

Waupun United Methodist Church, Waupun, WI
Worship Music – 11/21/2021

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 as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then 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 the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store in the garner 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.**

Bible Reading on screen/supplement Joel 2:21-27
Today's reading from the book of Joel was written during a very hard time in the history of the Hebrew people. There had been no rain for a long, long time and the crops were very poor. Then came grasshoppers to eat what little grain they did have. But still the people sing a song of thanksgiving, trusting that the rains will eventually come, and that God is looking after them. They sing a song of praise as if the rains that they long for have already come. This is true thanksgiving.

Choir: Do not fear, O soil: be glad and rejoice, for God had done great things! Do not fear, O animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green, the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

East side: O people of God, be glad and rejoice! God has blest us with rain; God has poured abundant rain down for us; the early and the late rains, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats of wine and oil shall overflow.

West side: God says to us, "I will make up for the times of famine and destruction. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of your God, who has richly blest you.

All: And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of the nation, and that I am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame." (paraphrased)

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

**Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
 Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home?
 When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:
 His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
 his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
 for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.**

**"Let not your heart be troubled," his tender word I hear,
 and resting on his goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
 though by the path he leadeth, but one step I may see:
 His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
 his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
 for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.**

**Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
 when song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
 I draw the closer to him, from care he sets me free:
 His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
 his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.**

**I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
 for his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.**

²⁵ “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

²⁸ “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, ²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

³¹ “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

New Living Translation (NLT)

Closing Hymn

“Praise God for the Earth’s Abundance”

Mel. – Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

**Praise God for the earth’s abundance,
for the fruit upon the tree.
Harvest of the field and garden,
produce of both land and sea.
All we have by God is given:
we respond through lives that care.
Engaged in mission and in service,
off’ring what we have to share.**

**May the beauty of our Maker
shine from each and ev’ry face.
May our lives in one great anthem
praise our God’s amazing grace.
Ev’ryone unique and special,
a reflection of God’s love.
Joining in the great Thanksgiving
that the angels sing above.**

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*Blessing

Our gospel reading from Matthew today says, "Do not be anxious." it does not say, "Do not be concerned." It does not say, "Just pray harder, and all will work out." It does not say, "Expect others to feed, clothe, house you, that is, take care of all your needs without lifting a finger." Jesus does say that we deal with the troubles of this day, today. He is insisting that we put life in its proper perspective, now. Jesus urges us not to be anxious for what we cannot have anyway, namely, safety, and security.

Go forth now, into a world in which there is no security and safety, into a world where apathy (who cares?) and half-heartedness are dominant.

In Christ's name, move the world a little, beginning in your own home, in the name of God the Parent, the Child, the Spirit.

And may God be with you.

And with you too.

May God's grace, mercy, justice, and strength will be with you.

And we will be, we are, instruments of God's grace, mercy, justice, and strength to the world, because of our gratitude.