

Giving Thanks

At Summit Church, we seldom use the word “eucharist” for communion, but some Christian traditions regularly call the Lord’s Supper by this name. Our English word “eucharist” derives from the Greek word that means “giving thanks.” Every time we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we give thanks ... or we should give thanks.

Often the Thanksgiving holiday gets lost in the madness building up to Christmas. Retailers started Christmas displays weeks ago and its momentum often consumes everything in its path – including Thanksgiving. Some, however, refuse to submit to the enchanting call of Christmas. At some houses, for example, Christmas decorating starts the day after Thanksgiving. Not before.

Our sermon series on *The Summer of Joy* covered Philippians 4:6 about giving thanks when we pray. Psalm 106:1 declares, “Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Paul writes in I Thessalonians 5:18: “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Giving thanks in all circumstances, or during communion, or even for one day of the year may create a hardship in troubled hearts. But when the swales of life discourage us to the point where we find it incredibly difficult to utter any word of thanks, remember this.

When overwhelmed with shifting tides in our journey, we can ever and always give thanks for the meaning behind communion – the eucharist. The sacrifice of Christ commemorated in the bread and cup should readily provide abundant reason to give thanks.

Enjoy this Thanksgiving holiday before you enter the Christmas fray with its frantic pace. May it find us engulfed in gratitude that recognizes the goodness of God, the love of Christ, and the fellowship we experience with the Holy Spirit ... along with one another.

Happy Giving Thanks!

Terry Bovinet, Senior Minister (November 2018)



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