



Holy Trinity Anglican Church


8140 Victoria St., Metcalfe

10:30 AM

holytrinitymetcalfe.com

Facebook Page: Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe

info@holytrinitymetcalfe@gmail.com



Thanksgiving 2021

When I was first ordained back in the mid 1970s, the second Sunday in October was a major celebration in the parish of Bearbrook-Vars. Each of the churches was wondrously decorated with the harvest – pumpkins and corn stalks, freshly-baked breads, apples, gourds, carrots, potatoes and all sorts of things I had never seen before covered the sanctuary and it was difficult to find space on the altar to place a chalice to celebrate Thanksgiving Eucharist. After the services, the food was gathered together and quietly shared in the community with those who had not had a great season. We were honouring and remembering our faith roots as our earliest Christian forbearers continued the ancient Jewish festival of Sukkoth, the thanksgiving to God for his generosity. Today, as more and more land once used to produce food is either being sold to developers for housing or to multinational conglomerates, the idea of a time for giving thanks for the bounty of the good earth is fading.

So, how do we explain this festival to a generation which thinks all their food comes from Loblaw's? Perhaps this might help us place Thanksgiving Sunday in its real context:

SIMPLE GIFTS

Simple gifts we often miss because they do not come with lavish bows
or flashy paper.

Simple gifts we often miss because they are often carried in familiar hands
with no tags reading, "From me to you."

Simple gifts we often miss because they come as wind over water,
as breeze kissing the fields, as a sigh heard in the midst of all the chaos and confusion.

We who receive often forget to say "Thank you" because we do not see what we have been given.

To you, Creator and Giver of Gifts,

I offer you thanks for the giving of the Gift,

for time surrendered, for encouraging smiles and gentle touches;

for prayers uplifted, for arms enfolding,

for patience given, for hearts unfolding.

The simple gifts placed in our hearts silently, gently, quietly
make us rejoice.

On this and every day, let us say

"Thank you, Gift Giver

for You and for Love."

May you feel the presence of the Gift Giver this day and always and may you gently offer your thanks for all the blessings and gifts we have received.

In God's grace and love,

Fr. Michael

