



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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“Give thanks”

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16 (NIV)

When something does not go your way or come down the pike the way you want it to, do you tend to complain? It can be any number of things that irritate us – the lies and confusion that we hear from our leaders and the apathy for our lives, the divisions, injustice all over the place, our kids and grandkids are at home distancing learning, and having to stay at home for an unspecified length of time. (We all have our own lists, don't we?)

At times like these when I am tempted to complain, I have to start talking to myself. (Yes, I do talk to myself!) "Pablo, if you cannot be content in this moment of problems, be content that it is not worse. Just be quiet and count your blessings."

Sometimes, this conversation with myself does not do the job until I dig deep and find that "grateful heart" that has somehow been buried under the unpleasant situation. As Christians our constant attitude should be gratitude. But, often, it seems to be the rarest of virtues. God has given us thousands of reasons to celebrate life every day, even in the worst of times, if we just open our eyes, live in the moment, take in the beauty, and see the possibilities.

We read in 1 Thessalonians: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Now, pay attention...this does not say "give thanks FOR all situations"... it says "give thanks IN all situations." I am definitely not thankful FOR everything that has happened in my life, but I do try to be thankful while I am dealing with unpleasant events. We may not be thankful for what is going on in our lives and in the lives of our community right now, but we can be thankful in the middle of this mess and chaos if we recognize that God is with us and we can always count on him.

Let us pray: Lord, teach us to be joyful always, to pray continually and to give thanks in all of our circumstances. Amen

“Give Thanks” (TFWS: 2036)

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son//

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"//

Give thanks with a grateful heart (with a grateful heart)
Give thanks to the Holy One (to the Holy One)
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son//

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"//

Give thanks

Henry Smith

“Now I can say I Live a Day” (John Wesley)

Pastor Pablo

Online Devotionals

To grow in your relationship with God and others, it is important to have some spiritual disciplines in your life. Below are some helpful websites that will lead you to read scripture, pray, and focus on God.

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

A daily devotional including scripture lesson and story.

UPPER ROOM DAILY REFLECTIONS <https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/>

Daily words of wisdom and faith including quotes, scripture, questions, and the lectionary bible readings.