

# Historic White Marsh Church

November 23, 2025 - Giving of Thanks Sunday

Prelude

Marjorie Lampkin - Pianist

Hymn ~ 790

We Gather Together

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:10-12

Pat Larsen

Prayer & Praise

Kids Talk

Jean Bryan

Hymn ~ 797

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Share what you are thankful for: Congregation

Special Music: "Beatitudes"

Alabaster Grace

Sermon: "Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake" Pastor Brad

Hymn ~ 786

Count Your Blessings

Benediction & Postlude

## Visitors:

Welcome to our church! Please fill out the visitor card located at your pew and then give it to Pastor Brad or place it in the offering box.

Sunday: Bible Explorers at 9:45 AM & Worship at 11:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00 PM

## Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake

### The Eighth Beatitude:

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake...  
Blessed are you..."

Jesus promises blessing *not despite* persecution but *through* it.

### Persecution Defined:

Not minor discomforts or disagreements, but hostility, rejection, or false accusations **because of Christ** (Matt. 5:10–11; 1 Peter 4:14).

### Example of Pilgrims:

The Pilgrims were persecuted for obeying Scripture, sought freedom to worship, and gave the first Thanksgiving out of hardship—not abundance.

### Biblical Foundation:

Believers throughout Scripture faced persecution but found God faithful (Dan. 3; Ps. 34:1; 2 Tim. 3:12).

### Blessings in Persecution:

You stand in the line of the prophets.  
You share in Christ's sufferings.  
God's presence is nearest in the fire.  
Heaven is your reward (Matt. 5:12).

### True Thanksgiving:

Gratitude is rooted not in comfort but in God's character and presence (1 Thess. 5:18).

### Applications for Today:

When you are persecuted for righteousness' sake, stand firm with grace. Cultivate gratitude in hardship, pray for the persecuted church, and teach the next generation the true heritage of Thanksgiving.

### Questions to Ponder:

1. What stands out to you about Jesus' final Beatitude in Matthew 5:10–12?
2. How does the story of the Pilgrims deepen your understanding of Thanksgiving?
3. What practical steps can we take to cultivate gratitude even when life is difficult?
4. How can you honor the legacy of thankful perseverance this Thanksgiving?

**Announcements for November 23, 2025:**

**We sent 1,054 Shoeboxes!** Praise the Lord! Thank you very much!

**Thanksgiving Dinner** today, following the worship service.

**There will be no Bible study this Wednesday, November 26.**

**Decorating** the church for Christmas on **Saturday, November 29**, at 10 a.m.

**Pray for LCPS, NCPS, and our community Homeschoolers.** Join us at Historic White Marsh for prayer on Wednesday, **December 3, at 5 p.m.**

**Please plan to attend the “Christmas Means Love” Concert** featuring **The Conaway Family** and our very own **Alabaster Grace**, on **Saturday, December 6 at 4 p.m. at Church of Deliverance, 3734 Mary Ball Rd. in Lively**. We are collecting **Christmas socks and slippers** for seniors in assisted living. A reception will follow the concert.

**Board Meeting:** Tuesday, December 9 at 1 p.m.

**On Sunday, December 21**, the Torgerson children will present a special Christmas play during the worship service that they wrote. The service will also feature special Christmas music presented by members of our church family. Please see Joanie if you would like to share a special song!

**Friendship Fellowship** on Sunday, December 21, following the worship service.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** December 24 at 7 p.m.

**Tithes & Offerings:** Please use the wooden **offering box** or *mail* your offering to: **PO Box 24, Lancaster, VA 22503. Thank you!**

**Historic White Marsh Social Media:**

Facebook: @historicwhitemarshchurch

YouTube: Historic White Marsh Church

Alabaster Grace Ministries

Facebook: @alabastergraceministries

Sundays with Alabaster Grace on 101.7 Bay FM: 9:15-9:30 AM

Website: [alabastergraceministries.org](http://alabastergraceministries.org)

YouTube: Alabaster Grace