

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster
Sunday, October 10th, Harvest Thanksgiving
Joel 2:21-27, Psalm 126, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Matthew 6:25-33

Sometimes it takes a while for me to come to understand an idea and how things come together.

This is one of them. I have said that Thanksgiving is really in two parts; giving thanks directly to God, and sharing the blessings we have received and giving thanks for to benefit others as well.

The new learning is seeing the connection between thanksgiving and worrying. Or rather that worrying can get in the way of being able to give thanks, because of concentrating on how to solve the problem and move on rather than focusing on the blessings and stopping to give thanks.

It flows that we can give thanks at the end, when the crisis is over and the problem solved. The difficulty is in giving thanks while still in the throws of the issue at hand, the problem not yet solved.

But that may be the best time to give thanks because this will actually help with and lessen the worrying. If I am able to remember that God has gotten me this far and I have been able to get through previous situations, why would this one be any different?

It would be fair to ask, how can we give thanks at this time with the added stress and concern about the pandemic, and as we prepare for another wave, not knowing when this is going to end.

Maybe, just maybe this is the best time to give thanks and when Thanksgiving is of the most benefit.

This too is twofold.

-COVID has not taken away everything, so we still have blessings and things happening in our lives that we can be thankful for. We still have family and friends that even though we cannot see in person or as often, we can still enjoy having them be part of our lives.

-That we need thanksgiving at the worst of times to remember that we have God walking with us to help us through this time as this was the case for all the other times in our lives.

I mentioned earlier that giving thanks will hopefully lessen worry about the present and the future. There is another word which comes to mind with a connection to Thanksgiving, and that word is trust.

If in giving thanks, I remember that God has gotten me through all the previous situations I have lived through, why can't I trust God will do the same at this time? To be honest I will still worry, but maybe this focusing on thanksgiving and trust or faith will lessen the worry even just a little bit.

Amen