

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
October 11th, 2020
Guest Worship Leader: Rev. John McIntyre
"Fostering An Attitude Of Thanksgiving"

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

(Psalm 92:1-8)

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this:

that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever;

but you, O LORD, are on high forever.

Prayer of Invocation

Our Father and our God we gather in your presence as your people called apart from the cares of the world to come before you on this first day of the week, acknowledging you as our God and Saviour and desiring to render unto you the worship that is due your holy name. We give you thanks for the grace bestowed upon us in your steadfast love and faithfulness by the Holy Spirit through the person of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask you to still our hearts before you, and reveal yourself to us during this time of worship in ways that will glorify you and build us up in our love for you and our faith in you through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn #376:

"Lord, The Light Of Your Love is Shining"

Lord, the light of your love is shining
 In the midst of the darkness, shining
 Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
 Set us free by the truth you now bring us
 Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine
 Fill this land with the Father's glory
 Blaze, Spirit, blaze

Set our hearts on fire
 Flow, river, flow
 Flood the nations with grace and mercy
 Send forth your word
 Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence
 From the shadows into your radiance
 By the blood I may enter your brightness
 Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
 Shine on me, shine on me

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
 So our faces display your likeness
 Ever changing from glory to glory
 Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
 Shine on me, shine on me

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Our Father and our God, we are gathered before you, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, whose chosen dwelling place is with the broken and contrite, to confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed; we have not loved you with all our heart and soul, we have not loved you with all our mind and strength; we have not even loved our neighbor as ourselves. In your mercy, deepen our sorrow for the wrong we have done and for the good we have left undone, so that we may hate our sin with a holy hatred. But, please Father; do not leave us in sorrow. With you, O Lord, there is forgiveness that you may be feared. In your mercy, be pleased to forgive us. Restore the joy of our salvation; so that we may love you with a holy love...Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

God's word assures us that... *"As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. (For) Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust."*

The good news is that in Christ we have a faithful High Priest who is able to sympathize with us and who has atoned for our sins by his own death wherein the LORD laid on him the iniquity of us all. When we request God's

forgiveness, we are forgiven. Loved ones, take God at his word: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The 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 the Evil One.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen**

Responsive Reading

Psalm 107: 1-22

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble

and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons,

for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High.

So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron.

Some were fools through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;

they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

Hymn #471:

"We Are One In The Spirit"

We are one in the Spirit
 We are one in the Lord
 We are one in the Spirit
 We are one in the Lord
 And we pray that all unity
 Will one day be restored

And they'll know we are Christians
 By our love, By our love
 And, they'll know we are Christians
 By our love

We will walk with each other
 We will walk hand in hand
 We will walk with each other
 We will walk hand in hand
 And together we'll spread the news
 That God is in our land

We will work with each other
 We will work side by side
 We will work with each other
 We will work side by side
 And we'll guard one's dignity,
 And save each one's pride.

All praise to the Father
 From whom all things come
 And all praise to Christ Jesus, who is God's only Son
 And all praise to the Spirit
 Who makes us one

First Scripture Reading:**Luke 12: 16-21**

16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully,

17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?'

18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."

20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Second Scripture Reading:**Romans 1:18-25**

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

21 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 foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

Father, what we do not know, teach us;

What we have not; give us,

What we are not, kindly make us

For Your Son's sake. **Amen.**

“Fostering An Attitude Of Thanksgiving”

Rev. John McIntyre

The Parable of the rich fool read from Luke’s Gospel, presented us with a man who among other things, neglected giving thanks to God. It was as if his prosperity arose solely from his skill and smarts, and so he approaches his abundance with an air of entitlement.

Among the things the Bible teaches and insists upon, giving thanks to God is writ large. In fact, recognizing Him as God is inseparably linked to giving Him thanks. (Rom 1:21) teaches us that, God’s displeasure with people & judgment of them emerges from their refusal to acknowledge Him as God or give thanks to Him.

As Christians, we need to beware of being ungrateful and unthankful. And so, we will consider, “Fostering a Thanksgiving Attitude.”

Text: (I Thess 5:18), “... *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*”

I. Fostering a thankful attitude is founded in God.

In his pamphlet “*The will of God,*” the late Dr. Henry Budd comments: “*In all circumstances God’s will for you is to think, react, and live like a Christian! He wants you to approach life with a Christ-like spirit, and that means in an attitude of trust and thankfulness. Trust and thankfulness are inseparables; thankfulness is the outgrowth of trust He who trusts God can give thanks in everything.*”

Scripture reiterates that faith/trust in God is the foundation for thankfulness and growth in it. The command to *give thanks to the Lord* is a repeated refrain. (Psa 107:1) “*Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love [mercy] endures for ever.*”

Thankfulness is founded in God and his Goodness

O give thanks to the Lord - Why? “For He is good.” It is God’s nature to be kind & generous. (Ps 84:11) *tells us that “... The LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.”* And in (I Cor 3:21-22) we read these words: “*For all things are yours...and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s*”

C. H. Spurgeon had this to say about God’s goodness to his people. *Grace makes us walk uprightly and this secures every covenant blessing to us. What a wide promise! Some apparent good may be withheld, but no real good, no, not one. “All things are yours, and ye are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.” God has all good, there is no good apart from him, and there is no good which he either needs to keep back or will on any account refuse us, if we are but ready to receive it.*

God is good - Every good gift & every perfect gift is from Him. (Jas 1:17)
Listen to these testimonies of His goodness from the following Bible passages.

God protects His people:

(Psa 27:1) *The LORD is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?*

He rewards His people:

(Gen 15:1) (to Abraham) "... I am your shield, your very great reward."

(Jn 1:16) *From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.*

(Rom 8:16) *The Spirit himself testifies... that we are God's children.*

The Lord exalts His people:

(Isa 60:19) *the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.*

He comforts His people:

(Isa 60:20) *The LORD will be your everlasting light, & your days of sorrow will end.*

(2 Cor 4:17) *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

(Php 1:6) *...Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Well might the Psalmist call on us, *to give thanks to the Lord for He is good!* And also, in (Psa 34:9-10) to *...fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack...those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.*

But not only is thankfulness founded in God & His goodness.

Thankfulness is founded in God and His steadfast love/mercy.

The Psalmist writes, *"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his steadfast love [mercy] endures forever."* When tempted to grumble in our circumstances instead of being thankful, here's a truth to keep in mind. *"Do not grumble because you do not get what you want; be thankful you do not get what you deserve!"*

The term "mercy" means *"compassion for the miserable"* we observe this when we read in romans 5 that, *"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* That's mercy! *"His mercy endures forever."* That's steadfast love! And amid any/all circumstances – That's a reason/cause for thanksgiving!

God shows mercy - In His saving works. Moses bears testimony in (Ex 15:13) that, *"You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode."*

The Lord shows mercy – In his personal dealings with repentant sinners. David prays in (Psa. 51:1) *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

He shows his great mercy - In the salvation he freely gives in Christ. (Titus 3:5) reminds us that, *He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.* Again in (Eph. 2:4-5) we read, *“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ ...”*

He shows mercy in a salvation that carries us into eternity (Psa 23:6) where we read, *“Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* Spurgeon reminds us that in all our days we have two constant companions following us named, “Goodness” and “Mercy.”

And so, founded in God we can foster an attitude of thankfulness and, *“... Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

II. Emulating godly examples bolsters a thanksgiving attitude

First, there is Jesus as our example.

In (Mt 15:36) He thanks God for the loaves & fishes prior to feeding 5,000. Note his humility in thanksgiving. He thanks God though his provision seems so small! He gave thanks in spite of the meagerness of the situation. Our Saviour's God founded trust was demonstrated in thankfulness

He gives thanks to God - On the eve of His crucifixion (Lk. 22:17-19) where we read that he took the bread and gave thanks to God. Then he took the cup and gave thanks again. He gave thanks to God in the eve of the most horrific circumstance. There he was, the innocent One, suffering/dying for the sins of the world, the holy One – The one who knew no sin being made sin for us. And he makes bold to give thanks to his heavenly father, because his life & his faith was founded in God.

He trusted God's promise – That he would raise Him from the dead. He looked beyond His circumstances to that which was beyond. He anticipated the joy set before Him beyond this world and endured the cross and despised its shame. And as He faced it all – He thanked God!

Then there is the Apostle Paul for an example

What an encouragement he is to us, in fostering a thanksgiving attitude. Writing to the church in Philippi, from the dark, damp Roman prison cell and suffering as a prisoner, he portrays an attitude of thanksgiving as he writes in (Php. 1:3), *“I thank my God every time I remember you.”* It seems every day was “Thanksgiving Day” for the Apostle.

Again, he writes, (Php. 4:6-7) *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & your minds in Christ Jesus.* His life was founded in & hidden with Christ in God, and because it was, he exuded a thankful attitude. He could write from

experience and with authenticity (I Thess 5:18), *“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

You and I are called to do no less. Our Lord who calls us to a thanksgiving attitude also enables us. He enables us and indeed compels us by Christ’s love poured into us. As believers in Jesus Christ, You and I can follow the lead of our Saviour and the Apostle Paul. They were thankful, because they not only trusted in God, they trusted his promises. In other words, they trusted what God says. The same can be true of us – And by God’s grace will be true of us.

Consider this verse of testimony as we close. (Psa. 75:1) *We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds.* In all circumstances, we can give thanks – *For your name is near.* God himself is near his people. He is our Father – Present by his Spirit through Christ. And because he is - We can declare His wondrous works.

Have there been times when you were tempted and you turned away from it. That’s his wondrous work! Have there been times you were rescued after yielding to temptation, and the Lord turned it for your good. That is his wondrous work! Have there been times when you were spared from (You name it). That too is his wondrous work! What about the times when you were blessed. It’s his wondrous work at work again! It is all because God is good and His mercy endures forever

Charles E. Jefferson writes: *“Gratitude is born in hearts that take time to count up past mercies.”*

In view of all this - Surely you and I can foster a thanksgiving attitude. But you may still not be convinced you should be thankful in all circumstances, or that you can be thankful in all circumstances? Here is a little poem that may be of help.

How to Observe Thanksgiving

*Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.*

*Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.*

*Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.*

In closing, let us continue to foster a thanksgiving attitude. And indeed, let us be among those who overflow with thankfulness to God in keeping with Paul's instructions to the church of his day in Colossi when he writes (Col. 2:7) "*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*"

Let us therefore, "*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*"

Hymn: And Can it be That I should Gain (Lyrics) - 1

(Click on the link below to play the hymn. Words are on the screen.)

<https://youtu.be/sQelGbKqiw8>

1. And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood
Died He for me who caused His pain
For me who Him to death pursued
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me

2. He left His Father's throne above
So free so infinite His grace
Emptied Himself of all but love
And bled for Adam's helpless race
'Tis mercy all immense and free
For O my God it found out me
'Tis mercy all immense and free
For O my God it found out me

3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray
I woke the dungeon flamed with light
My chains fell off my heart was free
I rose went forth and followed Thee
My chains fell off my heart was free
I rose went forth and followed Thee

4. No condemnation now I dread
 Jesus and all in Him is mine
 Alive in Him my living Head
 And clothed in righteousness divine
 Bold I approach th'eternal throne
 And claim the crown through Christ my own
 Bold I approach th'eternal throne
 And claim the crown through Christ my own

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer.

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspertthoffering@gmail.com Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (eg Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Invitation to Offering

I Chron 29:12-13 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

Offertory Prayer

Father, truly, in Christ we are your people. In you, we live and move and have our being. We offer you our thanksgiving and call on your name. We love you, Lord, for you hear us and respond in graciousness and compassion and righteousness. You deliver our souls from death, our feet from stumbling, and our eyes from tears. Now receive our offerings, we pray. Multiply them so that your work and word can go forth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Our gracious heavenly Father we again come to you counting it an unspeakable privilege to be invited into the inner sanctum of your holy presence and we come boldly within the righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ, praising you for your love, mercy and grace toward us. We thank you for the blessings you

generously pour out upon us and give you thanks for your benevolence demonstrated in so many ways. For our measure of health and strength we give you thanks. For family, friends, & neighbours we give you thanks. For a peaceful community and an orderly country rich in abundance we give you thanks. For placing us within the scope of your saving gospel we give you thanks. For all the unperceived blessings you send out way we give you thanks, and pray that you will keep us ever mindful that every good and perfect gift comes to us from above at your bidding.

As we offer our thanks, we pray for the leaders within our nation at each level of jurisdiction asking that you would give them wisdom, discernment and fortitude carrying out their duties. We pray for all who serve in the medical profession as they minister their talents during this continuing pandemic. Protect them we pray and grant them strength and endurance amid their heavy responsibilities. We pray for marriages and families as they seek to balance all the dynamics that are inherent within relationships. We remember those from this congregation who are residents in nursing homes, hospitals and those who are finding it difficult to carry on as in former times. May they find their hope and peace in knowing you are present in their circumstances.

We pray for the Church in carrying out its witness to the saving goodness of Jesus Christ. May there be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon your Church here and around the world. May you be pleased to send a shepherd to minister the truths of the gospel and your love to your flock here at St Andrew's.

May you continue working in all our hearts and minds, those things that are pleasing in your sight that you might be glorified and that our joy might be full...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

Go Now In Peace

(Click on the link below to play the video. Lyrics on the screen)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5T_KSLqIAcM

*Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know God will guide you in all you do.*

*Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.*

Benediction

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. **Amen.**