



Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

Reaching Individuals and Families of the Concho Valley with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ!

AGNUS DEI

November 2021

GIVING THANKS UNTO GOD

*"And we
know that for
those who love
God all things
work together for
good, for those
who are called
according to his
purpose. "*

(Romans 8:28, ESV)

With the coming of November, thoughts of thanksgiving and Thanksgiving Day quickly come to mind. If we are not intentional, though, our attention may quickly shift to Christmas. Already, the music in department stores and satellite radio are playing Christmas tunes! Giving thanks deserves a time of preparation and anticipation as well. Paul encourages us to be "giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:20, ESV). Hundreds of years ago the Pilgrims gave thanks for their sustenance and surviving another year. The abundance of everything around us should not be taken for granted. Even with inflation and hundreds of cargo ships waiting and having a hard time unloading their cargo, so much stuff is around us.

While Thanksgiving comes once a year, Paul reminds us that each and every moment is a gift from God and our hearts should be full of giving thanks, even though challenges also abound. Paul wrote this verse while he was unjustly placed in prison, and yet his circumstances did not define or control his faith; but what God has done for him and his belief that God had him on a mission and that his life had purpose. We don't even have to have external reasons to give thanks; we can always look within and realize how much God has also done for us! Jesus is our source for peace, joy, love, faith, hope, eternity with God, and meaning in life! Sometimes we just have to get in the practice of thanking God constantly for all of the little things in our life as well as for the relationships we cherish.

We go to the "advanced school of thanksgiving" when we start giving thanks for the challenges and hardships which come our way. We never know what God is doing behind the spiritual scenes as we learn to persevere and thank him as we take one step at a time and one moment at a time in our uphill struggles. Paul reminds us in Rom. 8:28 that God uses everything in our life for his good. We don't have to understand how something can be used for the glory of God; however, we have to be obedient as we go through the inevitable hardships which are common to our human existence.

(continued)

Anglican Church
of the
Good Shepherd

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Send articles, announcements
and feedback to

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I'm thankful for our faith, our country, our families, and our Good Shepherd family. We have a sweet fellowship and wonderful worship with many who are leading out in ministry. On the evening of the seventh we will have our annual stewardship meal. This year will be a potluck in the parish hall. We will have entertainment, a testimony, and an opportunity to turn in your pledge sheets for 2022. We are blessed to have faithful members who believe in our Anglican mission here in San Angelo. Please be in prayer for this event. While we are current with our monthly obligations, we have utilized our financial cushion this year and are now operating month by month. We are operating by faith and believe God will provide. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (I Cor. 15:57, ESV)

I'm also giving thanks for the outreach efforts in which we are participating this month. Please remember your thanksgiving donation to Project Dignidad, your monthly gift of canned goods to PD on the last Sunday of the month; and your "shoebox donation" through Operation Christmas Child nationally organized through Samaritans Purse. The national collection week is November 15-22. Please remember in prayer our weekly bible studies and GriefShare meetings. Hearts and lives are being transformed through the grace of Jesus Christ.

I'm also thankful to be your Rector, to pray for you, to share the faith with you, and to enjoy life with you. God blessed me greatly by being around each and every one of you!

Fr. Hal



Bless Children Around the World

Now more than ever, children need great joy!

Shoeboxes are available in the Narthex!

HOW TO PACK THE SHOEBOX

Select a medium to large "wow" item such as a soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal, then fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Don't forget to also include a personal note and photo, sometimes these are the child's favorite things to receive!

BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE

Use this contactless way to bless children in need!

www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/



National Collection Week is November 15-22, 2021

ACGS ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DINNER

The Annual Stewardship Dinner will be held
Sunday, November 7th in the Parish Hall.

We will gather at 5:30pm and serve dinner at 6:00pm.

This year's dinner will be a potluck.

The church will provide a main course of fried chicken
and we ask you to bring the sides.

Vestry members will be calling to secure your reservation.

DESSERT CONTEST!

Once again, at the Stewardship Dinner, members will have the opportunity
to prepare a homemade dessert and enter it in the competition.
Any dessert may be entered, all deserts are homemade, and prizes will be awarded.

PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2022

Pledge Cards and envelopes for the coming year are available in the Narthex.

If you need one mailed to you please contact Jenny in the church office.

You may bring it with you to the Stewardship Dinner on
November 7th or place it in the offering plate that day.



If you would like to provide altar flowers,
**please write your name and the Sunday of your choice, also
what you want printed in the bulletin**
on the flower chart on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Flowers are purchased from Southwest Florist and are billed directly to
the signer(s) for approximately \$45.00. You may contact the florist if you
would like to choose special flowers but it may incur additional cost.



DON'T FORGET OUR
*PROJECT DIGNIDAD COLLECTION DAY IS
THE LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.*
PLEASE BRING YOUR NON-PERISHABLE
DONATIONS TO BE BLESSED.

THANKSGIVING DAY

On Thursday, November 25 we pause with our families and friends to express our gratitude to the Lord for the many blessings bestowed on us individually and as a nation during the past year.



The church office will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the Friday following. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Project Dignidad

Please help us provide a Thanksgiving dinner for our fellow San Angeloans who find themselves in need at this time of year.

Turkeys and food boxes will be provided by monetary donations to:

*Project Dignidad
313 W Avenue N
San Angelo, TX 76903*

Please write your church/organization in the memo section

325-777-1304

Or

Checks can be made out to your church/organization with Project Dignidad written in the memo section.

Please help with your continued support of this mission for our community.



ANNOUNCEMENT & ARTICLE DEADLINES

The deadline to place an announcement in the weekly bulletin is Wednesdays at Noon and the deadline for the Parish Newsletter is the third Friday of the month. Submissions should be sent to Jenny at the church office admin@anglicancgs.com or drop it off at the church office Monday-Friday, 9am-2:00pm. Thank you.

LIVING WITH JESUS THEN AND NOW

THE SECRET CHRISTIAN

Sometimes faithfulness buckles under social pressure. Often our desire to serve God is relegated to the back burner when we are tested with political issues, personal agendas, material gain, and self righteousness. We vacillate between our need for control and our longing to be obedient to God's will. How often do we find ourselves wandering in the wilderness, lost sheep searching for the Shepherd, a paralytic waiting to be healed? Thank God we know we are sinners saved by the resurrected Christ.

Imagine Nicodemus: a learned teacher steeped in Jewish tradition, famous among his peers, respected within his community, yet seeking to fill a void in his spiritual life. In conversation with Nicodemus Jesus shows him the way to salvation and gives us the treasured Scriptural verse, John 3:16. This Pharisee's story is one of discovery and faith. Look at the powerful way Nicodemus is transformed in the love of Christ and given the ultimate blessing at the tomb: to prepare the corpse for its final resting place. Three days later, I doubt Nicodemus contained his joy of knowing the risen Christ!

Nicodemus, In His Own Words

Jerusalem city streets jammed with celebrants of the Passover Feast as I left the temple heading home, the chaotic scene I witnessed seared into my mind. An itinerant Rabbi named Jesus drove the money changers out of the court yard. Enraged with a whip of cords in His hand He lashed out at people, scattered animals, and overturned tables with coins flying through the air. This same Man performed miracles throughout the region restoring sight to the blind, cleansing lepers, and freeing many of evil spirits. I am told He brought the dead back to life.

Many times I stood among the people who gathered by the thousands to hear Him preach the kingdom of God. Jewish leaders queried and bated Him, hoping He would commit blasphemy. Secretly my friends including Joseph of Arimathea believed He is the Messiah, the Anointed One promised through the prophets. I had my own questions, but it was impossible to gain His attention in public. Disguised in a heavy cloak I walked to the house where He stayed after dark. He welcomed me into a small group of His devoted followers. The air was electric with the power of the Spirit. I knew I was in the presence of a Godly Man. Immediately I proclaimed my belief.

He told me I must be born again of water and the Spirit to see the kingdom of God. At first I did not understand. His words were poetic, piercing my soul. He reminded me of my duty as Israel's teacher, obligated to know and share the truth. He testified of heavenly things and eternal life, of light and dark, of truth and evil. His every word resonated within my heart. I bowed to Him, convinced He is the Messiah. I became a changed man when I placed my faith in Him.

The week before His final Passover was a blur. Jesus was tried as a criminal and sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate. The Jews could not kill Him themselves, but through manipulation of the people and customs they accomplished their goal. Jesus was crucified upon a cross and died.

Joseph of Arimathea was given Pilate's permission to claim His body. We gathered His lifeless corpse with tender care. A small procession accompanied us to a newly hewn tomb, one never used before in a nearby garden. In accordance with our burial customs we wrapped Him within spices and strips of linen. We performed our sacred rituals and prayed. Tears racked my body when we rolled the stone over the entrance. Centurions stood guard to make sure the body was not removed. I was not the only one drawn to His crypt. I recognized Mary from Magdala weeping by the entrance. Being near His tomb gave me comfort, yet provided little consolation for our loss. The One we believed to be the Messiah was gone.

When Mary continued her vigil on the third day, she found the tomb opened. Jesus spoke to her, having risen from the dead! Frightened out of their wits, the guards dropped their weapons and abandoned their post. His words from that night in the house where we met echoed in my ears: "Open your eyes and see! Open your ears and hear!" Everything has fallen into place, just as the prophets predicted.

Now I understand. Now I know. Now I am bold to speak His name: Jesus Christ!

Jean Stinnett

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"Giving Thanks Unto God"
- Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child
Shoebox Collection Info
- Stewardship Dinner
November 7, 2021
- Cozy Cabin Christmas Party
December 5, 2021
- Living With Jesus: The Secret Christian
Jean Stinnett

November Birthdays

11/11 Rudy Wallace

11/11 Earl Yarbrough

11/11 Teddye Read

11/12 Jackie Jennings

11/30 Barbara Caskey

11/30 Debbie Scott



December Agnus Dei Deadline is November 19



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