

The City Centre Scroll - Thanksgiving 2023



From our Interim Moderator
Rev. Richard Watson

Dear beloved people of City Centre Church,

As your interim moderator (the person charged to help you find and choose your next minister), I am moved to share a verse from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, "How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?" (1 Thessalonians 3:9).

The apostle Paul had a profound thankfulness for the people in the Thessalonian church because of the reports he heard of their faith and love. As I have worked with your Session and the Search committee I too have heard about your faith and your love for our Lord Jesus and I am extremely thankful for it.

Thankfulness (gratitude) in our Christian walk comes easy sometimes, especially at this time of year when we have a bountiful harvest. But Gratitude is not merely a response to receiving; it is an act of recognizing God's hand in all things. We thank God for each other and the blessings we receive because like a bountiful harvest, we understand that every individual in our midst is a blessing, a unique expression of God's love, someone planted for a purpose. Often this fruit of the harvest is not fully visible but we trust in the blessing anyways. I'm talking about the often thankless work of loving God and neighbour through your weekly worship services, the Thursday night life group, the Friday night home group, the Board, the Session, your support in working with the Shepherd's House ministry, and of course the Community Garden.

By God's grace these things will bring visible fruit, even if we cannot see it yet. In the mean time I thank God for your active participation and pray they bring you joy and gratitude.

The Joy I'm praying for is not superficial or transient. I realize, sometimes we do not feel joy in specific tasks, and that in some circumstances we are not explicitly thankful. However the deep, abiding joy is still present. It comes from knowing we are loved by God and we belong to each other as we offer our lives through our "gardening" efforts. This joy transcends our circumstances and is rooted in God's eternal love that comes through Jesus Christ, the one who continues to sustain us, breath life into our world, and occasionally surprises us. I'm confident, that by God's grace the fruit of our work with each other will soon be harvested... in the coming of your next minister!!

In the mean time, keep up your great works of faith and love, keep up your hope, and be thankful for God's faith and love for you: it came first and it will never stop!

Richard

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PRAYER AND PRAISE

Praise For...

- All the new members who joined our church family this past year. Welcome!
- All the different messages and people who have preached at City Centre. Variety is the spice of life!
- All those who have picked up the slack during Dave Daoust's journey across Canada, and for those filling in the gaps during our pastoral vacancy.
- The amazing colours of the trees and changing foliage. The blessings of seasons.
- Peace and democracy in Canada.
- Families, friends and colleagues.

Praise!

Prayer For...

- God to send us a pastor who perfectly fits our needs and to prepare that person as they consider a change in their life. Discernment for the Search committee.
- The Board of Managers as they consider options in how to pay for some large church expenses.
- Peace and comfort to the people of Sudan, Ukraine, Syria and other countries living in violence and strife in their war torn countries. And for peace to prevail.
- An end to addiction to those living in this neighborhood.
- Patience in this time of waiting on God to find our pastor.
- For our church finances; that we meet our budget.

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His Name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever..." Psalm 100:4-5a

Abba, it is with a grateful heart we come to bring an offering of praise and thanksgiving for your goodness. We remember the greatest gift You gave us, salvation making us adopted sons and daughters and heirs to the kingdom of God. Thank you for faith, hope and love that encourages us as we journey on this earth. Thank you for grace and peace so graciously poured out through the Holy Spirit. Thank you for our daily provision, healing and protection. Thank you for victory over sin and death. We sing this song to You today with hearts overflowing with thanksgiving.

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
 Give thanks to the Holy One
 Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son
 We give thanks to You oh Lord
 We give thanks .
 Amen



"Do not grow old, no matter how long you live. Never cease to stand like curious children before the great mystery into which we were born." -Albert Einstein.

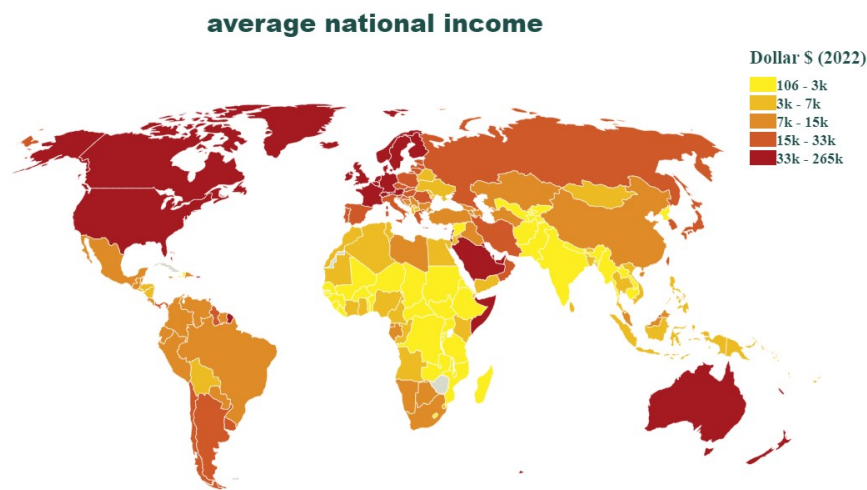
World Inequality Database

If you are curious on where you stand in the world, financially, look up www.wid.world which provides the World Inequality Database. It's a very eye opening investigation.

On the website you can also research your personal wealth and income compared to the rest of the world by following this link: [Income Comparator - WID - World Inequality Database](#)

As you drill down into more and more information, you can glean lessons like the average person in Canada earns \$59,000 USD per year. The lesson learned is not that you earn so much less \$\$ than the average Canadian. The lesson to be learned is that Canada is mightily blessed, and we have all been given so much. For comparison, the average person in Malawi earns \$1,100 USD per year.

God has been gracious to us.



Graph provided by www.wid.world

The Bible would be a whole lot shorter without Grace.

“Much of the bible was written by murderers who were given a second chance. Moses, David, Paul. The Bible would be much shorter without grace.” -Shane Claibourne

Hebrews 4:15,16 “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Amen!

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.” - Hebrews 12:28

Thanksgiving Elsewhere

Other than in North America, there are a few other countries that celebrate thanksgiving with a similar thankfulness celebration. Canadians first gave thanks (in this holiday way) back in 1578 when Sir Martin Frobisher and his crew arrived safely in the Eastern Arctic with a meal of mushy peas, biscuits and salt beef. The Americans first recorded Thanksgiving date is 1621. Both countries now eat fairly similar foods on their celebratory feasts (turkey and fixings), with a few exceptions. In Newfoundland the menu may include a Jigg's dinner which consists of a boiled meat dinner served with a side of split pea pudding (harkening back to that first peas and salt beef dinner). In the southern USA you would find macaroni and cheese on the table or a potato salad, or a green bean casserole, alongside the traditional roast turkey.

In rural communities of Germany, Austria and Switzerland you can find a 'rural festival of thanks', usually celebrated in late September or early October. Residents will hold church services, throw parties and play music. Turkey is not the popular meat to eat at this festival, but chicken or rooster is often served.

Japan celebrates Kinro Kansha no Hi , or Labour Thanksgiving, every November 23. This day honours workers in the community and is a public holiday.

In Ghana there is a tradition known as the Homowo Festival. This word means 'hooting at hunger' in the "Ga" language, and is celebrated for three months from May to August. During this time there is singing, traditional dances, and street parades. Like all other Thanksgiving ceremonies, food is a big feature as well and includes palm nut fish soup, yams, and a ground corn dish.



“Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving: let us shout joyfully to Him with Psalms. For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods. In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights of the hills are His also.”

Psalm 95: 1-5

Canadiana Quiz

In the next few issues, we will print a quiz about Canada. Even if you are relatively new to the country just try it out for fun and learn about this fine country. Answers are printed upside down, below, but no peeking until you've tried to answer all 10 questions!

1. *Quebec is the world's top producer of this condiment.*
2. *This type of bear lives in BC-and nowhere else in the world.*
3. *A Canadian pharmacist invented this spreadable.*
4. *This type of pizza was created by Sam Panapoulos in London, Ontario, in 1962.*
5. *The world's only perogy drive through is in this city.*
6. *Canadians eat 1 billion of these every year.*
7. *Rodney, Ontario is home to North America's smallest one of these institutions.*
8. *This town set a record for the most extreme temperature change-from -19 Celsius to +22 Celsius in less than an hour.*
9. *Canada has more of these than the rest of the world combined.*
10. *In some provinces, doctors can prescribe these to encourage more time spent outdoors.*



“If you want to know who God is, look at Jesus. If you want to know what it means to be human, look at Jesus. If you want to know what love is, look at Jesus. If you want to know what grief is, look at Jesus. And go on looking until you're not just a spectator, but you're actually part of the drama which has him as the central character.” -NT Wright.

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1. Maple syrup
2. The Kermode bear, also known as the Spirit or ghost bear
3. Peanut butter. Marcellus Gilmore Edson turned roasted peanuts into peanut butter in 1884.
4. Hawaiian pizza.
5. Saskatoon. Baba's Homestyle Perogies.
6. Doughnuts
7. Jail. A very small 270 square feet.
8. Pincher Creek, Alberta in January 1962 thanks to some Chinook winds.
9. Lakes. Roughly 9% of Canada's surface area is covered by fresh water.
10. Parks Canada Passes.

Answers to the Canadiana Quiz

COOK'S CORNER

Need an innovative, easy and make-ahead, healthy recipe for breakfast?

Carrot Cake Baked Oatmeal

2 cups rolled oats
 1 tsp cinnamon
 1/2 tsp ginger
 1 pinch nutmeg
 1 tsp bkg. powder
 1/2 tsp salt
 1 cup finely grated carrots
 1/2 cup raisins
 1/4 cup walnuts or pecans, roughly chopped
 1/4 cup shredded coconut
 2 eggs, whisked
 2 cups milk
 1/4 cup maple syrup or brown sugar packed
 3 tbsp olive oil
 1 tsp vanilla extract or maple extract

Cream cheese topping: 2 oz cream cheese, room temp, 1/2 cup Greek yogurt, 2 tbsp maple syrup, 1/4 tsp vanilla extract, pinch salt.

Preheat oven to 375F. Grease a 9inx9in pan. Combine first six dry ingredients. Combine carrots, and wet ingredients and whisk to combine. Add the dry to the wet ingredients and fold gently until well combined. Then add raisins, nuts, and coconut and fold again. Once mixed, transfer the oatmeal mix to the dish, spreading evenly. Transfer the baking dish to the oven to bake for 35-40 minutes until middle is set and golden brown. Cool slightly then add the cream cheese frosting. Once cooled, leftovers can be stored in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 5 days or in the freezer for up to 3 months.



Don't Toss out that Butter Wrapper!

Butter is an expensive item (and seems to be getting more expensive every day)! Here are some innovative ideas to use your wrappers in the kitchen.

After most of the butter is used, simply fold up the wrappers and keep them in the door of your fridge or in a small plastic baggie.

They can be used as a wrap to cover leftovers, butter side down.

The small bit of butter left on the wrapper is perfect for greasing your cake pan, muffin pan, etc.

Use the wrappers to separate burger patties in the freezer, or cookies/squares in the freezer.

When using your frypan, and you need just a bit of butter, use the bit left on the wrapper.

When making marshmallow rice cereal treats, use the butter wrapper to press the mixture down in your pan.



“Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred.” -Proverbs 25:27

Rules for Doing Theology

1. First, lay your weapons down. Bow your head in prayer, and come in all unguarded.
2. Allow yourself to be served. Turn and serve your neighbour.
3. Your work space is a practice field, a place for exercise. Polished perfection is not required.
4. Read. Seek intimacy with the scriptures. Read things more than once. Read across time, space, culture, ethnicity, experience. Read things that are too hard. Read things that are too easy.
5. Theology is personal work. Theology is personal work. Theology is interpersonal work. Don't believe claims that any theology is objective. It's all personal and interpersonal and contextual.
6. Open yourself to learning from others. Trust that what you're learning matters for your life, body, church, vocation. Be lavish with your attention. Pay attention to others, to text, to God, to your own body and soul.
7. Reading isn't the only practice that matters. Commune. Worship. Pray. Wonder. Adore. Love the LORD your God with your heart, mind, and strength. Learn with philosophers and poets and scientists. Pay attention to your gut. Use your imagination. Do not quench the Spirit.
8. Knowing that God is God, relax into the fact that you will not master this subject. Let the subject master you. Embrace mystery over mastery. God is the point of the enterprise.
9. Make a mess. Fail. Try again. Grow in grace. Repent and forgive.



“O God, grant that whatever good things I have, I may share generously with those who have not, and whatever good things I do not have. I may request humbly from those who do.” -Thomas Aquinas

Church News

We wanted to give you an update of where we are at in the search for a minister at City Centre Church. The Search Committee completed the congregational profile in August. Interim Moderator, Richard Watson posted the profile on the Canadian Presbytery website in September for potential Ministers to apply. We are receiving applications and will be reviewing them in October. Once the review process is completed, we will begin interviews. Please continue to pray that GOD will guide us in this process. If you know someone who you think should apply, please send them this link: [Pulpit Vacancies - The Presbyterian Church in Canada](https://presbyterian.ca/vacancies/) (<https://presbyterian.ca/vacancies/>)

Blessings, The Search Committee

(Dave Doble, Bob Astop, Elaine Singh, Ron Gaudette, Yolanda Boyd, Linda Littlejohn and Dave Daoust)



DID YOU KNOW?

- That there is a need for a couple more Kids time teachers? You may be only required once a month. See Linda Littlejohn for info.



- The community cupboard needs your donations. Food that does not need to be heated is the best. Cans with pull tops, canned applesauce, granola bars, indi-

vidual juices, water bottles, and plastic spoons. Hygiene items such as soap, and razors, deodorant too.



- The deacons fund, used for individual congregational needs can always use your donations. Simply make a cheque out to

"The Deacons Fund". You can also donate canned goods for the inside cupboard.

- If you are the coffee host on a Sunday morning, there is a list of coffee to water ratios listed on the inside of the cupboard by the napkins, and tea area.
- That in general, it takes at least a year to find a suitable pastor to fill our vacancy. Meanwhile, pray for the perfect fit.

"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer." -1 Timothy 4:4,5

Our Church Schedule

Keep staying tuned to church announcements, as there are fun events to come! A social committee is being formed and will be meeting to plan events such as dinners, skating, and coffeehouses for our church family. These will be fantastic opportunities to invite your friends and family to the church in a very welcoming way. For now, if you have ideas to share or would like to join the Social Committee, please seek out an elder with your thoughts.

The next big event will be the Christmas BBQ but we may have a smaller event before that!

And here is the preaching schedule for the next month. We will have some familiar faces preaching the word in the next month. A great variety of styles and ages but all are worthy of our attention and attendance.

- October 15 Graham McCarthy
- October 22 Natasha Vedder
- October 29 Rev. Richard Watson (our interim moderator)
- November 5 Natasha Vedder
- November 12 To Be Announced
- November 19 Graham McCarthy
- November 26 John Santic



Hey there folks-we are thinking ahead to the Christmas newsletter. Do you have a unique, funny, poignant or just fun Christmas story in your past that you'd be willing to share with us? It could be a whole page long, or just a paragraph. It can be about your children or when you were a child, or just from the recent past. (covid Christmas even?!) See Elaine or Neil Singh before mid December.

“Its one thing to be grateful. It’s another to give thanks. Gratitude is what you feel. Thanksgiving is what you do.” -Timothy Keller

WISDOM AND WIT

Too many people think grass is greener somewhere else, but the grass is green where you water it.. *Remember that.* -unknown

In a society that has you counting money, pounds, calories, and steps, be a rebel and count your blessings instead. -unknown

Warren Buffett often suggests the following thought experiment: Assume that every human being currently alive, all eight billion souls on Earth, is a marble placed in a massive jar. If given the opportunity, would you put your marble in with the others, shake the jar, take another marble at random, and live that life instead? If the answer is no, then you know you have a blessed life.



You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere. Why did you spill the coffee?

“Because someone bumped into me!!!”

Wrong Answer.

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup. Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea. Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you {which will happen}, whatever is inside you will come out. Its easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

So we have to ask ourselves...”what’s in my cup?” When life gets tough, what spills over? Joy, gratitude, peace and humility? Anger, bitterness, victim mentality and quitting tendencies?

Life provides the cup. YOU choose how to fill it.

Today let’s work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation, resilience, positivity, and kindness, gentleness and love for others.

-Austin Tang

And now.....some thanksgiving jokes.

How do you tell the difference between turkeys and chickens? *Chickens celebrate thanksgiving.

Why wasn't the turkey hungry on Thanksgiving?

*It was already stuffed.

Why did the farmer steamroll his potato field?

*He wanted mashed potatoes.

Everyone laughs the same in every language because laughter is a universal connection.

-Yakov Smirnoff