



Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving

Psalm 100:4,5

October 1, 2018

Thanksgiving greetings to you.

How do I even begin to say Thank You to God who has done so much for me, for us? This is the question I have been pondering during this season of reflection.

For some of us, Thanksgiving and indeed any other holiday, can be difficult. Some of us are very ill, or enduring painful recoveries. Some of us struggle financially but remain rich in possibilities. Yet we all aspire to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

We have so much to be thankful for. God promises never to leave us or forsake us. But the world is scary sometimes. Daily, we hear terrible news from around the world and even in our own city. Even in the midst of that bad news, we give thanks to God because God is good. In the tornadoes last week, we all escaped major damage, and were given the grace to be generous to those who were not so fortunate. We have an abundance of food in Canada, and we have been given the grace to be among the world's leaders in learning to share it equitably.

As we give thanks to God for the harvest this year, let's also pray for our world, pray that justice will prevail, pray for peace in the streets, pray for those who serve and protect in the world. Let's remember to pray for the farmers who labour to provide us with the food we need. And in our prayers, let us give thanks to God, from whom all blessings flow.

This Thanksgiving, I cherish the people in my life. I am thankful to God for each one of you. It is a joy and a privilege to serve Jesus with you. Together, may our service to God always overflow with gratitude. God bless you.

With a thankful heart, Joan.

Reverend Joan Riding