

Thankful: 21 DAYS OF GRATITUDE

Thankful
November 14, 2021

We Gather

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Series Introduction

Gratitude is a practice, a spiritual discipline, and as such, we have to intentionally set aside time to reflect on what we are grateful for each day. When we focus our eyes on gratitude, we see things to be thankful for all around us.

We Hear

Embodied Prayer

AWAIT (hands at waist, cupped up to receive): Await God's presence, not as you expect, hope, or imagine, but just as it is in this moment.

ALLOW (reach up, hands open, above shoulders if you can): Allow a sense of God's presence (or not) to come and be what it is, without meeting your expectations.

ACCEPT (hands at heart, cupped towards body): Accept as a gift whatever comes or does not come. Accept that you are not in charge. Accept the infinity of God's presence, present whether or not you are aware.

ATTEND (hands outstretched, ready to be responsive): Attend to what you are called to, actions that God invites you to from this stance of openness.

GIVE THANKS (place flat right hand at chin and move downward, which is American Sign Language for thank you): Offer gratitude for God's presence with us, all the time.

Opening Song

WORDS: Twila Paris
MUSIC: Twila Paris
CCLI Song # 1867485
CCLI # 11365960

Honor and Praise

Ola Mullikin

Righteous and holy in all of your ways;
we come before you with honor and praise.

Here to adore you for all of our days,
we come before you in honor and praise.
Lord of the heavens, how faithful you are.
Shine down upon us, O bright Morning Star.
Righteous and holy in all of your ways;
we come before you with honor and praise.

Filling the temple, the work of your grace;
we come before you with honor and praise.
Here to adore you for all of our days,
we come before you in honor and praise.
Lord of the heavens, how faithful you are.
Rise I our spirits, O bright Morning Star.
Righteous and holy in all of your ways;
we come before you with honor and praise.

Prayer for Illumination

Dotty Cline

Gracious and compassionate God, all creation delights in the radiant presence of your Word. May your Holy Spirit soothe our troubled minds, refresh our hearts, and clear our eyes so we may give you thanks and praise. Amen.

Scripture

Colossians 3:12-17

Dotty Cline

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Thankful

Pastor Lisa and the People of Homer UMC

We Respond

Song of Response

Give Thanks

Marge Dunn & Lucy Kunkler

WORDS: Henry Smith
MUSIC: Henry Smith
CCLI Song # 20285
CCLI # 11365960

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. (x 2)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"
let the poor say, "I am rich because of what
the Lord has done for us." (x 2)

Give thanks! Give thanks!

Prayer of Gratitude¹

In gratitude for all the good and holy people who have blessed our lives, we pray. **God we are grateful.**

In gratitude for all those who have spent their lives and energy taking care of the poor and sick and dying, we pray. **God we are grateful.**

In gratitude for all those who have spoken up for justice, we pray. **God we are grateful.**

In gratitude for all the peacemakers in our world, we pray. **God we are grateful.**

In gratitude for those who have been made to suffer or have been imprisoned for their work for what is good and just, we pray. **God we are grateful.**

In gratitude for all who have given their lives as they have lived out the call to work for peace and justice, we pray. **God we are grateful.**

For the leaders of our community, for the directors of non-profits, for teachers and administrators, for healthcare workers, for police officers, for volunteer firefighters, for all of those who keep our community safe and healthy, we pray. **God we are grateful.**

For all the children of the church, their futures fresh before them, and for all our elders, full of years and wisdom, we pray. **God we are grateful.**

For the leaders of the church, for all those who serve in big ways and small, and for each and every member who gives so generously of their time, talent, gifts, service, and witness, we pray. **God we are grateful. Amen.**

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 trespasses,**

¹ Adapted from the Center of Concern website. <https://www.coc.org/>

as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Thank you for your continued generosity. Your gifts help us maintain the work of the church.

Give online: <https://www.homerumcalaska.org/donate>

Give by check: Homer UMC, 770 East End Road, Homer, AK, 99603

Benediction²

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the eyes of your heart be open to all the blessings which surround you; and may this awareness produce a harvest of gratitude in your soul.

May thankfulness rise up within you, not just during this short season but day after day, and may your prayers reflect that gratitude.

And finally, may the grace, peace, and love of the Triune God protect, defend, and empower you to run with perseverance the race before you.

Amen.

Closing Song

WORDS: Reginald Heber
MUSIC: John B. Dykes
CCLI Song # 1156
PUBLIC DOMAIN
CCLI # 11365960

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Ola Mullikin

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

² Adapted from prayer written by Joe Sherer pastor of the Mount Joy Mennonite Church, inspired by St. Patrick
<http://adailyprayer.wordpress.com/2007/11/16/strangers-in-this-world/>

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.