

Dear Friends in Christ,

November is a great month. Thanksgiving is a favorite holiday of mine. The day is full of food and family and is also a time to stop and reflect and give thanks to God for all of our blessings. The hymns of November are favorites of mine, especially "Now Thank We All Our God." One line says, "Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices." Signing the hymn reminds us of the grace we receive in baptism. It reminds us of the freedom we receive, freedom to live life to its fullest potential. It reminds us of the love we receive, the love of God the Father who does not withhold anything from us, not even His only Son.

God has blessed us richly with the gifts of life, family, friends and community. Hopefully we will never take these gifts for granted. Our prayer to God is one offered in humbleness. It is a prayer that transcends our individual lives because without friends and family and community we are shadows of the people God intends. Connectivity to others, whether friends or family, helps us to center ourselves in Christ. Christ at the center feeds us with more than turkey and gravy. Christ feeds us with His Body and Blood, and our souls are nourished with gratitude of thankful hearts.

Please know that I am thankful for each and every one of you. I am grateful and humbled by your prayers for me and my family. I feel those prayers and they sustain me. I am grateful for your open and willing ways to accompany me on this journey of ministry and service in the name of Jesus. I hope you and your families are blessed with a joyous Thanksgiving Holiday. I am so proud to be your pastor.

Peace,

Pastor Bob