



## THANKSGIVING 2020

Dear friends

I would like to tell you about Ruth.

Even though she was in her 50's, she used to live in a nursing home. She was developmentally challenged, and the nursing home was deemed to be the best place for her to live – even though she was quite a bit younger than nearly everyone else there. I used to take services there, and Ruth was one of the regulars. Whenever she had something to tell me, which was most of the time, she would always begin with: "Please and thank you, God's love."

"Please and thank you, God's love; we had a really nice day trip a couple of days ago. We went out in the country, and had a picnic. Please and thank you, God's love."

"Please and thank you, God's love; last Sunday I spent the day with my family. A couple of cousins I haven't seen for a long time were there. It was really nice. Please and thank you, God's love."

"Please and thank you, God's love. I don't like the doctor, he's not a very nice man. Please and thank you, God's love." (Actually the doctor was a very nice man, and an excellent doctor.)

I don't know what had happened in Ruth's life for her to include those words in every conversation, but that is what she did. It is only possible to make that sort of affirmation when one **has** experienced God's love, and taken the opportunity to recognise and identify God's love; then we can affirm it is God's love; and then we can thank God for his love.

And as a result, we can have confidence to ask for God's love.

If we have learnt to say "thank you" for God's love, then we know we can say "please".

As we approach Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the things for which we should be thankful.

Thanksgiving is connected to harvest-time, and so we are thankful for the food we have. We are thankful that we live in this country of Canada, and receive many blessings because we are fortunate to live here. We give thanks for our own personal situations: our work, our family, our friends. And even if we are going through a particularly bad time, we give thanks that God has been good in the past, and we remember and savour those good times. That in turn gives us the confidence to turn to God, and know that God to be faithful to us.

Please and thank you, God's love.

In our prayer book, this is the Psalm prayer for Psalm 135:

"Deliver us from every temptation to be satisfied with false imitations of your will: with talk of peace that masks the face of war, and thanks for plenty that leaves the poor unfed."

Giving thanks is not just *saying* something. Thanksgiving is an action. It must involve *doing* something. If giving thanks for the blessings we have fails to motivate us towards responding to those in need, then we have embraced a “false imitation of God’s will”.

When we are aware of God’s goodness to us, it should lead us to hearing God calling us into a deeper relationship with him, a transforming relationship. Does he not want to empower us to live life abundantly? Does he not want us to raise our expectations?

At Thanksgiving, we focus on giving thanks, of acknowledging those things that are good in our lives. It is as we foster the sense of what is good that it strengthens us when things are rough. And as we thank God for his love in those good times, then we have the confidence to ask God for his love in our need. And it also brings us to participation with God’s will: thanksgiving, within God’s will, leads to generosity, particularly towards those in need. And further, it brings us into the heart of our relationship with God, into the realm of eternal life.

And I thank God for Ruth - "Please and thank you, God's love"

### **WORSHIP AT HOLY TRINITY**

As you know, we started worship again at Holy Trinity at the beginning of September. It is, as with so many things in these times, quite different from what we are used to. However, as we gather in the Parish Hall, observing all the necessary precautions demanded by COVID19, we are gathering to worship God in the Holy Eucharist. We respect that many parishioners are not ready to return, but we hope all know that the community is still here, and includes those gathering, those who connect with the worship online, and those who receive printed worship resources each week. I ask all of you to keep every member of our congregation in your prayers.

God bless you all.

Paul Blunt



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Sept 29, 2020

Hi all

We wanted to update you on the many things that have been happening at Holy Trinity during 2020.

In December of 2019, we began a new way forward with part time ministry of 2 days per week provided by the Venerable Paul Blunt. We want to thank Rev. Paul for all of his work over the past months. It has been an unusual year. We have been fortunate to have Reverend Paul tape our services since March and have had them posted on our website for many of us to be able to participate in Sunday worship from home during this time.

In September, we returned to worship at the church in the hall. All safety precautions are being taken. We gather in the hall to allow for extra social distancing and more manageable cleaning to be performed each week. If you would like to join us, you must wear a mask. We enter through the side door and your name and a contact number or email are required for contact tracing if necessary. If you have any questions about returning to church, a letter with the specific information is posted online in the Newsletter and Announcements section of our website: [www.holytrinitymetcalfe.com](http://www.holytrinitymetcalfe.com) or you may contact Rev. Paul or a warden. We are following the requirements of the Diocese in all of our planning for how our service will operate. We expect that change may be necessary as we proceed, so please bear with us as we work our way through. We welcome any suggestions. The written service and a recorded service (when possible) are posted on the website for anyone who prefers to not yet return to church.

We want to thank all of you who have been able to continue to support the church financially. Considering the circumstances in the world right now, Holy Trinity is doing ok. Our rental income is down for the year as we did not require Metcalfe Cooperative Nursery School to pay rent for the summer and our regular weekly rentals have not yet returned. We will also not be having our regular fundraisers for the rest of the year. Our community dinners and the ACW Bazaar will be missed but we look forward to resuming these activities in the future when it is safe to do so. A financial update will be emailed in the next weeks. Thank you for your continued support.

The new sign at our front door has been generously donated by the Leonard family in memory of Don Leonard. The old sign was in bad repair, so it is wonderful to have a beautiful new sign to replace it. Thank You.



Much work is being done at Holy Trinity this year. Our hall floor has been refreshed and looks beautiful. The bats have been removed from the church. The front step and side walk will be replaced this fall.

Messy Church is attempting to return online as well. The children's talk will be posted online and craft ideas will be provided for children and their families to do at home. We will try this for a few months and see how it goes. We miss being able to meet with our Messy Church families in person. We hope everyone is doing well and if you would like to participate in our revised messy church, please let Karen know at [etalgoy@gmail.com](mailto:etalgoy@gmail.com)

We only mail out a printed letter occasionally. If you would like to receive more regular updates from Holy Trinity, please send us an email to [infoholytrinitymetcalfe@gmail.com](mailto:infoholytrinitymetcalfe@gmail.com) and we will add you to our email list.

Praying all are well and that we may ALL get together soon.

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*Happy Thanksgiving from Holy Trinity*

