

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "Raise Your Voice In Thanksgiving" 11/22/23

*I wash my hands in innocence and  
go around Your altar, Lord,  
raising my voice in thanksgiving  
and telling about Your wonderful works. (Psalm 26:6-7)*

When one is given a gift, or when someone does them a good deed, or service, or provides them with a nice surprise, it is polite to say, "Thank you."

God's creation which surrounds us, leads us in giving thanks to God, the provider of all things. The heavens, the hills, the trees and flowers, the birds and bees, the cats and dogs, the stars, the rivers and the oceans all sing out praise and thanks to the Creator.

God knows us, knows all about us, we cannot escape, thank heavens. We are fearfully and wonderfully made and held close to God in love. How comforting, and we give thanks.

Because of God's love, we are not anxious, we know we can take everything to God with praise and thanksgiving and leave it in God's capable hands. For this we are filled with joy and we never quit praying, for we know this is what God wants from His children. Resting in God we do not need to live in worry; instead, with thankful hearts, we take everything to Him in prayer, never forgetting how great God is and how much He loves us.

We wash our hands, we cleanse ourselves in preparation for going before God with a sacrifice of thanksgiving, telling of the wonders of our God. Letting thanks well up within our hearts, is cleansing - and we cannot help but share this feeling which comes to us - from the goodness of God.

Going before God with praise and thanksgiving is living as God has instructed us to live. We present ourselves before God with thanksgiving for all He has done, is doing, and will do. For His love, His presence, for all with which He has blessed us.

This Thanksgiving we cleanse ourselves and present ourselves before God with praise and thanksgiving. We praise God's holy name and give thanks for all He has created, for sending His Son, for giving to us His Holy Spirit, and for all with which He has given to us. Living in God's Spirit, we share God's gift of salvation, His love, forgiveness, joy, and peace. Placing our wayward self, our wounded soul, our wandering ways on God's altar, we raise our voice in thanksgiving. With grateful hearts, we share with others how great God is, telling them of God's great faithfulness and amazing grace. Lord, we raise our voices in thanksgiving.

## **Please pray with me.**

Lord of all, we come before You with praise and thanksgiving. Cause us to cleanse ourselves of all which separates us from You. You are Holy and we give You thanks for all your gifts. Help us to see the people and places, events and possessions You have given to us, so we may live full and joyful lives, even in the dark and dreary times through which we journey. May we always remember You are near, Your Son lives so we may have eternal life, and Your Spirit comforts and strengthens us today and always.

**Amen.**

**Happy Thanksgiving!**