

**Sunday Worship on October 12, 2025**

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Dr. Robert Revington, PhD)

**Sunday Order of Worship**

**We Gather**

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 802 For the fruit of all creation
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 435 All things bright and beautiful
- Prayer for children

**We listen**

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Second reading: Psalm 100 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Philippians 4:4-9
- Sermon: **From worry to worship**
- Praise song Give Thanks
- Prayer for the people

**We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty vs.1) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 624 Blest are they

**We Serve**

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

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**Responsive Call to Worship**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

**We will worship the Lord with gladness and come into God's presence with song.**

Know that it is the Lord God who made us, and we are God's people.

**We will enter God's gates with praise and thanksgiving.**

Let us give thanks to God this day and bless God's holy name.

**Praise song – BOP 802 For the fruit of all creation**

**Prayer of Adoration**

Gracious and Loving God, we gather in this season of thanksgiving, struck by the colours of the leaves, the last warm breezes, birds flying south in formation. Such beauty speaks to us of your goodness, and your desire to provide what each of your creature needs.

As we gather, renew our sense of gratitude for every good gift you offer us. Especially we praise you for the gift of Christ Jesus who teaches us how to walk in the world you love and offers us grace and compassion to share with those we meet.

Receive our love and gratitude in his name, and by your Spirit, empower us to live gratefully each and every day.

**Prayer of confession (Unison)**

**Living and loving God, we acknowledge that we enjoy life with an abundance many nations cannot imagine. Yet, we confess we do not always recognize the blessings we share. We worry about our futures, and ignore the present needs of those around us. Forgive us our fears and narrow vision and our failure to care for creation as you intended.**

**Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us:** (The Lord's Prayer:)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting.

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven and set free to begin again.

At this time of Thanksgiving, let us give special thanks for God's most generous love.

**May the Peace of the Lord be with you.** *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

**Praise song – BOP 435 All things bright and beautiful**

**Prayer for the children**

**Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)**

- First reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Second reading: Psalm 100 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Philippians 4:4-9

**“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”**

**Sermon: From worry to worship**

Happy Thanksgiving Sunday, everyone!

This is one of my favourite seasons of the year – because Thanksgiving brings out the best in us. The smell of good food, the sound of laughter, and the simple joy of being together remind us that life itself is a gift.

However, I also know that for many of us, Thanksgiving comes with mixed feelings. Some of us giving thanks with full hearts, but others come with a bit of worry, or even sadness. Maybe missing someone, or wondering what tomorrow will bring.

If you've ever sat the table and looked at the empty chair of someone you love... you know that gratitude sometimes takes intentional effort.

That's why today's passage from Philippians is such a great news!

Paul doesn't write these words from a place of comfort. He's in prison. And yet, he says in v4, **“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”**

How could he rejoice there in the prison?

Because Paul had learned a secret – **the secret of moving from worry to worship.**

**V4, Paul begins, “Rejoice in the Lord always.”**

He didn't say sometimes, not when life is good, but ALWAYS.

Joy doesn't mean pretending everything is fine. It means remembering that **God is still good even when life is not.**

**Paul isn't saying “put on a happy face.”**

**He's saying, “choose to trust the Lord.”**

**Joy is not absence of trouble; it is the presence of Christ.** Even in a prison cell, Paul found joy – **not because his situation changed, but because his focus changed. He looked up, not around.**

Maybe you remember a time when you faced hardship – sickness, loss, or loneliness – and yet, somehow, you still found peace in your heart.

THAT is the miracle Paul is describing. When you choose joy, we declare, “God, I may not understand everything, but I know you are near.”

That's why Paul says in v5, **“Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.”**

When we know the Lord is near, we don't have to fight or fear. We can be gentle – because we trust the one who holds tomorrow.

Then Paul says, v6, **“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”**

Very slowly, read it again. v6, **“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”**

Isn't it beautiful?

He doesn't say, "Don't worry because nothing bad will happen to you."

He says, **"Don't worry because you can pray."**

Worrying is talking to yourself about what you cannot fix.

While prayer is talking to God about what he can fix – and thanking him in advance.

It's the thanksgiving *before* the miracle that shows true faith.

When we pray with gratitude, we are saying, "Lord, I trust you, even before I see the answer." It is a choice we make in faith in God.

I once heard about an old farmer who always prayed before eating. Even when the crops were poor or the harvest was small, he bowed his head and said, "Thank you, Lord, for what you've given. Thank you for what you'll give next year too."

That's what Paul is teaching us today.

**Gratitude is not based on what's in our hands, but on who holds our lives.**

This Thanksgiving week, when you feel a worry rising in your heart, try this.

Stop everything and whisper to yourself, **"Thank you, Lord."**

It doesn't have to be a long prayer. Just those three words – "Thank You, Lord" – can turn the direction of your worrying heart.

Then comes one of the most comforting promises in the Bible:

V7, **"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."**

The peace of God doesn't mean we will never have problems. It means our problems can't steal our peace.

Paul uses a military word – **GUARD**.

It's like **soldiers standing watch over your heart and mind.**

When you trust God with thanksgiving, he stations his peace at the door of your soul. So when fear tries to enter, peace says, "NOPE, this one belongs to Christ."

Isn't it what we need today? A place that doesn't depend on the news, or the economy, or even our health. We need a peace that comes from knowing, "I am not alone. The Lord is near."

**V8, “Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”**

Gratitude begins in the mind. If we dwell on fear, we grow fearful.  
If we dwell on blessings, we grow thankful.

Our thoughts are like the soil of a garden. Whatever we plant there will grow. If we plant complaints, we harvest bitterness.  
If we plant gratitude, we harvest joy.

So, Paul says, **“Think about these things.”**

In other words, fill your heart and mind with what reminds you of God’s goodness.

Maybe that’s a hymn you love.

Maybe it’s the memory of a prayer God answered years ago.

Maybe it’s simply looking around your family today and saying, “Thank you, Lord, for these faces.”

Grateful thinking leads to peaceful living. And when your mind is filled with the good, the true, and the lovely – your heart becomes a sanctuary of worship.

V9b, **“God of peace will be with you.”**

God is pouring out to us, not just the peace of God, but **the God of peace Himself**.

That’s the real gift of thanksgiving – not just peace as a feeling, but God’s presence as a friend.

When you walk with the Lord again and again, you realize this. Peace doesn’t come from having everything perfect. Peace comes from knowing the one who never leaves.

So even when the journey feels long, we can say, “The Lord has been faithful.” Even when life has changed, we can say, “The Lord has not.”

Thanksgiving is not just a special day to remember. It’s a way of life. It’s the journey **from worry to worship**.

**From “what if?” to “even if.”**

**From “I’m afraid” to “I’m thankful.”**

Paul found that secret in a prison cell. And we can find it here, in the quiet peace of this Thanksgiving morning.

So this week, when worry knocks on the door of your heart, answer it with worship. When you feel anxious, stop and pray. When you can't find the right words, just say to the Lord, "Thank you, Lord."

And as you do, may the peace of God – the kind that surpasses all understanding – guard your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus.

This is the message of the Lord

### **Praise song – Give Thanks**

#### **Prayer for the people:**

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for your word that reminds us to rejoice in the Lord always. Even when our hearts are heavy, you give us a reason to sing. Even when we face worries and unknown tomorrows, you whisper, "I am near."

Merciful Lord, help us this week to turn every anxious thought into prayer, and every prayer into thanksgiving. Teach us to see your goodness in the ordinary moments. In the warmth of a home, in the kindness of a friend, in the simple grace of breath and sunlight. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. And as we go from this place, may our words, our thoughts, and our lives become a song of worship to you. We give you all the praise and all the thanks.

Loving Father, on this Thanksgiving Sunday, we come before you with grateful hearts. You have been faithful through every season. In times of plenty and in times of need, in laughter and in tears, your mercy has never failed us.

We remember today those who find it hard to rejoice. Those who are lonely, sick, or grieving. Those whose tables feel emptier this year. May your comfort surround them like warm light. Remind them that you are near, that you are still the Giver of good gifts, and that nothing can separate us from your love.

Lord, bless our families, our homes, and our church. Make us a thankful people. We want to be quick to pray, slow to worry, ready to share. Help us live in such a way that others may see the peace of Christ shining in our lives. And as we leave this place today, may gratitude be our language, peace be our companion, and Christ be our constant hope.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Bread of life and our Prince of Peace. Amen.

#### **Invitation to the offering:**

On Thanksgiving Sunday, we celebrate the gifts of God's good earth which sustain us, as well as the labour of those who grow, harvest and prepare these gifts so we can thrive. Today let us share our own gifts we have so that the ministry and mission of Christ's church can thrive.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.

*(BOP #321, Praise to the Lord, the Almighty. Vs. 1)*

**Offering prayer:**

Gracious and generous God, we offer our gifts in gratitude for all we receive from your hand. Bless and multiply them, just as Jesus multiplied a few loaves and fishes to bless others. Use them so others can taste your love in our community and in your world, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Song for the Journey – BOP 624 Blest are they**

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

Being grateful doesn't happen naturally. It is our determination to follow steps of Jesus Christ. It is walking the narrow path. On this Thanksgiving Sunday, let us remind ourselves to look up, not around, so that our eyes are fixed on the Giver of our lives. May your heart be filled with all the good gifts you already have received from God.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.