

Devotion – Twenty Fourth Week after Pentecost

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

I am rereading all the wonderful cards you sent me for Pastor Appreciation Month (which I'd never heard of before!), plus the nice gift cards. You are so very kind and generous, and I am so thankful to be your Pastor. Thank you for these kind offerings, that I will keep and reread frequently.

We are heading quickly toward Advent, and we will have your traditional Hanging of the Green service on the first Sunday in that season, which is November 28. So be ready for decorations and Chrismons and Advent music. The choir is working hard on a Tom Fettke Christmas Cantata, "The First Light." We plan on having this service on Saturday, December 18, at 3:00. That way, you will all be home before dark. And remember Christmas Eve service at 5:30. Bring your children and grandchildren as we celebrate the coming of the light and our Savior's birth.

There are many needs in the community this Thanksgiving and Christmas season: the Togo mission, Thornwell Home for Children, Secur'us House, and the ongoing needs for the Morrow Food Bank. Additionally, we support the Forest Park Ministers' Association, which distributes "take home" meals for the weekend to school children. So please be generous in this season, as you remember your blessings.

And I hope you will consider signing up to share your favorite scripture during announcements the 3rd Sunday of each month. Just let Cindy know ahead of time so she can make copies for everyone – then we can all take home a scripture in our pocket.

I've decorated my dining room table for Thanksgiving and am beginning to get excited about turkey and dressing. Jim always makes the dressing using his mother's recipe – lots of cornbread, eggs, and good stuff. I could quite honestly skip the turkey and just eat the dressing! I know you have your favorite recipes as well. This year I will be particularly thankful for God calling me and Jim to serve you. I'm thankful to be married to a partner who shares my vision of ministry.

When I was little, I began singing "Over the River and Through the Woods to Grandmother's House We Go" at least a month before Thanksgiving. I was so excited about that day of special food. As an adult, my favorite Thanksgiving hymn is from the musical "Godspell." I leave you with these words:

We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us
Are sent from Heaven above.
So thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all his love.

We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food,
No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts
But that which thou desirest, our humble thankful hearts!
All good gifts around us
Are sent from Heaven above.
So thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all his love.

I really wanna thank you Lord!

Amen for all good gifts,

Jeanne