, please remember to silence your cell phones.* **

**WELCOME AND GREETING Dr. Woodie Rea**

**PRELUDES *Serendipity* Kent Knappenberger**

 ***Passacaglia in C Minor* Fred Gramann**

 ***Jubilance* Kevin McChesney**

**Inter-Faith Ringers**

**CANDLE LIGHTING Rabbi Dr. Gary Fink**

**INTROIT *Thank the Lord* Rene Clausen**

**Combined Choirs**

**CALL TO THANKSGIVING Rabbi Dr. Gary Fink**

*Leader: The world is filled with the glory of God,*

**PEOPLE: Let us come and give thanks**!

*Leader: The hills and valleys are filled with color,*

 *the beauty of the Lord is all around.*

**PEOPLE: Let us come and give thanks!**

*Leader: God has made this day, and us in it.*

 *The Lord breathes upon us and fills us with life.*

**PEOPLE: Let us come and lift our voices in praise!**

*Leader: God gives our lives meaning through family and friends,*

 *through celebrations and difficulties, through laughter and tears.*

**PEOPLE: Let us come and lift our voices in praise!**

*Leader: God blesses us with all good things,*

 *and overwhelms us with abundant generosity.*

**PEOPLE: Let us come and worship!**

*Leader: Let us gather together in gratitude to God.*

 *Let us gather together in gratitude to one another.*

**PEOPLE: Let us come and worship!**

*Leader: The God of peace greets us in this time of worship.*

 *.*

**PEOPLE: Let us enter with thanksgiving and heartfelt praise.**

**ALL: Let us come as thankful people.**

**❖ *All who are able, please stand.***

**GATHERING PRAYER Rabbi Dr. Gary Fink**

**❖ GATHERING HYMN *We Gather Together***

 **We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;**

 **He chastens and hastens his will to make known;**

 **The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.**

 **Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.**

 **Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,**

 **Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;**

 **So from the beginning the fight we were winning;**

 **Thou, Lord, was at our side; all glory be Thine!**

 **We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,**

 **And pray that Thou still our defender will be.**

 **Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;**

 **Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

**LITANY OF THANKSGIVING Michael Benefiel**

*Leader:**Help us to stop for a moment and gather our thoughts. Help us to let go of any preoccupations or concerns we have. Help us to open our eyes and look around us. For the gift that others are to us, and for the potential gift we can be to others...*

**PEOPLE: Lord of all to Thee we raise, this our prayer of grateful praise.**

*Leader: We give thanks for this season of Thanksgiving, and for this time right now. Help us to breathe in the beauty and splendor that is all around us. Though at times, situations may appear dark and beyond our grasp, help us believe and trust in the goodness of life...*

**PEOPLE: Lord of all to Thee we raise, this our prayer of grateful praise.**

*Leader: We give thanks for our families, for those who are close and for those who are far away. We give thanks for our friends who mean so much to us. We are grateful for those persons that we can trust to be our true selves with, knowing that we are accepted, just as we are...*

**PEOPLE: Lord of all to Thee we raise, this our prayer of grateful praise.**

*Leader: We give thanks for life that is both embracing and letting go. Help us to focus on what a precious gift life is, and how truly blessed we are to be experiencing it. God, you have given us much, and we ask now for one more thing...a grateful heart...*

**PEOPLE: Lord of all to Thee we raise, this our prayer of grateful praise.**

**ANTHEM  *Thanks Be to God* Stephen Dean**

**Combined Choirs**

**SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 121 Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea**

**DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea**

**ANTHEM  *Let Us Give Our Thanks Together* Douglas Nolan**

**Combined Choirs**

**THANKSGIVING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea**

**❖ HYMN FOR THE NATION *This Is My Song***

 **This is my song, O God of all the nations,**

 **A song of peace for lands afar and mine.**

 **This is my home, the country where my heart is;**

 **Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine.**

 **But other hearts in other lands are beating**

 **With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

 **My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean,**

 **And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.**

 **But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,**

 **And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.**

 **So hear my song, O God of all the nations,**

 **A song of peace for their land and for mine.**

**SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 100 Sister Christine Kresho, CSJ**

**SERMON Father Jim Boccabella**

**“Thanksgiving For All People, All Days”**

**VOCAL SOLO: *Bless This House* May H. Brahe**

**Edward Laskin, soloist**

**COMMISSIONING Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea**

*Leader: We began this worship event with thanksgiving.*

 *I call on you now, to move out into the world with thanksgiving*

**PEOPLE: May thanksgiving be more than a special day;**

 **May it be a way of life for all people, all days.**

*Leader: Let thanksgiving enhance the joys we experience.*

**PEOPLE: Let thanksgiving transcend the pains we suffer.**

**ALL: We have been enriched every day and in every way by**

 **great generosity. Thanksgiving to our God!**

**❖ BENEDICTION AND BLESSING Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea**

 **Edward Laskin**

 **May God bless you and keep you.**

 **May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.**

 **May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Amen.**

**(Numbers 6:24-26)**

**❖ CLOSING HYMN *Praise and Thanksgiving***

 **Praise and thanksgiving, Holy, we offer,**

 **For all things living, God has made good.**

 **Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,**

 **Hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

 **Lord, bless the labor, we bring to serve you,**

 **That with our neighbor, we might be fed.**

 **Sowing or tilling, we work together,**

 **Harvesting, milling, for daily bread.**

 **Then will your blessing, reach every people;**

 **Your wisdom guiding, teach us to share.**

 **One with another, so that, rejoicing,**

 **Sisters and brothers, may know your care.**

**POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God*  Sigfrid Karg-Elert**

 **Kevin M. Clemens, Director of Music**

***Go in Peace --Happy Thanksgiving***

***The Celebration Participants***

**The Inter-Faith Chapel . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Rev. Dr. Woodie Rea**

 **Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea**

**Jewish Residents of Leisure World . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Rabbi Dr. Gary Fink**

 **Edward Laskin**

**Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Father Jim Boccabella**

 **Sister Christine Kresho, CSJ**

**Unitarian Universalists of Leisure World . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Michael Benefiel**

***Choir Directors and Accompanists***

**The Inter-Faith Chapel . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Kevin Clemens**

**Jewish Residents of Leisure World . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Edward Laskin**

**Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Dorothy Luksic**

**Video Technician / Sexton . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Paul Buck**

 **Ushers . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Arlene Kaiser, Anna Pappas**

 **Clydis Kellough, Louise Langley**

**Hosts. . . . . . . .The Inter-Faith Chapel Membership and Outreach Committees**

***Reception***

 **You are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshment**

**in The Fellowship Hall following our Thanksgiving celebration.**

***Our Thanksgiving Offering***

**In the spirit of thankfulness and giving, please consider contributing to the good work to help and support others. Offering plates are located in the front lobby area. These cash gifts, along with your canned good contributions, will be forwarded to Shepherd’s Table, a resource welcoming center in Silver Spring. Shepherd’s Table provides a wide range of services for those in need within our community. This assistance includes offering three hot meals a day, access to vision care, prescription support, as well as serving as a resource center for a mailing address. They seek to make the community a better place for their clientele and others. Your support is appreciated.**

 **❖ ❖ ❖**

***Upcoming Events***

**Georgian Forest Elementary Chorus**

**Plan to attend a special concert by the chorus of Georgian Forest Elementary School on Wednesday, December 6 at 10:15 am at The Inter-Faith Chapel. This is the sixth year that the Chorus has been to Leisure World as a way of thanking the Leisure World community for their support in providing needed school supplies, books and holiday gifts.**

***Inter-Faith Chapel Concert Series***

**The Inter-Faith Chapel offers a free concert series to the community throughout the year. The Westminster Ringers will perform a seasonal concert on Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 pm at The Inter-Faith Chapel. This group of advanced, auditioned ringers will perform sacred and secular favorites, plus original bell compositions of the Christmas and Chanukah season.**