

Earle Street Baptist Church

10:30 am Worship

November 19, 2023

*Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Pledge Sunday*

CHIMES

WELCOME

Dale Lynch

PRELUDE

Prayer of Thanksgiving

arr. Hustad/Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Cindy Doolittle

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

People: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise;

Leader: Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

All: For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations. Amen.

INVOCATION

*HYMN OF PRAISE #372 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
(All children, grade 5 and under, may come forward on the final stanza.)

**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.**

**We ourselves are 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.**

**For the Lord our God shall come and shall take His harvest home;
From His field shall purge away all that doth offend that day;
Give His angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store in His keeping evermore.**

**Even so, Lord quickly come, bring Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;
There, forever purified, in Thy presence to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.**

CHILDREN'S LOVE OFFERING

Rebecca Register

Church Without Walls

(Following this, preschoolers, ages 3 – K5, may go to Sunday School,
and children, grades 1 – 5 may go to Children's Church.)

*OFFERTORY HYMN #376 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

AR HYD Y NOS

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For His gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done,
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Stuart Moore

OFFERTORY

Give Thanks

arr. Cindy Berry

*RESPONSE

Doxology

OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 8:1-12

Gary Strickland

¹And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. ⁶So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. ⁷But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. ⁸I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. ¹⁰And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ¹²For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. ¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many

expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Find in Me a Thankful Heart

Lloyd Larson

Sanctuary Choir

When you look inside my life, Lord, when you search my thoughts and ways,
May you find in me a thankful heart, a life of grateful praise.
Of the bounty of your blessing, of your constant love and care,
Of your endless grace and mercy, let me always be aware.

As I think of all the many gifts you offer every day,
Let my thankfulness be seen in everything I do and say.

Through each kindness to a stranger, through each act of caring shown,
Through my love for friends and family, let my gratitude be known.

When you look inside my life, Lord, when you search my thoughts and ways,
May you find in me a thankful heart, a life of grateful praise. Find in me a grateful heart.

MESSAGE

“\$5000 for Venezuela”

Gary Strickland

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT #667

FOREST GREEN

As Saints of Old Their First Fruits Brought

(You are invited to bring your pledge card forward by way of the inside aisles, place it in the basket, and return to your seat by way of the outside aisles.)

**As saints of old their first fruits brought of orchard, flock, and field
To God the giver of all good, the Source of bounteous yield;
So we today first fruits would bring: the wealth of this good land,
Of farm and market, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.**

**A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give;
To make our life an offering that others too may live.
The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
A world redeemed, Your kingdom, come, all life in Christ made new.**

**In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
To serve Your cause, to share Your love and show to all Your way.
O God, who gave Yourself to us in Jesus Christ Your Son,
Teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*BENEDICTION

Gary Strickland

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #705

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end. Amen, amen.**

*POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. Virgil Fox

*Congregation will please stand.

Hearing devices are available upon request. Please see one of the ushers if you would like to use one. Our worship services are live streamed via the ESBC YouTube channel. The services are also archived for future viewing on YouTube. For an explanation of the meaning of the colors and symbols used for worship in our sanctuary, please refer to the worship guide located on the front page of the hymnal.

Acolyte—Bear Wilkinson

Deacon of the Week—Stuart Moore

Greeters—Becky Bridges/Madge and Barry Patterson

Sound Technician—Hunter Freeman

Video Technician—Dan Boehm

Ushers—Knox Boggs, Al Wassinger, Calder Standridge, Quay Farmer, Keith Merck, Pat Riddle, Rick Green, Robin Scott Blackburn

Preschool/Children Volunteers—Rebecca Keck, Holly Holtzclaw, Amy Moore, Brittani Costanza, Amanda Cushman, Jeannie Flowe, Tammi Knight, Jane Leo, Tammy Dowdy, Noellen Groff, Paige Stanley, Janie Wassinger, Margo Love, Grey Register, Calder Standridge

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOMINEE TO FILL VACANT POSITION ON THE PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, in unanimous agreement, has selected Eric Wells as the nominee to fill the vacant position on the Pastor Search Committee. In accordance with our constitution and bylaws, the nominee will be presented to the church for a vote by ballot on Sunday, November 26, in the morning worship service. For your information, the other members who were elected on July 23 and are already serving on the Pastor Search Committee are: Gee Gee Carmarda, David Clyborne, Emory Hendrix, Carrie Mussman, Rebecca Register, and Larry Worley.

THANKSGIVING WEEK

Wednesday, November 22

No Regular Wednesday Evening Activities

Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24

Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Trip to the Processing Center in Charlotte, NC
Tuesday, November 28

There will be a group traveling to the processing center in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Tuesday, November 28. If you would like to join them, please contact Mary Arrowood at 864-246-7059 or 864-918-7063. This is a great opportunity to be hands-on in the Operation Christmas Child process and see what happens to the boxes once they leave ESBC. There is a limited number of spots so please contact Mary as soon as possible if you would like to go.

Follow the link below for more upcoming events!

