



*Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast  
November 19, 2023*

*"Thanksgiving: It's not About What's on the Table"*

*"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink;  
or about your body, what you will wear.  
Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"  
(Matthew 6:25, NIV)*

**"It's not about what's 'on' the table..."**

Approaching Thanksgiving and surrounded by a world marked by uncertainties, I am reminded of the Serenity Prayer. This prayer serves as a guiding light, reminding us to focus on what is within our control and to surrender the rest to a higher power: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."



Let us gather our hearts in gratitude, instead of being discouraged by circumstances beyond our influence. Rather, let us turn to the blessings close at hand—the importance of family, the camaraderie of friends, and the support of caring neighbors. The American novelist Henry Miller once said, "The more I look at a thing, the more I see in it, and the more I see in it, the more I want to see." This Thanksgiving let us look closely at the important people around us and let us strive to discover the layers of love, support, and shared moments which deserve our heartfelt gratitude.

Let us be open to the mystery and majesty of the world nearby. Certainly, we cannot ignore current events shaping our world, but may we also find beauty and hope not only in worldly grand gestures but also in the ordinary moments and people that form the fabric of our daily lives.

As we offer thanks, let our hearts overflow with gratitude to the Great Architect of all Creation. This Thanksgiving may we find peace in the company of loved ones and inspiration in the interconnected beauty of both the great and the ordinary around us.

Blessings,  
Vance

**A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day**

Gracious and Loving Creator, In this season of Thanksgiving, we bow our heads in humble gratitude for the mysteries and majesties that surround us. Thank you for the warmth of family, the companionship of friends, and the kindness of neighbors. Great Architect of all Creation, accept our heartfelt thanks for the interconnected tapestry of the great and the ordinary. May our lives be a testament to your love, and may our gratitude be a source of joy and inspiration. Amen.

**Prayer box:** let us keep Liz in our prayers for healing; pray for those suffering in the Middle East and Ukraine; pray for those suffering from natural disasters; pray for all those who work for peace. **Lord, hear our prayer!**