

Grateful at Thanksgiving

Have you noticed the leaves changing colors and the air growing crisp? Is it not a welcome blessing! This week is Thanksgiving! It arrives like a gentle invitation—a call to pause, reflect, and remember. But gratitude, as Scripture reminds us, is far more than a seasonal sentiment. It is a spiritual posture, a way of life that transforms how we see God, ourselves, and the world around us.

Psalm 100.4 urges us to ***“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name.”*** Thanksgiving is not just about turkey and traditions—it is about entering into the presence of God with a heart full of awe. Gratitude begins when we recognize that ***“every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights” (James 1.17).*** It is not earned; it is received. When we thank God, we are not just being polite—we are declaring that He is faithful, generous, and near. Gratitude should be a major part of our worship.

Isn't it easy to be grateful when everything in your life is going well? But true thanksgiving shines brightest in the shadows. Paul writes, ***“Give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5.18).*** Not *for* all things, but *in* all things. Gratitude does not ignore pain—it reframes it. It reminds us that even in hardship, God is still working in us, redeeming us, and sustaining us. Gratitude shifts our focus from what is missing to what is present. From scarcity to abundance. From complaint to contentment.

Thanksgiving is a communal act. When we share the things for which we are thankful, we build bridges. We remind each other of God's goodness. We celebrate stories of provision, healing, and hope. Gratitude softens hearts, mends relationships, and fosters unity. This season, consider writing a note of appreciation to someone who has impacted your life. Speak words of appreciation. Share a meal. Give generously. Gratitude multiplies when it is expressed.



Thanksgiving Day may come and go, but a grateful heart endures forever. Let this season be a spark—not just for a moment of thanks, but for a movement of gratitude. Let it shape your prayers, your conversations, your choices. Because when we live with gratitude, we live with joy. And joy, rooted in Christ, is the strength that carries us through every season.

Gary

Shout To The LORD

SR: Psalm 66.1-4

- 1) This morning, we gather to enter into the presence of God with thanksgiving.
- 2) Many of the Psalms call upon us to lift up our voices to praise God.
- 3) Psalm 100 is a rousing exhortation to worship God.
- 4) How are we to come before the LORD?

We Are To Come Before The LORD With...

I) _____ (Psalm 100.1, 2).

A) The first exhortation in the psalm urges *“all the earth”* to engage in a joyful celebration of the LORD.

- 1) The NASB has *“Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.”*
- 2) The word pictures an intense, energetic expressing of joy.
- 3) Since God is great and good, vigorous and happy praise should be given to Him.

B) The five verses of Psalm 100 contain 7 exhortations to rejoice.

- 1) Is worship to be a _____?
- 2) What qualities should we have in our worship of God?
- 3) God’s people have always revealed their _____ with _____.

(a) _____ (Exodus 15.1-13).

(b) _____ (Exodus 15.20, 21).

(c) _____ (2 Samuel 6.14, 15).

II) _____ (100.3).

A) Just as worship has a joyful side, it also has a _____ side.

- 1) The worship of God is to be entered with _____ and _____.
- 2) We must understand who God is and what He requires.

B) Worshipers belong to God by...

- 1) Right of _____.
- 2) Means of _____.
- 3) Right of _____.

III) _____ (100.4, 5).

A) Thanksgiving should dominate worship.

- 1) A grateful spirit freely sings in his worship of God.
- 2) We worship and give thanks because we are recipients of God’s _____.

B) Why should we worship God?

- 1) We worship God because of His... _____, _____, and _____.
- 2) The Christian is God’s _____, but he will be more fully His in _____.

Conclusion: Do you need to draw closer to God in worship and commitment?

CONNECTION

C Good morning church family! Did you hear that just recently the U.S. minted the very last penny that will be issued? Yes indeed the penny will soon go the way of 8-track tapes, VHS tapes, B&W TVs and Sting-Ray bicycles, etc.

R Many of us probably have a jar somewhere in the house though, full of pennies, nickels, and the occasional dime or quarter. We drop our spare change into it for months or even years. We tell ourselves that "one day" we'll take it to the bank, roll it up, or use it for something meaningful. But time passes, the jar fills, and too often it simply gathers dust on a shelf. Or, it becomes "too much trouble" to roll and use.

R You know, love can become like that jar.

We hold on to kind words we *mean* to say.

We save encouragement for the *best* moment.

We wait for the *right* time to call, to apologize, to reach out, or to embrace.

We store our compassion and affection like coins in a jar, believing we'll pour it out *someday*—when we're less busy, less tired, less stressed, less distracted.

But love hoarded is love wasted.

In John 13:34, Jesus said, "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" Jesus didn't save His love for a later, more convenient day. He didn't wait until people proved themselves worthy of His love and attention. He gave love freely, immediately, intentionally—and often to people who least expected it, and in the minds of some, didn't deserve it.

Pennies saved in a jar eventually become useful.

Love saved for later too often ends up arriving too late.

The phone call we meant to make.

The note we intended to write.

The hug we thought about giving.

The forgiveness we meant to offer.

The appreciation we thought we should have expressed.

These opportunities don't last forever.

This week, decide to "empty the jar."

Spend love freely.

Give kindness generously.

Offer grace now—not someday. You'll be blessed!

--Les Keele



By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13: 35

SHEPHERDS		MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)	
Greg Ball	214-801-7375	Welcome - Steve Taylor	
Russ Bartee	817-938-5825	Song Leader - Matt Sloan	
Dan Kille	817-793-7493	Song - Let God Arise	
*Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444	Song - I Am Crucified With Christ	
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983	Song - Jesus, Let Us Come To Know You	
John Walton	817-441-0000	Opening Prayer - Joe Gentry	
*Shepherd of the month		Scripture - Psalm 66. 1-4	
MINISTERS		Song - How Deep The Father's Love	
Gary Williams:	662-321-3208	Lord's Supper - Buck Thomas	
Pulpit Minister		Prayer for Contribution - Buck Thomas	
Les Keele:	817-808-0566	Song - Shout Hallelujah	
Associate Minister		Shout To The Lord - Gary Williams	
James Bowie:	817-944-4492	Song - Calling The Prodigal	
Youth Minister		Announcements - Les Keele	
LAOTIAN MINISTRY		Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal - Chuck Meyer	
John Boudtaroth	817-891-2132	Our Code for Tithe.ly	
DEACONS		Giving	
Jon Bartee	817-889-2686		
David Birdow	972-310-1143	QR Code for Attendance	
James Bowie	817-944-4492		
Zach Brookshire	817-296-9918	Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.	
Brandon Duncan	903-603-1059	Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.	
Jay Garner	817-205-2070		
Ben Meyer	817-673-8557		
Robert Scott	817-246-0911		
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404		
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065		
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620		
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726		
DAILY BIBLE READINGS			
Monday, November 24		Friday, November 28	
Amos 3-4; Acts 13		Psalm 122; Nehemiah 3; Acts 17	
Tuesday, November 25		Saturday, November 29	
Amos 5-7; Acts 14		Nehemiah 4-5; Acts 18	
Wednesday, November 26		Sunday, November 30	
Amos 8-9; Acts 15		Nehemiah 6; Acts 19; Psalm 59	
Thursday, November 27			
Nehemiah 1-2; Acts 16; Psalm 66			
Last Week		Times of Assemblies	
Bible Class	115 Wednesday 110	Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Worship	218 Contribution \$ 14,941.09	Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
PM Worship	73 Budget \$ 14,216.88	Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
		Wednesday Evening:	7:00 PM

MENS' BREAKFAST

Thursday, November 20, 7:00 AM IHOP
on Cherry Lane Come join us for
fellowship and a time of devotional study.

**We will Not be having it
Thanksgiving Day. See you in
December.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Kham Intharansy,
great grandmother and Chris
Intharansy, great Uncle of Cameron
Vatsana Johnson, 4lb 14oz. Born to
Christian Johnson.



OFFICE HOURS

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Thursday November 27th and 28th to celebrate
Thanksgiving.

If you have any issues and need assistance
please call Les Keele or the EOM Chuck Meyer

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES

LADIES & MEN'S

BIBLE CLASS WILL NOT MEET
THIS WEEK

Thanksgiving Celebration

There will be a Thanksgiving Meal here at
the building on Thanksgiving Day at 12pm.
The meat, the rolls and the dressing will be
provided. Please bring a side dish or
dessert. Talk to Frankie Smith for more
information.



BABY BLESSINGS

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Jimmy and Katelynn Bolt are excited to announce
that they are expecting a beautiful baby boy,
Truett Daniel Bolt, just a week before
Thanksgiving. The Western Hills Church of Christ
would like to welcome Truett into the world with a
monetary gift to be used as needed by the family.
If you would like to contribute, please see Dorothy
Anderson or Sharon Pippin.

WINTER BIBLE CLASSES

Our Winter Quarter Begins December 7th,
Sunday Morning Bible Class Speaker:
Johnathan Bartee; Topic: Apologetics for the
Faithful Christian. 1 Peter 3:15. **Our
Wednesday Night Adult Bible Class**
Speaker; Jay Garner: Topic: Philippians **Young
Adults Class**, in the Education Bldg. Speaker:
Riley Bowie; Topic: Habits Of The Household.
Drawing us closer to God.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathies to
Amy Brookshire and her family
On the loss of her father,
Travis Stodghill. Please keep
them in your prayers.



YOUTH GROUP

November 23: Thanksgiving feast
December 6: Youth group Christmas party

ATTENDANCE QR CODE

Attention:

All Members, And Visitors

We Invite You To Use The QR Code For Attendance
Which Is Located On The Last Page Of The Bulletin
Right Next To The Giving QR Code