

Prayers of the People
Thanksgiving, October 7, 2018

(Job 1:1, 2: 1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2:5; Mark 10: 2-16)

On this special day, we focus on gratitude. When I say, "We are so grateful O God" please say out loud, "Thank you for this life."

This weekend, our island has our artists in full view for the 22nd Annual Studio Tour. 71 studios and the Gabriola Arts and Heritage Centre are showing works that inspire, delight, comfort, and enrich our lives. It is with a sense of wonder that we look at pieces which represent hours of toil, talent, dedication and commitment. And we proudly say:

*We are so grateful O God
Thank you for this life.*

This weekend, we celebrate Thanksgiving on our island, either by ourselves, or with family, friends, and pets. We are grateful for them, for how they enrich our lives, for the love they give us, and the memories we share. We have peace, safety and food in abundance.

*We are so grateful O God
Thank you for this life*

This weekend on our island we have our church, in which we can pray, be with friends and worship God. We listen to our Minister and feel engaged in the stories of long ago. We see how we can relate those messages to today. We listen to beautiful music; sing songs of praise and for this:

*We are so grateful O God
Thank you for this life*

On this island, right now, we experience the fullness of our lives. We can live most of our days as we choose. And we know we are not ever alone, because we have You as our guide, comforter and light.

*We are so grateful O God
Thank you for this life*

In other countries and in other places, there is struggle, pain and privation. There is anger, fear and a lack of security. There are un-fairness, entitlement and imbalances of power. There are environmental catastrophes and power imbalances. On this island, we work to take care of each other and to follow Jesus' teachings. We listen to each other with respect. When challenges come, we will remain on the guardrails on doing what is right, God's right.

*We are so grateful O God
Thank you for this life*

On this island and off, we know those who are ill or in pain. Let us think of them now, out loud or in our hearts, and wish them comfort and better days ahead. May all of us be forever under God's wings of grace.

*We are so grateful O God
Thank you for this life. Amen*

Paddy Waymark