



Welcome! What a joy it is to be gathered together in the Asplundh Field House celebrating Thanksgiving with you all. Our focus today is on the value of customs and traditions -- why we have them and why certain ones stand the test of time. Customs and traditions, especially religious ones, help us count our blessings and think of others. It is our hope that this worship service will launch you into the festive season. May today's message cause you to reflect on the importance of your own family customs and traditions. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Preludes

- Highland Cathedral – arr. Dale Trusheim
- Agincourt Song – arr. Elgar Howarth
- The Home of Legends – Paul Lovatt-Cooper
- Palladio – Karl Jenkins, arr. Tony Small
- I Heard the Voice – arr. Jef Penders
- All Good Gifts, from *Godspell* – Stephen Schwartz
- Calon Lân – John Hughes, arr. Philip Harper

Procession

- Old Hundredth – arr. Philip Sparke
- Alleluya – arr. Philip Wilby

Postlude

- Arsenal - Jan Van der Roost

- Penn View Brass Band, directed by John Shaw
- Bryn Athyn Choristers, directed by Robin Bier
- Leah Martin, organ

Order of Service

Come Sing to the Lord of Harvest 13

The Opening of the Lord’s Word
The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in the heavens, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, as in heaven so upon the earth. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen

Thanksgiving Recitation

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praises on the harp to our God, who covers the heavens with clouds, who prepares rain for the earth, who makes grass to grow on the mountains. He gives to the beast its food, and to the young ravens that cry.

Psalm 147: 7-9

The God of Harvest Praise 22

Reading from the Word

For the Beauty of the Earth..... 16

Message from Rev. Derek Elphick
The Value of Customs and Traditions

Interlude

Lauda, anima mea – Clémence de Grandval
(Bryn Athyn Choristers)

Fruit Offering Procession

The First Fruits 11

Blessing

For Peace and for Plenty 17

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

And it shall be, when you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, “I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.” Then the priest shall take the basket out of your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

Arcana Coelestia/Secrets of Heaven 9223

The fact that firstfruits were given to Jehovah symbolized the idea that the most important aspect of religion was to give the Lord rather than ourselves the credit for the good actions and true ideas of our faith. Giving the Lord the credit means knowing, acknowledging, and believing that it all comes from Him, not from ourselves... The reason firstfruits have this symbolism is that they were offerings, which were a way of giving thanks for the produce and of acknowledging blessings from the Lord. Such offerings were therefore a way of acknowledging that everything comes from Him. In an inner sense, they were an acknowledgment of the good impulses and true ideas of faith that are symbolized by a harvest, grain, oil, new wine, wine, wool, and fruit of which firstfruits were given.