

***“Welcome, welcome, share this feast
Come in away from sorrow Father, mother, daughter, son
Neighbor, friend and friendless.”***

“Mary Chapin Carpenter”

Traditions related to Thanksgiving day creates such a special time for causing family, and personal, and congregation memories. Early memories from family gatherings remind me that Thanksgiving is not at all like the gift giving events in our families. It was about offering thanks and gratitude to family and friends. Words of gratitude among family “*Father, mother, daughter, son...All together everyone*” ... brought comfort and support to each as we gathered for the traditional dinner.

The McIlvain household in my hometown was set up on annual journeys to celebrate the Thanksgiving feast and rehear the stories from previous year. If it wasn't in our house in Kingsmill Texas, we gathered at Uncle Donnie and Aunt Clara's in Panhandle Texas. If not those two, we all gathered at “Mama and Grandma's” shared home in Healdton Oklahoma. The traditions were well engrained in all of us, so much so in me that you likely have read some words that I have never attributed to any special person, but they are vivid memories of the annual Thanksgiving McIlvain, Eckman, and Chaudoin family gathering days we shared..

Please read and enjoy these Mary Chapin Carpenter words in her *Thanksgiving Song* lyrics. She sings words that I believe about the traditions of Thanksgiving days past.

Grateful for each hand we hold
Gathered 'round this table
From far and near we travel home
Blessed that we are able
Grateful for this sheltered place
With light in every window
Saying, "Welcome, welcome, share this
feast
Come in away from sorrow"
Father, mother, daughter, son
Neighbor, friend and friendless

All together everyone
In the gift of loving kindness Grateful for
what's understood
And all that is forgiven
We try so hard to be good
To lead a life worth living
Father, mother, daughter, son
Neighbor, friend and friendless
All together everyone
Let grateful days be endless
Grateful for each hand we hold
Gathered 'round this table

Source: [Musixmatch](#)
Songwriters: Mary Chapin Carpenter

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and as always ...

Peace always
Ted