

Message Delivered at Christ Church
Thanksgiving Day, 2011
TEXT: Luke 12:22-32
Delivered by Paul A. Johnson

Before the message was delivered, the congregation viewed a video which can be found at:
<http://www.andiesisle.com/creation/magnificent.html>

A blessed Thanksgiving feast to you. It is a beautiful world and a beautiful life God has created and given us. May we find grace and peace in it today.

We are gathered as a people of faith...who looks around, and looks up, and celebrates, and declares God's goodness and faithfulness; who count the blessings that are obvious; and then keep counting the ones that are not...because the more we count, the more God reveals and the more we see.

There was an article in yesterday's paper about how living thankfully is good for your spirits. We know that already. Because we are a thanksgiving people; always have been. It is who we are. It is the DNA of God's people to lift our eyes and hands and heads in thanksgiving. We're the ones who know that giving thanks, at all times and in all places, brings miracles of fellowship and healing. We are the people of the grateful heart, who like joyful fools believe in the possible because of the God we worship.

So for a moment on this day of feasting, in the midst of preparations, we pause and gather together to ask the Lord's blessing and give thanks. We bring it all to the good Lord who made the waves we play in, and the stars that inspire us, and the mountains that call us forward; who before we turn the oven on made the feast we'll partake in; who made all that is; who made us; who made the ones we love, and who love us; who made the stranger who'll wait on us tomorrow; and who promises a good kingdom and takes delight in delivering on that promise.

At the end of worship we will be sent as we always are. It is, after all, in the world and where we are taken that we are intended to be. For some of us, a day that has begun well will fulfill all our expectations, and thanksgiving will come with ease. And some of us will travel, and get caught in traffic. May we thank God for the gift of slowing down. Some of us will cook, and burn the rolls. May we thank God for the blessing of imperfection. Some of us at dinner will get stuck next to the uncle who slurps his soup. So we will give thanks for all sorts and conditions of women and men, including ourselves. For as the psalmist says, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Because that is our purpose today: to feast, and laugh, and share, and give thanks to a good God, who takes such pleasure in the simple prayer "thank you, Jesus"...a reminder that even every day, that is our purpose.

So let's stand for the Lord who helps us stand, and do just that. And a blessed Thanksgiving to each and every one of you.