

WORSHIP KIT

**THANK YOU,**

*Lord,*  
**FOR**



**PEOPLE**



**PLACES**



**& THINGS**

**A Service For  
Thanksgiving**

# THANK YOU, *Lord,* PEOPLE FOR PLACES & THINGS

## A Service For Thanksgiving

### Order of Service

#### *An Opening*

*Melody*.....*Kremser*

We gather together to thank you, Lord Jesus,  
For people and places and things that you give.  
Each day, minute, hour, rich blessings you shower.  
Through you and you alone do we work, play and live.

**L** *O God, at the time of creation, you made man and woman in your own image, and you have placed special people into our lives who continue to reflect your image in their love, care and support for us.*

**C** **Thank you, Lord, for the people who have shared their lives with us.**

For father and mother, for sister and brother,  
For friends and for fam'ly—for all we hold dear,  
We praise you and bless you; acclaim and profess you.  
With loved ones you have loved us with holiest cheer.

**L** *You promised your chosen people, dear God, a place for them to dwell, a land flowing with milk and honey. By your mighty hand they reached that promised place and made it their home. You have led us to special places, too, places that sustain us, comfort us and refresh us in our faith and life.*

**C** **Thank you, Lord, for the places that draw us closer to you, to one another and to the world around us.**

From offices, households, from churches and schoolyards,  
From all of the spaces you place us, O King,  
We lift up our praises—your presence amazes.  
Through all the world our most heartfelt worship we bring.

**L** *You knew just what your chosen people needed when you rained down manna and quail from heaven for them to eat. In much the same way, you have rained down the things we need to enrich and sustain our lives.*

**C** **Thank you, Lord, for the blessing of special things that nourish and protect our bodies, call to mind memorable moments and simply bring us joy.**

For things that enthrall us, for clothes that are warming,  
For objects to ogle, and food that can fill,  
For ev'ry good pleasure, for all that we treasure,  
We praise your name, O Jesus; pray teach us your will.

## Prayer of the Day

### Children's Sermon

# THANK YOU, LORD for people

*Epistle Reading* ..... *Colossians 1:3-12*

*Sermonette* ..... *We the People*

*Song* ..... *Come, You Thankful People, Come*

Come, you thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.  
All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our maker, does 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.

# THANK YOU, LORD for places

*Old Testament Reading* ..... *Genesis 28:10-19*

*Sermonette* ..... *The Place To Be*

*Song* ..... *Christ Is Our Cornerstone*

Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build;  
With his true saints alone the courts of heav'n are filled.  
On his great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise the Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim in joyful song both loud and long that glorious name.

# THANK YOU, LORD for things

*Gospel Reading* ..... *Matthew 6:25-33*

*Sermonette* ..... *Things To Think About*

*Song* ..... *Now Thank We All Our God*

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all harm in this world and the next!

## Offering And Prayers

*(Each prayer petition ends with the following response.)*

**L** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

# Lord's Prayer

*(If Holy Communion is celebrated, it may take place at this time.)*

## Benediction

*Closing Song..... Praise To The Lord, The Almighty*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with his love he befriend you.

# THANK YOU, *Lord,* PEOPLE FOR PLACES & THINGS

## A Service For Thanksgiving

### Complete Script for Worship Leaders

- The **Opening** includes a responsive litany and a hymn sung by the congregation to the tune *Kremser, 12 11 12 11*:

We gather together to thank you, Lord Jesus,  
For people and places and things that you give.  
Each day, minute, hour, rich blessings you shower.  
Through you and you alone do we work, play and live.

ℓ *O God, at the time of creation, you made man and woman in your own image, and you have placed special people into our lives who continue to reflect your image in their love, care and support for us.*

© **Thank you, Lord, for the people who have shared their lives with us.**

For father and mother, for sister and brother,  
For friends and for fam'ly—for all we hold dear,  
We praise you and bless you; acclaim and profess you.  
With loved ones you have loved us with holiest cheer.

ℓ *You promised your chosen people, dear God, a place for them to dwell, a land flowing with milk and honey. By your mighty hand they reached that promised place and made it their home. You have led us to special places, too, places that sustain us, comfort us and refresh us in our faith and life.*

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From offices, households, from churches and schoolyards,  
From all of the spaces you place us, O King,  
We lift up our praises—your presence amazes.  
Through all the world our most heartfelt worship we bring.

**L** *You knew just what your chosen people needed when you rained down manna and quail from heaven for them to eat. In much the same way, you have rained down the things we need to enrich and sustain our lives.*

**C** **Thank you, Lord, for the blessing of special things that nourish and protect our bodies, call to mind memorable moments and simply bring us joy.**

For things that enthrall us, for clothes that are warming,  
For objects to ogle, and food that can fill,  
For ev'ry good pleasure, for all that we treasure,  
We praise your name Jesus; pray teach us your will.

• The **Prayer of the Day** is read:

**P** *In thanksgiving we come before you, Lord God of all, grateful for the many blessings of this day which you have showered upon us. Dwell with your people here on earth, as we live and work to serve you and one another more and more. Inhabit the places where we spend our time that we may be strengthened in the spaces where we work, play, worship and relax. Grant to us the things we need to support this body and life, but help us not to cling to the things of this earth so tightly that we lose our grip on you. In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.*

• The **Children's Sermon** is given:

**P** *Hello, boys and girls and happy Thanksgiving. Today is a day for us to say thank you to God for everything that he has given us. But in this service we are going to be saying thank you to God for three very important things. And those three things are people, places, and things.*

*Let's talk about people. There are millions of people in this world. But God chose very special people to care for you and love you. Who are the special people who love you and take care of you? (Allow the children to respond.) These special people in our lives remind us of that very special person that came to earth to be with us. Do any of you know who that very special person is? (Allow the children to respond.) That's right, it is Jesus, the one person on earth who lived a sinless life and died on a cross and rose again that all people might be saved and have a special place reserved for us forever.*

*Speaking of special places, what are the special places where you like to spend your time? (Allow the children to respond.) Your room may be a special place for many of you because it is a place where you can be alone and get away from everybody. Jesus once said, "When you pray, go to your room and close the door." Jesus wants your room to be a special place where you can be alone with him and pray about all the things going on in your life.*

*Speaking of things, what are the special things that you have that you really enjoy? (Allow the children to respond.) Do any of you have a special blanket or a stuffed animal that you take with you wherever you go? (Allow the children to respond.) What makes that thing so special to you? Maybe it reminds you of a happy time. Maybe it keeps you warm at night. Maybe it is something that just makes you feel good when you are worried or scared. The things that are special to you remind us that we are God's special possessions and he will do whatever it takes to have us with him all the time and every day. God says in the Bible, "You are mine!" We never need to wonder what will happen to us because we know that we are the Lord's and we will belong to him forever in heaven. So thank God today for the people, places and things in your life. But thank God most of all for the person of Jesus, a place to pray to him, and all the things God did to make us his own.*

- The first of three sections of the service begins:

## THANK YOU, LORD for people

- The **Epistle Reading**, Colossians 1:3-12, is read:

**P** *We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.*

- The Sermonette, *We The People*, is preached:

**P** *You can just feel the love that St. Paul has for the Colossian people in these verses, can't you? And we can learn a lot about being thankful in how we interact with people from this reading, can't we? Paul starts off by saying, "We thank God for you!" and "We pray for you!" Today is a day for us to really show how thankful we are to God for the people in our lives. That might mean going right up to someone you hold near and dear and saying, "I thank God for you!" and then telling that person why you are so thankful to God for him or her. That might mean being extra helpful to someone who is preparing your Thanksgiving feast today. That might mean giving a big bear hug or a hearty handshake to someone who is very special to you. It might mean including the names of people you love in the prayer you say around the dinner table. However you wish to do it, show people in some way how grateful you are for their presence in your life.*

*Paul showed his gratitude for people in his life in another way, too—by speaking to other people whom he found faithful, like his friend Epaphras. People are encouraged and sustained by the stories of others who have remained faithful to the Lord in their service to him. When was the last time you spoke well of someone to another person in your life? When we make a point of highlighting the good qualities in a person in our conversations with others, we are spurred on to be better people ourselves.*

*This leads to another important aspect of this passage from Paul. We sense in this letter that there is a certain symbiosis going on among the people. They are relying on one another and helping each other. They are "bearing fruit" and "increasing in the knowledge of God," thanks to one another. How are we helping one another to bear fruit and increase in our knowledge of God? Well, you are doing it right now, by coming together to worship God in this place, to talk to one another about your faith journeys, and to read Scripture in each other's presence. As the song goes, "People need people." We need each other if we are ever going to make it through this experience we call life. So we need to be there for one another, whatever it takes. That's why God designed the Church. And as we know from another song, "The Church is a people. I am the Church. You are the Church. We are the church together. All who follow Jesus, all around the world. Yes, we're the Church together."*

*So today I ask you, "Who are your people, your 'peeps,' if you will, the people who get you through your day, who help you see what God is doing in your life, the people who point you to Jesus every day?"*

*Take out your bulletin, if you would. There you will see three boxes with lines inside them. In the first box you see there, under the picture of two people hugging, I want you*

*to write the names of special people in your life you are thankful to God for, and make a promise to pray for those people sometime today.*

*I'll give you a moment. (Allow time for them to make a list.) Now let's sing Come, You Thankful People, Come.*

- This **Song** is sung by the congregation to the tune *St. George's, Windsor*:

Come, you thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.  
All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our maker, does 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.

- The second of three sections of the service begins:

## THANK YOU, LORD for places

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Genesis 28:10-19, is read:

**P** *Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.*

- This **Sermonette, The Place To Be**, is preached:

**P** *Has anyone ever said to you, “Go to your happy place”? Mental health professionals use this thought-starter to help their patients relax. So I ask you today as your spiritual health professional, “What is your happy place, the place you go to find rest for your body, mind and soul?” For many of you, that place may be here at church, where you are fed by Scripture, renewed by the words of forgiveness and absolution, nourished by the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and are free to praise our God through song. For others your “happy place” may be your home, which you consider to be a safe haven from the busyness of life and where you are surrounded by the love and care of your family. Still others of you may think of your workplace as your “happy place,” the place where you are in your element, accomplishing tasks, being energized, and actively serving people.*

*How about you? What are your special places that you are thankful to God for? I want you again to take out your bulletin and write on the lines in the second box on the cover those places that are special to you. I will give you a moment to do that. (Allow time for them to make a list.)*

*Now that you have made your list of your special places, I want you to think with me about the reading from Genesis that was just read. In this reading, Jacob says of where he is “How awesome is this place!” And why does he say this? Because, he says, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” It was in this place in the dark of night where he stopped to sleep. Why was he in this place? Because he was fleeing away in fear from his brother Esau, whom he had wronged. But what happened in this place? Jacob had a dream of angels ascending and descending on a ladder to and from heaven and he heard the Lord assure him that “I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.” Jacob awoke and built an altar in that place and called that place Bethel, which means House of God.*

*What we learn from this story is that the place itself may not have been that special to begin with. In fact, it originally had the rather unattractive name of Luz. But God made that place special by his presence and Jacob recognized that. The fact is that we need to recognize, too, that every place we find ourselves in is a Bethel, a House of God. God is with you as he was with Jacob, wherever you go. What can you do to bring that fact to light in every place you are? You don’t have to build an altar in your cubicle, but you can put a favorite Bible verse on a Post-it and put it on the side of your computer. You can put a picture of Jesus on the wall next to your kitchen table. You can wear a cross necklace to a party. Whatever it is, put little reminders of God’s presence in your life in each and every place. And thank God every day for the places where he has put you to praise his name and live for him. The miracle is that because of God’s presence with*

*us and his blessing that surrounds us wherever we are, every place can be our “happy place” and our “place to be.” Let’s thank God especially this day for the blessing of his Son Jesus, called “Emmanuel,” which means, “God with us,” who came to this earth to move into our neighborhood and live with us and love us and save us through his death and resurrection. He is the foundation upon which we build our lives in every place we are. So we sing the hymn together now, Christ Is Our Cornerstone.*

- This **Song** is sung by the congregation to the tune *Darwall’s 148th*:

Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build;  
With his true saints alone the courts of heav’n are filled.  
On his great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise the Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim in joyful song both loud and long that glorious name.

- The third of three sections of the service begins:

## THANK YOU, LORD for things

- The **Gospel Reading**, Matthew 6:25-33, is read:

¶ *Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*