

Thanksgiving Prayer

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St. John's Episcopal Church
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Let us be in a spirit of prayer,
conscious in these moments of that Sacred Presence
present to us in moments of awareness.
Living God, fountain of creative energy,
mystery beyond fathoming,
we pray, we speak, we address You,
hidden in a cloud of unknowing.

We address You, God of our lives,
for we have been addressed –
encountered, touched, moved by grace.
We contemplate our world and we stand in awe;
wonder overwhelms us.

Are You the cosmic poet,
the composer of this cosmic symphony,
the grand initiator of all that is,
the ultimate strange attractor that beckons all life and existence
toward the heavenly city?

Infinite mystery of being,
on this Lord's Day evening
we contemplate our lives;
we bring our prayer of thanksgiving.
We, Your children, offspring of stardust,
gaze with awe at the wonder of it all.

Creative Spirit, transforming chaos into cosmos,
disorder into order,
dissonance and noise into the language of a poem,
You are our life,
In You we live and move and have our being.

Conscious, aware, observers of a cosmic drama –
we sense we have been addressed.
We have been touched by a very great grace.
Overwhelmed by the wonder of it all, we are truly grateful,
humbled by the richness and the goodness that mark our lives.

November is here;
another month, one more after this, and another year will have passed.

Season upon season –
how quickly the tale of our lives is told.
We know November is here:
the trees are bare now;
biting wind and chilling rain threaten the first snow.
Sunsets are flaming gold and heavy clouds portend the approaching winter.
November spells Thanksgiving –a time
to reflect, to remember, to give thanks,
to give thanks for a providence in life which we cannot comprehend.

We give You thanks:
that You are,
that You are gracious,
that You have created space for us,
that You have taken time for us,
that You have created us for life – together, for community;
that You have brought us into fellowship
with Yourself and with one another.
We give thanks that we belong,
that we are family.

We are not immune from pain;
we suffer loss;
sometimes a tide of doubt overwhelms us;
sometimes questions haunt us, fears taunt us.
But we are not alone.

We have each other and, in the care and support of one another,
we find You.
We know there is a love that heals
and a grace that will triumph,
and so we trust,
sometimes in sunlight, sometimes in darkness,
but always in You, O good and gracious God.
Thanks be to You through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now as we move to this table,
we pray for the breath of Your Spirit.
Enable us to know the one who came garbed in our flesh
to show us Your love as graciously, powerfully present to us,
enlivening us, renewing us.
Spirit of God,
through bread and cup feed us,
give us drink and let us know the love of God beyond knowing.

Hear these our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.