

## **Greetings to the Saints of Mission Presbytery!**

Well, I bet you're as busy as I am, getting ready for Thanksgiving – and the non-liturgical onslaught that begins the next day! The family and I will be up in the Ft. Worth area to celebrate the day with my two sisters and their families. I hope that Thanksgiving Day finds you surrounded with those you love, with much to celebrate.

As tempted as I am to be cynical, when I turn on the “Today” show only to see and hear “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” I’ll avoid that temptation and instead stay in the present – celebrating the opportunity to be thankful for all of God’s good gifts to all of us. And I count you all in my thanksgivings – I’m grateful for every one of you. Here’s a gift to us all from the Book of Common Worship to mark the day:

### **A Litany of Thanksgiving**

Give thanks to God, who is good.

**God’s love is everlasting.**

Come, let us praise God joyfully.

**Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

For this good world;

for things great and small, beautiful and awesome;

for seen and unseen splendors:

**Thank you, God.**

For human life;

for talking and moving and thinking together;

for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying:

**Thank you, God.**

For work to do and strength to work;

for the comradeship of labor;

for exchanges of good humor and encouragement;

**Thank you, God.**

For marriage;

for the mystery of flesh made one;

for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared;

for secrets kept in love:

**Thank you, God.**

For family;

for living together and eating together;

for family amusements and family pleasures;

**Thank you, God.**

For children;  
for their energy and curiosity;  
for their brave play and startling frankness;  
for their sudden sympathies:

**Thank you, God.**

For the young;  
for their high hopes;  
for their irreverences toward worn-out values;  
for their search for freedom;  
for their solemn vows:

**Thank you, God.**

For growing up and growing old;  
for wisdom deepened by experience;  
for rest in leisure;  
and for time made precious by its passing:

**Thank you, God.**

For your help in times of doubt and sorrow;  
for healing our diseases;  
for preserving us in temptation and danger;

**Thank you, God.**

For the church into which we have been called;  
for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament;  
for our life together in You:

**Thank you, God.**

For your Holy Spirit;  
who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;  
who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship:

**Thank you, God.**

Above all, o God, for your son Jesus Christ;  
who lived and died and lives again for our salvation;  
for our hope in him;  
and for the joy of serving him:

**We thank and praise you, eternal God,  
for all your goodness to us.**

Give thanks to God, who is good.

**God's love is everlasting.**

I'll be taking some vacation for the week following Thanksgiving – see you when I return!

**Presbyter Sightings**

November 22 – office closes at noon for Thanksgiving holiday

November 23 – Happy Thanksgiving!

November 27-December 3 – The Bahamas (jk, but vacation nonetheless)

December 4 – COM

December 6-7 – Presbytery Leader Formation faculty in San Antonio

December 9 – Ordination of Sarah De La Fuente

December 10 – Preach for Beeville First

December 12 – Denominational Charge Conference, Lago Vista Rolling Hills

December 13 – meet with Fiscal Oversight Committee

December 19 – Staff Christmas party

December 22 – January 1 – Office closed for Christmas and New Year's holidays