

**New Castle United Methodist Church
510 Delaware Street
New Castle, DE 19720**

**The Message for November 22, 2020
“Be Thankful”
Pastor Ray Eck**

Do you sometimes find it hard to say, “Thank You?”

At a beach in Delaware, a lawyer was sitting on the porch with his wife. As he relaxed one sunny day, he began to realize how much she meant to him. It was about time — for they had lived together forty-nine years. She had shared with him in the joys and the hardships of their marriage. She had worked hard and loved him unconditionally. One day as they sat together, he turned to her and said:

“You’ve been a wonderful wife and I just want to tell you how much you mean to me. I know that I don’t always thank you for all that you do, but on this day, I’d like to say, ‘Thank You.’ Thank you for just being you and for loving me and our children so very much.”

You see, one of our problems is that we are blessed in so many ways that we sometimes begin to take our blessings for granted. Ralph Waldo Emerson said that if the stars came out only once a year, everybody would stay up all night to look at them. He observed that we have seen the stars so often, that we often don’t bother to look at them anymore. It’s easy for us to be like that. We can become so accustomed to our blessings that we can lose our sense of joy and gratitude.

For those of us who think that being thankful is optional, our gospel lesson today shows how very important it is to take time, to give thanks. In today’s reading from Luke, we learn that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. As he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria, he entered a village. There, ten lepers stood at a distance, and cried out, “Jesus, have mercy on us!” He looked at them and said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” In Leviticus, Chapter 14, we are taught that people who had leprosy were required to stay away from other people and to announce their presence if others tried to come near. Sometimes, leprosy went into remission. If a leper thought his leprosy had gone away, he was supposed to present himself to a priest who could declare him clean.

Jesus sent the ten lepers to the priest before they were healed and they went! And because of their faith, Jesus healed them along the way. And as they went, their leprosy simply disappeared. One of them, though, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God, I'm healed!" He fell, face down on the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan. The Samaritans were a race despised by the Jews as idolatrous half-breeds. Once again, Luke is pointing out that God's grace is for everyone. Jesus asked, "Did I not heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Does only this foreigner return to give glory to God?" Then Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has made you well." Sometimes, it's possible to receive God's gifts to us with an ungrateful heart. Nine of the ten men did so. Only one man, the thankful man, learned that his faith had played a part in his healing, and only grateful Christians can grow in the understanding of God's grace.

God does not demand that we thank him, but he is pleased when we do, and He uses our responsiveness to teach us more about himself. Luke taught us that we need to be thankful for Jesus' compassion. These men were outcasts and their society treated them, as if they were already dead. They "stood at a distance" because the law prohibited them from coming in close contact with people. The entire population was afraid of being infected by them. These ten leprous men did not know a lot of theology, but at least one knew that Jesus was the Savior.

Once upon a time, many years ago, an angel was specific about what name would be given to the newborn Messiah.

"You will give birth to a son, and you shall call Him *Jesus*,
because he will save his people from their sins." -- Matthew 1:21

The very name "Jesus" means... Yahweh Saves.

These lepers knew that Jesus was in charge. They call Him "Master," which means "one who stands over." They sensed His authority. They were speaking to the only one who could save them. That day he was in charge, Jesus showed his unconditional love for those men struggling with the disease of leprosy. Their confidence in Jesus was justified. And as they went on their way to the priest, their leprosy simply disappeared.

The story doesn't end here, however, with the healing of the ten lepers. Luke continued his description of the miracle by pointing out that only one of the ten came back to Jesus to say "Thank You." The majority, (ninety percent of the lepers) kept going. The lesson is this: we all need to be thankful for everything all the time. When we are thankful for the many blessings we have received, we become candidates for the greatest blessing anyone can obtain: forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation. This is God's gifts to those who are willing to fall at Jesus feet and say, "Thank You." Let us come back to the feet of Jesus this Thanksgiving season and let us be thankful for all things.

How can we possibly do enough for those in need of our help? We can't feed all the people in our world, but we can help feed some. We can't clothe all those people who have little, but we can help clothe a family or two in need. We can't save anyone, but we can speak to them and teach them about the only One who can save them.

Someone brought you to church many years ago. Did you ever thank them? Perhaps it was a neighbor, a family member, or favorite Sunday School teacher who first taught you about Jesus. Did you thank them? Perhaps you'd like to thank them now. If they are still living, call them or write them a letter and just say "Thank you for leading me to Jesus."

Now it's your turn to lead someone, or two or three, or 33. Lead them to Jesus. Tell them about your faith and tell them about the one that has promised you eternal life. Why is it so hard to tell your friends and your family members about the greatest man who ever walked on the face of the earth? Talk to your children, talk to your grandchildren and tell them about God's great love. If you don't tell them, who will? Don't ever be afraid to talk about Jesus. You can't make a mistake when you talk about His love for everyone. Be a seed dropper; drop the seeds of faith and your belief everywhere you go. Jesus will do the rest.

Thanksgiving Day will be different this year. This pandemic has curtailed many of our activities, but nothing can ever separate us from the love of God. He is with us. Truly He is.

Be Ye Thankful,
Amen.



Music for November 22

-- Bill Mathews, Director of Music Ministries

We continue with songs of thanksgiving this week, opening with *We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing*. While the author is unknown, it is thought that it was a Dutch patriot, written as a celebration from Spanish domination at the end of the 16th century. The hymn holds particular memories in my heart... the combined marching bands of my high school and our rival joined together to play it prior to the traditional Thanksgiving Day football game; and in 1973, I asked the congregation to sing it at the conclusion of my first organ recital. In his 1926 book, *Music Education in America*, Archibald T. Davison commented on the use of folk songs in a World War I army camp, writing this: "If frequency of request and spirit in performance are criteria, the most popular of all was the Netherlands folksong, the 'Prayer of Thanksgiving.'"

***We Gather Together*, UMC Hymnal no. 131,
as sung by The Hymns Ensemble**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=pmR1JszAM1E>

Verse 1:

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing
 now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.

Verse 2

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning
 the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!

Verse 3

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
 thy name be ever praised!
 O Lord, make us free!

music continues on the next page

Now Thank We All Our God is from 17th century Germany and was written by Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor. He wrote the first two verses to be used as a table grace, adding the third as a Gloria Patri. In the UMC Discipleship Ministries' "History of Hymns," Alissa Davis, a 2014 student pursuing her Masters of Sacred Music degree at Southern Methodist University, wrote that singing and listening to the hymn brings a vision of a full congregation, a great organ, (and I might add brass players) singing and playing the hymn on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. But she goes further to say that, in order to really understand the meaning of the words, one has to realize that they were written during the Thirty Years War. At that time, Rev. Rinkart was performing 50 funerals a day as thousands died in the city, which portrays the hymn in a very different image:

"a family singing this hymn before dinner to thank God for the scraps of food they have on the table in their meager home in a desolate refugee city that is afflicted with famine and disease and war."

It brings to mind what we are going through today as we continue to pray that God will lead us through this pandemic. We may not be singing the hymn with our wonderful choir and magnificent organ; we may not even be able to sing it before Thanksgiving dinner with as many of our family members that we are accustomed; but we can reflect on the prayer offered in verse 2:

"and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next."

***Now Thank We All Our God*, arr. John Rutter
sung by the congregation of the First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ImJtef10DWw>

Verse 1

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

Verse 2

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next.

Verse 3

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.



**“ZOOM” Worship
every Sunday @ 11am**

**Order of Worship
and sign-in information
are on pages 8-9.**

Click on this link (or copy it into your browser):

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76997795253?pwd=VFR2eThNbOVlanVtVTdRaIFPWXEvUT09>



✓ **Food Closet Needs**

- ✓ Instant Potatoes
- ✓ Instant Oatmeal packets
- ✓ Rice a Roni or 1 lb. bags of rice
- ✓ Canned entrees – stew or chili
- ✓ Canned fruit

And remember, store brands are always acceptable.



Tristan Beeson, Pam Whary's nephew, and the Fire Company he's associated with, affected by COVID

Paul Coffin, Michelle Jordan's godfather

Hoover & Anita Counterterman

James Costenbader, Hoover & Anita's son-in-law

Joanne Davis

Wilbert "Bill" Esler, Sharon Kimmel's father

Richard Hastings

Jerry and Sally Knotts

Tammy McAleese

Carol & Ron Pochvatilla

Joan Skilton's daughter, Sue, and her family

David Warner

The family of Vera Warner on the anniversary of her birth.

Margaret Weyl

Greyson, a 3-year-old boy diagnosed with neuroblastoma.

Those diagnosed with the coronavirus and the families of those who have lost loved ones

The staff and the patients of our nursing homes

The homeless

Those who struggle with addiction

If you have someone that you'd like included on our Prayer List,

please let us know
by contacting either

Doris Poultney,
Prayer Chain Coordinator,
@ 302-378-1184,

or Pastor Ray
@ 302-740-3932 or

snowman3girls@gmail.com

New Castle United Methodist Church

"Zoom" Worship Service

November 22, 2020, at 11am

The 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Thanksgiving Sunday

If you have a computer, smartphone, or tablet...

Click on this link (or copy it into your browser):

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76997795253?pwd=VFR2eThNb0VlanVtVTdRalfPWxEvUT09>

For those using a regular phone... the number for our Zoom Communion is (301) 715-8592.

Remember... the phone number is long-distance and you should be sure your phone plan covers it.

Meeting ID: 769 9779 5253

Passcode: 12345. On a computer, then hit "Enter." On a phone, then hit "#".

Order of Worship

The Greeting

Pastor Ray Eck

Introit: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Bill Mathews

Verse 1

Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

Verse 2

All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

Verse 3

For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

Verse 4

Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

...UMC Hymnal, no. 694

Call to Worship

Pastor Ray and Faythe Waterloo, Liturgist

Pastor: All things come from you, O God and with gratitude we return to you what is yours.

Liturgist: You created all that is, and with love, formed us in your image.

Pastor: When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior.

Liturgist: All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you.

Pastor: And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us.

Liturgist: By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Faythe Waterloo

Heavenly Father, we gather together to serve you and to thank you for all you have done in our lives. Thank you for counting us worthy to serve you and to know you as the one true God, creator of all things. Accept our thanks and praise in Jesus' name. As we continue to serve you, fill us with your unlimited joy and refresh our spirit. Let those we serve see your glory and power through us, we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Our Joys and Concerns

Pastor Ray

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Lesson: Luke 17:11-19

Faythe Waterloo

The Message: "Be Thankful in All Things"

Pastor Ray

Benediction: "May the Lord bless thee and keep thee while we are absent, one from another."

Closing Hymn: *Bless This House*

Bill Mathews

Bless this house, O Lord we pray,
Make it safe by night and day.

Bless these walls so firm and stout
Keeping want and trouble out.

Bless the roof and chimneys tall,
let thy peace lie overall.

Bless this door that it may prove
ever open to joy and love.

Bless these windows shining bright,
letting in God's Heavenly light;

Bless the hearth, a-blazing there
with smoke ascending like a prayer!

Bless the people here within,
keep them pure and free from sin.

Bless us all that we may be fit,
O Lord, to dwell with thee.

Bless us all that one day we may dwell,
O Lord, with Thee!

...words by Helen Taylor,
music by May H. Brahe