

Devotion, Week of November 24, 2024
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

By the time you get this, you will either be frantically cooking all the favorite Thanksgiving foods, or if you're lucky, you've been invited elsewhere and your offering toward the meal is not so stressful. I've made three lists, and I think I'm ready for the final grocery store trip. This end of the harvest season feast is one I remember with great fondness from my childhood. Sometimes we only had the 4 of us there, and other times, we had numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins – a house full. Regardless, my mother cooked an enormous turkey and my father carved it with great precision. My mother was famous for her dressing, and also her homemade gravy. I poured gravy on everything except the sweet potatoes and butter peas.

I'm reminded as we get ready for Advent that waiting is a gift – I appreciate Thanksgiving so much more because it only comes once a year and we have family with us to celebrate foods we don't eat every day. God's bounty is the focus of that day, and I'm so grateful to count my blessings. Jim's grandmother's favorite hymn was "Count Your Blessings." Here's a verse:

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings – name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

I hope you count your blessings this week as you enjoy food and family, knowing that God has gifted you with an abundance of love.

Yours in Christ,

Jeanne