

The United Church of Canada
**St Francis Manoir & Grace Village & Manoir
Stanstead**

A service for personal meditations at home
October 2021

Grounding Prayer

(Take a deep breath, center yourself within the love of God)
God, You are present, may I be transformed by this encounter.

Opening Prayer:

Holy One, I praise you for these simple gifts on an autumn day: the chipmunks darting in and out of the garden, the brilliant colours of the trees, the way thanksgiving springs to my lips as praise lifts my heart.

Before we ask, we are forgiven.

Before we notice, we are blessed.

Before we pray, we are already held in your love.

For the blessing of your unending grace we give thanks. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Generous God, whenever I perceive scarcity, may you open me to embrace your reality of plenty. Whenever I feel isolated and abandoned, may you open me to risking companionship. Whenever I shrink from your touch out of shame-filled fear, may you prepare me for transformation. Whenever I am filled with worry and alarm, may you create space within me for your embrace, opening me to moments of healing and wholeness.

(a time for silent prayer)

Words of Assurance:

The good news of God's reign is here and now. God's kingdom has come in the Way of Jesus. As we share our bread, we are fed. As we forgive, we are forgiven. As we are tempted, we are delivered from those temptations by Love. Thanks be to God for that grace. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination:

May the reading of your word, O God, give me inspiration, hope and confidence. May the readings today shed light on a shadowed world yearning for hope. May I be blessed in the receiving of these words of comfort and hope. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke 17:11-19

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, 13 they called out, saying, “Jesus, teacher, have mercy on us!” 14 When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? 18 Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” 19 Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

The Living Word, I listen with my heart, my mind and my spirit.

Personal Reflection:

Practices of thankfulness lead us closer to our Creator, they lead us into a deeper relationship with the universe, they guide us as we follow the way of Jesus. It is not always easy to be thankful, especially when the world is troubling, but being thankful is good for our spirits and our minds. And so I have a little challenge for you this month. Take some time and write out 9 things you are thankful for. Then find a space to keep this list, somewhere that allows you to return to it, and return to it often. Everytime you return to it, think of a 10th one, and a different 10th one each time. There is much struggle in the world right now, but being thankful will remind us that in the struggle we are not alone. May God accept our thanks even when we only remember to say thank you one out of ten times. Thanks be to God and Happy Thanksgiving.

Prayers of the People:

Compassionate God, I humbly come before you trusting in your deep love for all your children, and your deep love for me. I thank you for your gifts in my life (pause to reflect on your blessings). I am faced with challenges and struggles, and so I ask for your courage and strength (pause and reflect on your concerns). I know that you hear me when I call, and I ask that you remind me that you are with me in the challenges and joys of living. Inspire me with your love and empower me with your hope. I pray using the words Jesus gave to his disciples;

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, 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.

Blessing & Commissioning

With heart and hands and voices, I thank God for wondrous things. I go from here so filled with the love of God that all the world feels the welcome of it. For the blessing and the love and the peace of God goes with me, now and evermore. Amen.

Hymn: Now Thank we All Our God (VU236)

v1 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.

v2 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 strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills of this world in the next.

v3 All praise and thanks to God for all that has been given,
the Son and Spirit blest, who dwell in highest heaven
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Prayers by:

OP: Wendy MacLean, *Gathering Pent2 2021 (Year B)*, 42.

Conf&A: Gord Dunbar, *Gathering Pent2 2021 (Year B)*, 42.

PI: E. Stewart & S. Winegarden, *Gathering Pent 2 2021 (Year B)*, pg.36.

BC: Robin Wardlaw, *Gathering Pent 2 2021 (Year B)*, pg.42.