

**THE LIVING WATERS PARISH
THANKSGIVING SERVICE
November 24, 2019 – 4:00 PM
Oriskany Falls UMC**

ORGAN PRELUDE

GATHERING AND WELCOME

We come together to remember and give thanks for our ancestors who, after enduring religious persecution in their native England and for twelve years in Holland, the pilgrims sailed for North America. They were modest women and men with a great spirit and inward conviction. They rested in the providence of God, that He was leading them to a land of religious freedom.

After arriving in this new land, they faced disease, famine, devastating winters and many dangers. The first harvest occurred in the autumn of 1621. Their own seed had barely grown, but the Native Americans had shown them how to plant corn which yielded a huge harvest. On the first Thanksgiving, they celebrated God's goodness to them, along with a party of ninety Native Americans. Their thanksgiving feast lasted three days.

Today, in our great Nation, the United States of America, we suffer great trial and tribulation. We see sharp division among our American brothers and sisters. We witness hardship, i.e. hunger, poverty, poor health, the lack of education, (especially hit hard are our children and our elderly). Yet, our nation is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. In our free nation, founded on the substantive human rights of free speech, an open press, the right to worship in a church of one's choice, and the right to bear arms, we are sickened by the murder of fellow Christians, even before the very altar of Almighty God. The events at Sutherland Springs, Texas, show us that the world has gone full circle to the days of our ancestors. We are in a new age of religious persecution.

At this afternoon's service, we are invited to embrace the true intent of Thanksgiving. Let us acknowledge the many blessings which are ours. Let us think of our families and let us give thanks in our hearts as we gather and pray.

OPENING HYMN: "We Gather Together" UMH #131

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the lands!
 Serve the LORD with gladness!

All: Come into His presence with singing!
Know that the LORD is God!

Pastor: It is He that makes us, and we are His;
 We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

All: Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!

Pastor: Give thanks to Him, bless His name!

For the LORD is good;

All: **His steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all generations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: PRAISES AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering all of our prayers and praise into one, let us pray as Jesus, our Savior and Brother, has taught us:

**Our Father Who Art in heaven,
Hallowed be Your Name,
Your Kingdom Come,
Your Will be Done, on Earth as in Heaven.
Give us Today our daily bread.
Forgive us our Sins
as we Forgive those who sin against us,
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil
For the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are Yours,
Now and Forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY AND OFFERING

DOXOLOGY #95 UMH

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 55:6-13

HYMN "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" UMH #694

NEW TESTAMENT READING: James 2:14-26

MESSAGE: IT IS A TIME TO GIVE THANKS, TO REMEMBER, AND TO NEVER FORGET OUR MISSION!

HYMN: "Now Thank We All Our God" UMH #102

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Let Us Now Go Forth To Serve - Have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving!