Welcome to Lake Avenue Baptist Church

November 22, 2026



Artist Unknown

Centering Words

“The soul of one who loves God always swims in joy, always keeps holiday, and is always in a mood for singing.”

- John of the Cross

“To give thanks is to live thanks. All living is rooted in giving. Such is the ecology of the Spirit.”

- Ken Sehested

Good Mornings

Ma gwa na ni (Shona), **Ming galaba** (Burmese), **Mwah be you ay** (Bembe), **Mbote** (Lingala), **Jam bo** (Swahili), **Na Dam Ma** (Chin), **Gaw Ler Gay** (Karen), **Buenos Dias** (Spanish), **Bonjour** (French), **Zǎoshang hǎo** (Chinese), **Kaja Na Ai Ee** (Jinghpaw Kachin), **Te Rya Beh Tee** (Karenni), **Mauri** (Kiribati), **Oo-ya Morgen** (Flemish)

Announcements

- No Adult Ed today - Small Thanksgiving Luncheon
- Today is Stewardship Sunday - Pledge cards available on the table in the back if you haven't already filled one out
- Sanctuary bathrooms are closed for renovations – please use the bathrooms in the education hallway
- Poinsettia order forms in the bulletins
- We will be decorating for Christmas next Sunday after worship
- We are still collecting money for the Myanmar Orphanages
- Memory Cafe – Thursday, December 3 12-2pm
- "Make the Yuletide Gay" Concert – Wednesday, December 9, 7pm

Call to Worship -

One: Come! Let us sing joyfully to God!

Two: Raise a shout to our rock, our deliverance!

All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving and sing our praises with joy.



Call to Worship -



One: For the Holy One is a great God, the ruler above all gods.

Two: O God, in your hands are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks are yours.

One: Yours is the sea, for you made it,

Two: The dry land as well, for your hands formed it.

Call to Worship -

All: Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the Holy One, our Maker. For you are our God, and we are the people you shepherd, the flock under your care.



Opening Prayer - Unison

Merciful Creator, we breathe in your Spirit.
We fill our nostrils with the smell of your creation.
We fill our eyes and ears with the sights and sounds of your beauty.
We touch the tenderness of those whom you have given us to share life.
We give thanks with our breath, our senses, our singing, and our silence.
May we feel your presence keenly and know your love deeply in our worship and in our living.
Amen.



Opening Song - God of the Fertile Fields

God of the fertile fields,

Shaper of earth that yields

Our daily bread;

Opening Song - God of the Fertile Fields

Forth from your bounteous hand

Come gifts your love has planned,

That all in ev’ry land

Be clothed and fed.

Opening Song - God of the Fertile Fields

We would be stewards true,

Holding in trust from you

All that you give;

Opening Song - God of the Fertile Fields

Help us in love to share,

Teach us like you to care

For people everywhere,

That all may live.

Opening Song - God of the Fertile Fields

As grows the hidden seed

To fruit that serves our need,

Your reign yet grows.

Opening Song - God of the Fertile Fields

So let our toil be used,

No gift of yours abused,

No humble task refused

Your love bestows.

Opening Song - God of the Fertile Fields

God of the countryside,

Dear to the Christ who died

To make us one;

Opening Song - God of the Fertile Fields

We pledge our lives anew

In faithful love to you;

Guide all we say and do,

Till life is done.

Children’s Message



“Jesus Welcomes the Children”

Song of Blessing for Children - Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace,

Go now in peace,

May the love of God surround you,

Everywhere, everywhere

You may go. (x2)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

- Invitation to Offering
- Gathering of Pledges
- Ministry of Music
- Doxology
  - **We give thee but thine own, whate’er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**
- Blessing

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

- Sharing of Joys and Concerns
- Pastoral Prayer
- Lord’s Prayer:
  - **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we 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.**

Ancient Word - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

Ancient Word - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

9 As it is written, “God scatters abroad, and gives to the poor; God’s righteousness endures forever.”

10 The One who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

11 You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;

Ancient Word - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplied the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

13 Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others,

14 while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that the Holy One has given you.

15 Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!

Opening Song - Take My Gifts

Take my gifts and let me love you,

God who first of all loved me,

Gave me light and food and shelter,

Gave me life and set me free,

Opening Song - Take My Gifts

Now because your love has touched me,

I have love to give away,

Now the bread of love is rising,

Loaves of love to multiply.

Opening Song - Take My Gifts

Take the fruit that I have gathered

From the tree your Spirit sowed,

Harvest of your own compassion,

Juice that makes the wine of God.

Opening Song - Take My Gifts

Spiced with humor,

Laced with laughter–

Flavor of the Jesus life,

Tang of risk and new adventure,

Taste and zest beyond belief.

Opening Song - Take My Gifts

Take whatever I can offer–

Gifts that I have yet to find,

Skills that I am slow to sharpen,

Talents of the hand and mind,

Opening Song - Take My Gifts

Things made beautiful for others

In the place where I must be:

Take my gifts and let me love you,

God who first of all loved me.

Reflection on the Word - “Saints Alive! Living Generously”



“Feast of Creation” - Pablo Sanaguano Sanchez (Ecuador)

A Moment of Quiet Reflection



Closing Hymn - Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God

With heart and hand and voices,

Who wondrous things has done,

In whom the world rejoices.

Closing Hymn - Now Thank We All Our God

Who, from our mothers’ arms,

Has blessed us on our way

With countless gifts of love,

And still is ours today.

Closing Hymn - Now Thank We All Our God

O, may this bounteous God

Through all our life by near us,

With ever joyful hearts

And blessed peace to cheer us.

Closing Hymn - Now Thank We All Our God

And keep us full of grace,

And guide us when perplexed,

And free us from all ills

In this world and the next.

Closing Hymn - Now Thank We All Our God

All praise and thanks to God

Our Father and our Mother,

To Christ and to the One

Who binds us to each other,

Closing Hymn - Now Thank We All Our God

The one eternal God,

Whom earth and heaven adore,

For thus it was, is now,

And shall be evermore.

Blessing



Song of Blessing - Benediction

Here together we have found Thee,

Richly feasting on Thy bounty;

And our spirits overflowing,

Turn with joy now to our going.

Song of Blessing - Benediction

May the word which Thou hast spoken

Touch our lives where they are broken.

Let thy love dwell sweetly in us,

And Thy life flow deep within us.

Song of Blessing - Benediction

Tie our spirits in the tether,

That shall bind our hearts together.

May Thy peace and love embrace us

Everywhere Thy will shall place us.

Thank You for Joining Us!



“Winter Tree - Sculpted Stained Glass” - Wayne Cain