

Thanksgiving and the spiritual posture of humility

At this time of year we give thanks for the harvest, we give thanks for farmers, and farms, and for everything that is cultivated and grown that provides us sustenance and nourishment. We give thanks for the opportunity to steward and care for God's creation to bless it, as together we bless God who continues to bless us.

We give thanks for the gifts of our families and friends. We acknowledge that for some people it is not always easy because maybe family and friends are something that we feel thankful for, because maybe they feel less like family and less like friends than what we want. In which case, then we give thanks for found family and true friends, we give thanks for the relationships that nourish us and help us grow in grace and mercy and love.

We give thanks for all that we are, and all that we have. Maybe sometimes it does not seem like enough, or enough of what we want. We gave thanks to be able to respond to someone else's need with generosity and sharing. When we are in need, we give thanks for the generosity of others who are willing to share with us.

Above all we give thanks for all that God has been, is and will be. We give thanks for God's promises to be faithful to us in life as in death. We give thanks for all of the blessings that we have received. We give

thanks for the opportunities to share those blessings with others. We give thanks for God's love for us, and for God's love for the whole world. We give thanks for God's grace and mercy given to us freely and unconditionally. We give thanks for God's peace which we are blessed with receiving, and we give thanks for the mission to pass that Peace along, giving it to others so that we all might live.

We give thanks for dreams and inspiration that guide us and allow us to think bigger than ourselves, and our own lives, to see and look further to the lives of all of those around us; our friends and family, our siblings in Christ, and those who are far from us, strangers to us. We have so much to be thankful for. We can be thankful that we are in Canada, we are in the North and the West, but no matter where we are in the world, we would still have much to be thankful for. We can be thankful that our country is free of war, conflict and strife, and we can help to work for lasting peace in the rest of the world. We can be thankful for a roof over our heads, and food on our tables, and we can work to help house those with no homes and feed those who are hungry. We can be thankful for clean water, and work to bring clean water to communities that don't have clean water. We can be thankful for our health, and work to support those who are sick, and in hospital, and in need of care. We can be thankful for our freedoms, and we can visit and support those who are imprisoned, justly and unjustly.

We can recognize and appreciate and accept the challenges we have here, and we can work to support and assist with those challenges faced by our siblings in Christ, and strangers here at home, and abroad.

We can give thanks for those challenges that help us grow, and that strengthen us. And we can also give thanks for those challenges that are too much for us and remind us that we must rely on others – on family, friends, community, and most importantly, God., and that our reliance is a sign of strength, not weakness, the strength found in the the power of compassion, love, community, and of God.

Whether we feel that we have many reasons to be thankful, or just a few, we can count it as gift and grace that we can position ourselves toward God, toward life with thanksgiving, in humility. We can give thanks that every day is a gift.

Let us pray: Gracious and Loving God, we thank you for making the fruitful earth, grant that clean air, soil, water and favourable weather continue to produce all that is needed to sustain life. Bless those who work in the fields; bless those who work to support all your children in the world; and grant that all people may share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through your Son Jesus, the Christ, our Lord. Amen.