

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

**Old Stone Church
Clemson, South Carolina**

Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2009

**Old Stone Church
Pendleton, South Carolina**

**Old Stone Church was built in the year 1797 by John Rusk
for the Hopewell (Keowee) Presbyterian Congregation.
The building stands on land near Clemson University
and Pendleton, South Carolina.**

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2009

Call to Worship: Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

People: Serve the Lord with gladness!

Leader: Come into his presence with singing!

People: Know that the Lord is God!

Leader: It is he that made us, and we are his;

People: We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

People: Give thanks to him, bless his name!

Leader: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

People: And his faithfulness to all generations.

+ Hymn: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;

God, our maker, doth provide, for our wants to be supplied;

Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own, field, fruit unto his praise to yield;

Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown;

First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;

Lord of harvest, grant that we, wholesome grain and pure may be.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, to Thy final harvest home;

Gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;

They're forever purified, in Thy presence to abide;

Come, with all Thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

+ A Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies; we your unworthy servants; do give you most humble and hearty thanks; for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all people. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your unconditional love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for all means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech you, give us that due sense of all your mercies; that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to your service; and by walking before you in righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory; world without end. Amen.

+ Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

People: And also with you.

The Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 145

+ 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 wilt be.

Let Thy congregation escape tribulation; Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

A Congregational Litany of Thanksgiving

Leader: For the good world; for things great and small, beautiful and awesome; for seen and unseen splendors;

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For human life; for talking and moving and thinking together; for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying;

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For family; for living together and eating together; for family amusements and family pleasures;

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For children; for their energy and curiosity; for their brave play and their startling frankness; for their sudden sympathies;

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For the young; for their high hopes; for their irreverence toward what they think are our worn out values; their search for freedom; their solemn vows;

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For growing up and growing old; for wisdom deepened by experience; for rest in leisure; and for time made precious by its passing;

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For the church into which we have been called; for the good news we receive by word and sacrament; for our life together in the Lord;

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love; who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship;

People: Thank you, God.

Leader: Above all, O God, for your Son, Jesus Christ, who lived and died and lives again for our salvation; for our hope in him; and for the joy of serving him;

People: We thank and praise you, God, our Father, for all your goodness to us.

Individual Statements of Thanksgiving (For What Are You Thankful?)

The New Testament Lesson: Philippians 4:4-9

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

+ Hymn: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

**For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies.**

Refrain: Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.**

Refrain: Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

**For Thy church that evermore, lift-eth holy hand above,
Offering up on every shore, her pure sacrifice of love.**

Refrain: Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

+ The Benediction

+ indicates that all who are able may stand

Service Notes: The Pastor's Fund is used to meet emergency needs of food, clothing, housing, and other essentials of life at the discretion of the Minister. This is a non-budgeted item, and if you would like to make a Thanksgiving offering to this Fund, a plate is available outside the rear door of this landing. Checks should be made to Fort Hill Church and marked "Pastor's Fund."

Leading in worship today are Fort Hill Church pastoral staff members Laura Conrad and Mary Gause. Our pianist today is Fort Hill Church member, Vernie Roberts.