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Thanksgiving Hope

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV

Reflecting during this season of Thanksgiving as we look forward not to a new normal but to a new reality; what do we take with us? As I look first at my own life, there appears to be many questions. Am I open? Am I ready? Am I ready to live the life that awaits me? Are my arms outstretched?

The world needs each of us to be present, now more than ever and to light up the sky. As the attitudes during the pandemic become more prevalent, I think it's more important that we as Christians practice being thankful year round, including the difficult times even when it seems like there is little to be thankful for. When we dig deep, working at exercising our abilities to express gratitude, it will be easier to see God's goodness in our respective lives. Thanksgiving would then be daily rather than a yearly activity.

Maybe a way to begin is making a list? Could it be a list of the trials you have come to be thankful for because of the lesson(s) you learned? Or a list of ways you can be a blessing to others in their lives? Or maybe you think lists are silly and have your thoughts on a thankfulness regimen.

Over the past couple of weeks, we see the leaves changing to many colours like this past year where we witnessed many changes. The falling leaves bring the wonder of a continued hope for the future. This Thanksgiving many of us have gathered with family and friends for the first time since the pandemic began. The bonds we share are what makes us human and the challenges we have overcome together makes us stronger. I hope that everyone has had a time to reflect on all we have to be thankful for especially considering what we have faced throughout 2020-21. I am truly thankful we have each other in our Community of Faith.

With Gratitude,

Rosalind MacDonald

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

