

A THANKSGIVING TABLE BLESSING

This Thanksgiving, O God,

I remember the people who are not around this table today
the people who have died and gone on ahead of me
the people with whom I have a difficult relationship
the people to whom I no longer talk
the people who live far away
the people whom I miss deeply

I pray that you
comfort any tender spots in me
soften any hard spots in my heart
bestow your gentleness upon the people with whom I
struggle to be gentle
forgive any ways I have hurt others and open my heart so I
can forgive, too

I thank you
for the blessings of this past year
for the ways I have been able to be a blessing
for all the people who have been a blessing to me
for the beauty of the stars and oceans and landscapes
for the delight in your creatures
for the joy of time with the people I love
for the happiness I find in play
for the new things I have learned
for friends and for family and for friends who have
become family

for

(something that is special or meaningful to me)
for the farmers who have worried about the weather,
worked in the fields from early in the morning until late
at night, who have shivered and sweated so I could have
this food in front of me

for the people who make the clothes I wear and the
napkins I use and the plates and forks I use and all the
things that make my home comfortable

for the people who drive from place to place bringing all
the food and things from where they began to the stores
where I can buy them

for the native people who were farming and hunting and
caring for this land long before people arrived from
Europe needing their help to survive, and long before
people forced them to move from the land they knew so
well

for the helpers and the people who are kind and the
people who spread hope and joy and love

for your love of me and of all people, O God

for Jesus who teaches us how to spread your love,
and for the Holy Spirit who pokes and nudges and
encourages me to love like Jesus

In the year to come, I promise
to listen for your Word to me
to learn from Jesus
to notice the ways the Holy Spirit is guiding me
to give thanks each and every day
Amen.

give thanks