



*Raquette Lake Chapel
Thanksgiving
November 28, 2024*

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
(from Psalm 100)*

Thanksgiving is a time for family gatherings, a long tradition where we pause to remember the blessings of family and community. We are grateful for those who are able to gather with us this year, and yet, there is a sadness as we remember those who cannot join us. Whether due to distance, illness, or passing, we hold them in our hearts with gratitude for the memories we've shared. As we sit around the table, let us acknowledge both the joy of being together and the sorrow of those who are missed, knowing that love bridges even the greatest of distances.

Psalm 100 reminds us to gather in gratitude, instead of being discouraged by circumstances beyond our control. Let us turn to the blessings close at hand—the importance of family and friends, and the support of caring neighbors. This Thanksgiving, let us look closely at the important people around us and acknowledge 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 or the personal struggles we have, but may we also find beauty and hope in the ordinary moments and people that are close to us who enrich 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 in the beauty of the everyday blessings around us. God's Peace, Vance

A Thanksgiving Prayer: Gracious Creator, as we gather this Thanksgiving, we offer our hearts in gratitude for the many blessings You have given us. We thank You for the loved ones around our table and for the precious memories of those who cannot be with us this year. May we find joy in the company of family and friends and comfort in the bonds of Your love that never fade. Help us to see the beauty in the simple and the ordinary, to appreciate the kindness of neighbors and the moments of togetherness that weave our lives together. May our hearts be filled with peace, our spirits with hope, and our lives with a deeper awareness of Your presence in all things. Amen.

