November 6, 2022 Psalm 95:1-7 *The Gift of Gratitude: Heeding God's Voice*

Worship, bringing all of life into focus (1-5)

"Oh come, let us sing [offer thanksgiving, make a joyful noise] to the Lord" (Psalm 95:1).

"Worship is a countercurrent to the drift into materialism, narcissistic selfindulgence, and the relentless bombardment of the media. Worship opens up to the transcendent and enables us to see through the make-believe character of the unreal world. It frees us from the idolatry of the mall and the marketplace, it liberates us from false deadlines, myopic vision, and the obsession with comforts and pleasures that delight the flesh but demand the soul in exchange...Though these idols will continue to tempt us, worship exposes them for what they are, and diminishes their power over us" (unknown).

Our greatest act of gratitude is worship (6-7a)

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!" (Psalm 95:6).

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

A Warning and a Promise (7b-8a)

"Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts..." (Psalm 95:7b-8a).

"And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand..."" (Mark 8:17-19).

