

Morning Worship

November 24, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People

Scripture Reading

Romey Keith Davis

Hymn # 485 *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus* Romey/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Hymn # 424 *Heavenly Sunlight* Romey/People

Hymn # 483 *Footsteps of Jesus* Romey/People

Offering Prayer John Lewis

Tithes and Offerings People

Offering Music Alva Lou Schottel

Hymn # 637 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* Romey/People

Hymn # 636 *We Gather Together* Romey/People

Message Allan Lane

Hymn # 315 *Room at the Cross* Romey/People

Prayer Concerns Allan/People

Closing Chorus # 387 *Blest Be the Tie* Romey/People

Thanksgiving is Thanks Living

Psalm 100:1-5

Introductory Thoughts

Here are some things that might get us in the Thanksgiving spirit.

* What did one turkey say to the other when they saw the Pilgrims? They look nice. Maybe they'll have us over for dinner.

- * I hope you survived the holidays – our turkey didn't.
- * Aren't you glad that the Pilgrims were able to shoot turkeys for that first thanksgiving? What if there had only been possums, raccoons and skunks out that day when they went hunting? Would that have become our traditional Thanksgiving meal?

Have you ever met someone who just seemed impossible to please? A large dog walks into a butcher shop carrying a purse in its mouth. He puts the purse down and sits in front of the meat case. "What is it, boy?" the butcher jokingly asks. "Want to buy some meat?" "Woof!" barks the dog. "Hmm," says the butcher. "What kind? Liver, bacon, steak . . ." "Woof!" interrupts the dog. "And how much steak? Half a pound, one pound . . ." "Woof!" The amazed butcher wraps up the meat and finds the money in the dog's purse. As the dog leaves a man waiting in line is watching everything that happened. He decides to follow the dog. It goes down the street and enters an apartment house, climbs to the third floor and begins scratching at a door. With that, the door swings open and an angry man starts shouting at the dog. "Stop!" yells the man. "He's the most intelligent animal I've ever seen!" "Intelligent?" says the man. "This is the third time this week he's forgotten his key."

Have you ever met someone who just seemed impossible to please? Have you ever been that person? Believe it or not, this is one Sunday out of the year every preacher should know what to preach. When we see someone do something amazing for us or even someone else, it should always be met with an enthusiastic thankful response. In this familiar Psalm we see three things about thankfulness.

1. The Invitation of Thanksgiving. Verse 4

Thanksgiving is a time that is set aside to remember to give thanks to God for all we have. Thanksgiving has long been an official holiday of our country. From the beginning the focus was giving thanks to God. It was an invitation to the nation to give thanks. We see this invitation in the psalm we read today.

In verse 4 the invitation to thankfulness is given. God invites us into His presence. Jesus stands at the door and knocks. He is inviting us to come. To respond to his love and grace. God wants to spend time with us.

I'm not familiar with a 1990s song from the band **Crumbacher-Duke** entitled *The Last Time*. However, these are some of the words: "And was the last time you heard from me the last I heard from you? Does my lack of inspiration mean you're blue, from silence? Can it really be, the last time that you heard from me, was the last time I heard from you, oh how long since the last time..."

In the song God is asking the question "is the last time you gave thanks the last time you had something to be thankful for." The answer of course is no. We see God's blessings all the time but fail to take the time to say thank you for them.

Max Lucado told a story from his time living in Brazil. One day, as he was walking along the street on his way to the University to teach a class, he felt a tug on his pants leg. Turning around, he saw a little boy about 5 or 6 years old with dark beady eyes and a dirty little face. The little boy looked up at the big American and said, "Bread, Sir." He was a little beggar boy and Lucado said, "There are always little beggar boys in the streets of Brazil. Usually I turn away from them because there are so many and you can't feed them all. But there was something so compelling about this little boy that I couldn't turn away. So, taking his hand, I said, 'Come with me' and I took him into a coffee shop." Max told the owner, "I'll have a cup of coffee and give the boy a piece of pastry...whatever he wants." Since the coffee counter was at the other end of the store, Max walked on and got a cup of coffee, forgetting about the little boy

because beggar boys usually get the bread and then run back out into the street and disappear. But this one didn't. After he got his pastry, he went over to the big American and just stood there until Lucado felt his staring eyes. Lucado said, "I turned and looked at him. Standing up, his eyes just about hit my belt buckle. Then slowly his eyes came up until they met mine. The little boy, holding his pastry in one hand, looked up and said, 'Thank you, sir. Thank you very much.'" Lucado said, "I was so touched by the boy's thanks that I would have bought him the store. I sat there for another 30 minutes, late for my class, just thinking about a little beggar boy who came back and said, 'Thank you.'"

What about you? How do you respond to the love and mercy of Jesus? Do you just take it for granted and forget it, or do you accept God's invitation to draw near and give thanks?

2. The Motivation of Thanksgiving. Verse 5

What motivated the Psalmist to enter in and give thanks and praise? It was God's character and His conduct. It was His love and faithfulness through the years.

What is it that motivates us to give thanks today? What does Thanksgiving mean to you? The roots of Thanksgiving go back to one of the very first recorded Thanksgiving in North America. It was 1621 when the Plymouth colonists and Native Americans shared an autumn harvest feast. Maybe you have heard that story, but most of us may not recall some of the pertinent background.

It was in 1605 that a Native American named Squanto from the village of Patuxet (Massachusetts) met his first white man. He later traveled to England with an explorer named John Weymouth. In England he experienced many adventures and was able to learn some English. He returned to America in 1608 - 3 years later. On his return to America he was kidnapped by Englishman Thomas Hunt who was one of John Smith's lieutenants. He was taken from Massachusetts, along with other Native Americans, by an English ship captain and sold into slavery in Spain. There, Squanto was bought by a Spanish monk, who treated him well, freed him from slavery, and taught him the Christian faith. Squanto eventually made his way to England where he improved his English and worked in the stables of a man named John Slaney. Slaney sympathized with Squanto's desire to return home, and eventually he was able to send him back to America.

It wasn't until 1618, ten years after Squanto was first kidnapped, that he was on a ship returning to America as a free man. When he arrived home he learned of the second blow delivered by the English. His tribe had died from an epidemic, probably of smallpox brought by the earlier colonists.

He and another native American, Samoset, went to live with a neighboring tribe near Plymouth, MA. It was there that he was introduced to the new Pilgrim settlers.

And there, Squanto became a picture of forgiveness. He had been captured by the English and had been sold into slavery. His entire tribe had been wiped out by the English. Instead of being bitter he chose to help the 47 of 102 Pilgrims who had barely survived their first, harsh winter. He helped them build warm houses, he taught them when to plant their corn crop and how it should be planted. Without his help, there would not have been 20 acres of corn produced that year. Squanto also advised the Pilgrims in their relations with the other Native American. He helped them make friends, acted as an interpreter, guided them on trading expeditions, and gave advice on bargaining.

The Pilgrims wouldn't have made it through the year without the wisdom and guidance of Squanto. Governor William Bradford, in Bradford's History of the English

Settlement, wrote regarding Squanto's death: "Squanto fell ill of Indian fever, bleeding much at the nose, which the Native American take as a symptom of death, and within a few days he died. He begged the Governor to pray for him, that he might go to the Englishman's God in heaven, and bequeathed several of his things to his English friends, as remembrances. His death was a great loss."

There would have been no first Thanksgiving without Squanto who made a choice to forgive out of the forgiveness that he had received in Christ. That Thanksgiving flowed out of the thankfulness of one man's heart. Through trials and difficult situations he had been prepared to be a blessing. Do you understand what that is like?

What do you have to be thankful for today? How has God's great love and faithfulness been seen in your own life in the past year? I am reminded of all the loss over the last twelve months and in spite of the sorrow, how good God has been to us as a congregation this past year, and also how good and faithful God has been in my own life. We have so many reasons to give thanks.

3. The Celebration of Thanksgiving. Verses 1-3

So how do we respond to God's love and faithfulness? Notice the 3 verbs that are used here in Thanksgiving.

Shout

The first is SHOUT. Shout for joy to the Lord. We come thoughtfully declaring aloud God's goodness. There are so many different reasons to give thanks.

Listen to these words that were written in 1621 by Edward Winslow, one of the less than fifty members of the Plymouth colony that survived that first winter. He wrote these words describing the first harvest festival: "Our harvest of corn came in well, and God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian Corn, and our Barley crop was also good, but our crop of peas wasn't worth the gathering – they were sown too late, and although they came up very well and blossomed, the sun parched them in the blossom. Once our harvest was brought in, our Governor sent four men out to hunt fowl, in order that we might have a special celebration, rejoicing together over the fruit of our labors. Those four hunters, in one day, killed enough fowl to feed our Company for almost a week. We were joined, in our celebration, by many Indians: the great Indian King Massasoyt, along with some ninety Indian men, joined us for three days of entertainment and feasting. The Indians themselves went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the Plantation and gave as gifts to our Governor, and to our Captain, and others. And although our harvests are not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish that you could be partakers of our plenty."

Look at those words again, "By the goodness of God, we are so far from want..." Those are profound words: "By the goodness of God ... so far from want." Is that your testimony today? It sure is mine. How do you respond to God's faithfulness? You sit down and you think about all the ways that God has blessed you. You put into words what God has done in your heart and then you shout it out – you declare it to others.

Let's do that right now. I invite you shout out "Thank You Lord!"

Worship

The second is WORSHIP. We come passionately expressing our hearts in response God's goodness. When we think of all that God has done for us the natural response is worship.

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- this is your spiritual act of worship.

The key word here is OFFER. Worship is all about offering ourselves to God. Why do we worship? It says here that we offer ourselves to God 'in view of god's mercy.' Worship is our response to God's love. God made the first move. It is up to us to respond. What does it mean when it says that offering ourselves is our "spiritual act of worship?" The word for spiritual is LOGIKOS, which means reasonable and is where the word logical comes from. In other words, worship makes sense – it is the logical response to God's love. We worship because that is what grateful awestruck people do.

Know

The third is KNOW. That means that we experience God's goodness in our lives in a personal way. The word for "know" is that familiar Hebrew word YADA which means more than just an intellectual understanding. It is the same word that is used in Genesis 4:1 to say that Adam KNEW Eve his wife. It means intimacy, a first-hand encounter.

Do you truly know that the LORD is God? Do you know that God has made you and that you are His? Take time to experience God's goodness in a fresh way this coming week.

There are many things that we as a church can be thankful for as we look at where the Lord has led us in the past year. I am so thankful for the opportunities and ministry we have had. However, this thanksgiving I would like us to focus not just on where we have come from but where we are going.

In the coming year is there a ministry that God has laid upon your heart? Is there an area that God is asking you to get involved with? Maybe like Squanto God has been preparing you to help a certain group of people. Out of the overflow of what you have received in Christ perhaps you are beginning to understand that you have been blessed so that you can be a blessing to other people.

Conclusion

May we be motivated to action. Make sure you take time this weekend to celebrate. Spend time with family, eat a turkey if that is what you enjoy, but most importantly take the time to say thank you to God for His many blessings. If our government thinks it important enough to give you a day off, the least you can do is to take the time and open you heart and express your gratitude.

One of the ways you can do that is to remember the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was pierced and His blood was shed for us. Let us offer up our thanks.

Express Your Gratitude!

Un-thankfulness

It is that time of year again. While some might accuse me of preaching to the season, it seems to me that thankfulness is always in season. Our national concept of Thanksgiving comes from our remembrance of the Pilgrims who survived the first terrible winter where a full half of the 112 died. We must also remember that their second ship, the Speedwell, was sabotaged by the crew and had to turn back. That meant they did not have all the anticipated people or supplies. Yet by the grace of God and the Native Americans help with planting crops they had a three day harvest festival celebrating God's bounty.

History also records other days of thanksgiving. The first Thanksgiving Day proclamation by President George Washington set aside a time for prayer and Thanksgiving for the victory over

the British and the establishment of a new nation. Abraham Lincoln set aside the fourth Thursday of each November as a time for prayer and thanksgiving (and if you are curious, it was not till FDR that Congress that it became a Federal Holiday). So despite the opinions of many, our nation was founded on Christian principles and our attitude of Thanksgiving from our fore fathers recognizing God who has established and blessed this land.

But not everyone seems to be thankful. Un-thankfulness is a trait of non-believers (Romans 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:1-5). Scripture speaks of those who refused to acknowledge every good thing comes from God. There is a progression that spirals downward from being unthankful. Unthankful leads to murmuring and complaining, which leads to bitterness, which leads to coveting, which leads us to all kinds of unrighteousness.

If God is so displeased with us when we are not thankful, and un-thankfulness leads to a downward spiral, then why shouldn't we be thankful? We are commanded to give thanks always for all things unto God (Ephesians 5:20-21). This is probably designed to be connected with the previous statement and the proper subject of psalms and hymns is thanksgiving and praise.

Colossians 3:17 reminds us, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

All our actions are to be accompanied with thanksgiving. We are to engage in every duty, not only in the name of Christ, but with thankfulness for strength and reason; for the privilege of acting so that we may honor him; and with a grateful remembrance of the mercy of God that gave us such a Savior to be an example and guide.

Being thankful will put you in the will of God, and put you on an upward spiral for only a truly thankful man can have joy, peace, be loving and not critical because you are not jealous nor making excuses. Give thanks to God for all things.

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, November 24, 2019

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: LarryMckahan, John Lewis, George Burgess, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Thanksgiving Dinner and

Business Meeting.....Noon

No Evening Worship....6:30 pm

Wednesday, November 27

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed
Ushers: Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp, Dillon Burgess
Alternate: ? ? ?
Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 4

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events

November 24—Church Thanksgiving Dinner

and Business Meeting—noon (date change)

November 28 — Thanksgiving

December 2 — Food Kitchen

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

.....
We will not have Sunday Night service tonight. Join our study next week with our church family as we continue to study *The Ten Commandments*.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

This week we will begin a new study. Won't you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

**THANKSGIVING DINNER AND
BUSINESS MEETING**

We will have our

Thanksgiving Dinner and
regular business meeting
immediately following the
morning worship service
today, November 24. Plan to attend this special fellowship.

Urgent Prayer Need

Youth Sunday School

Teacher

Praise the Lord! One person has already expressed a sense of God's call, but it's a big job. It would be good to have more than one person. Pray about it! God may be calling you, too!

For more information,
talk to Bro. Allan.

For the Record

Attendance: November 17, 2019

Sunday School.....	15
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	15
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	38
Sunday Night	N/A
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	N/A

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,778.09

Long Family – October \$ 115.00

Offering Received by Mail:

December Counting Team:

Linda Dotson and Jordan Lane

December Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

December Member Birthdays:

03 ... Brent Fortune
09 ... Allison Adkinson
15 ... George Burgess
16 ... Addison Leichti
16 ... Doris Richardson
19 ... Jessica Kirkpatrick
20 ... Brenda Burgess
23 ... Joseph Coats

December Anniversaries

Bill and Alva Lou Schottel
December 22, 1962

Prayer Requests ...

Romey Keith Davis

Corey Whorton

Jim and Brigida Winans

Janette Shirley—Al's daughter-in-law

Ruth Anne Bush and Family

Carl Conard—Jack's cousin

John Lewis

Mike Green—ankle surgery

Jack and Flo Conard

Bill Dunn, Donna's husband

Sharon Russell—George's sister

June Fritchle

Gary Hurst—cancer

Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister

Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys

Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery

Sandy and Stanley Wilson

Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!

Romey Keith Davis—Music

Marcia and Don Hart—blessings

Arlette Duty—strength

Karissa and Matt Long and family

Tim Waters

Chuck and Gloria Stewart

Sharri Duty
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson Elmer Mayse
Kevin Duty Tim Izer
Betty Campbell Nellie Reynolds
Ann Riddle Kenny Duty
Keon McKahan Buddy Means
Jozy Winans Curtis Conard
Pat Means Seth Long
Bill & Juanita Brenda Burgess
Pat Puckett
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
