

**November 23 Worship**  
**Thanksgiving Sunday**  
**Greeters-** Aaronlee & Harold “Doc” Johnson  
**Reader-** Ray Godin

**Announcements/Joys**

**Time Of Quiet Meditation-** *“You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11*

**Opening Scripture-** Deuteronomy 26:1-11(page 174)

**Opening Chorus-** 87- We Are So Blessed

**Responsive Call To Worship-**

Leader: “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.”

People: **“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.”**

Leader: “Know that the Lord is God.”

People: **“It is He who made us, and we are His...”**

**Hymn of Praise-** 81- We Gather Together

**Unison Prayer/Lord's Prayer-** God of our hopes and dreams, we are empty, and long to be filled; we are hungry, and long to be fed; we are lost, and long to be found. Gather us into your love, and pick up the pieces of our lives, just as Jesus gathered up the fragments of the five loaves and two fish that remained after feeding the five thousand. Call us anew to eat our fill and to find our true nourishment in Jesus, the bread of heaven. We pray as Jesus taught, saying...*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.”*

**Gloria Patri-** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end.  
Amen, Amen.

**Old Testament Scripture-** Psalm 100(page 520)

**Special Music-**

**Gospel Scripture-** John 6:25-35(page 928)

**Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace**

**Hymn-** 457- I then Shall Live

**New Testament Scripture-** Philippians 4:4-9(page 1024)

### **Message**

*“Say Thank You, Please.”*

Can anyone here remember when you began to say “thank you” when you got something? Do you recall being told to say “please and thank you” and just how old were you? Good manners are not instinctive, they must be taught to us by those who are most responsible for our upbringing, our parents. I am sure that we all know people who seem to be unable to show gratitude for anything and we wonder why. More than likely, they were never taught. Every parent who aspires to have their child grow up and get along is this world teaches certain standards of behavior that stay with us all through our lives. These standards of behavior are often times called manners and are pretty much universal in use.

Gratitude is considered to be an emotion, a mood and a trait. In all 3 classifications it is has a positive affect on all who experience it. For those who learn this at a young age, it becomes a lifelong positive in personal interactions with all people. Try this sometimes; If you want to make someone’s day, simply say thank you to them for no particular reason. If they ask you why, say thank you for being here or something of the sort. Odds are, they will smile, perhaps a bit confused but they will smile. Appreciation for just being here makes us feel good.

If we want our children to learn to say thank you, we need to make sure that we are doing it ourselves. It is very easy to get into the habit of giving instructions or commands to our kids and forgetting these two little kind or thoughtful words. Encourage children to be thankful by simply remembering to say thank you when they do something for you. By the way, this also works with adults who may not have learned when they were young how to show gratitude. A thank you that is given out of habit or courtesy is good. A thank you that comes from the heart is better. It is important to say the words, but a truly grateful heart will not just say it but will show it by actions.

Every now and then, we need to sit down and make a list or just contemplate what we have to be grateful for. If we are taught when we are young how to do this, it becomes easier as we age. Making a list actually is best because it gives us a visual to work with. Just take 5 or 10 minutes to sit down and write as many things as we can to be grateful for in our lives. Let's try something right now. We will be silent for about 30 seconds and I want you to think about what you are grateful for today..... Now, I want for us to speak, out loud, 3 or 4 of them. Don't worry about speaking over someone else, everybody can speak at the same time. You don't have to say it loudly, just say it. When you are done, say thank you God for my blessings..... Feels kind of nice doesn't it. Acknowledging what we have is good. Giving thanks is better.

The Holy Bible is full of commands to give thanks to God. It is not possible to adequately praise and worship God without also being thankful. You must realize that feeling and expressing appreciation is good for us. God wants us to learn to be thankful for all the gifts He has given us. It is not because it suits His ego, but because He wants us to know just how much He loves us and what He will do for us. It is in our best interest to be reminded that everything we have is a gift from Him. Without gratitude, we become arrogant and self-centered. We begin to believe that we have achieved everything on our own. It is thankfulness that keeps us in a right relationship with God, the Giver of all gifts. When we give thanks to God, we are reminded of just how much we do have. As human beings, we are prone to covetousness. Our tendency is to focus on what we don't have. By giving thanks constantly we are reminded of how much we do have. We are much happier when we focus on blessings rather than wants. If we give thanks for all those things we take for granted our perspective changes and we realize that we could not even exist without the merciful blessings of God. 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16-18 says; "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in **ALL** circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." The emphasis in this scripture is the word all. Give thanks in **ALL** circumstances, not just the good and beneficial, **ALL**.

It is easy to be thankful when the world is going just as we want it, not so much when things are not going our way. When we find a way to thank God regardless of what comes into our lives, we keep bitterness at bay. It is not possible for us to be thankful and bitter at the same time. It is not that we are grateful for tragedy, but we can be thankful for who God is and that He is the one who will help us through the hardest of times. God gives us the strength to endure anything.

The Bible as much about gratitude as it does about ingratitude. We were designed, by God, to thrive when we are humble, moral, and thankful. When we are arrogant, immoral, and ungrateful, we cannot have fellowship with Him, nor can we experience all that it means to be created in His image. Ingratitude is a sin with

severe repercussions. Romans 1:21 says; “For although they knew God they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened.” When we refuse to be thankful or to express gratitude, we grow hardhearted and proud. We take for granted all God has given us and become our own Gods. We would be wise if we paid attention to Paul's rhetorical question in 1 Corinthians 4:7; “For who sees anything different in you? What have you that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?”

One of the ways to teach children to say thank you is called “the hand off.” When we hand a child something, don't let go until the child says Thank you. Simply remind them that when someone gives us something it is polite to say thank you. It won't take long before you won't have to hold on to what you are giving. I think that God works in the same way. Have you ever had a difficulty with achieving your goals? When something seems to be harder to accomplish than it should, perhaps God is holding back just a bit until we realize that we give God the credit and show our gratitude. Sometimes, the more we concentrate on God in what we do, the easier it is to get things done.

This week we celebrate the holiday we call “Thanksgiving.” This day was first observed as a holiday in 1777. It has become an American tradition that is observed in quite a few countries around the world but is considered to be an American tradition. Setting aside 1 day in the year to celebrate giving thanks may seem to be not quite enough but it does serve as a reminder of what we should be doing all year long. On this Thanksgiving Day, 2025, let us do what God asks and “Give thanks in all circumstances.” To paraphrase the greatest commandment; “Thank the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This week and all through the year, say thank you, please. Praise Be to God. Amen.

**Prayers of the People-** Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him,

at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. We give thanks in Jesus name. Amen.

**Closing Hymn-** 85- Rejoice Ye Pure In Heart

**Benediction-** As our time our worship concludes, our time of service begins. We return to our living and working amidst a world of need. As you go from this place, carry with you the knowledge that you are recipients of God's gifts. As we go, we vow to share those gifts with the world around us. And may God walk with you as you travel life's road. Amen.