



Pastoral Update—November 20, 2020



"Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:34

Thanksgiving 2020 comes at a time of high anxiety in our country and our world not to mention our own lives. Jesus' words, *Do Not Worry*, from a preaching text for Thanksgiving Day, are timely for his original audience and for us. His 1st century listeners had lots to worry about: persecution from the Roman Empire, poverty, and disease. Yet Jesus tells them not to worry but to build their faith by being grounded in him and trusting that our lives matter to God. It's a message to live day by day.

Jesus hits the pause button so we can take stock. This is just what we do every year at Thanksgiving. We pause and take stock of our blessings and give thanks. This year is vastly different, and Thanksgiving will be celebrated in new ways. All of our usual plans have gone out the window, and we have to make a new plan. But the celebration is still on! We can still give thanks for all our blessings!

A lot of life is out of our control. It is our choice to follow Jesus and to live in a way that blesses God and blesses others. We can't control others, but we can make choices about how we respond and about how we live. Viktor Frankl, a psychiatrist who endured Auschwitz, wrote: "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one's attitude."

We choose our attitude day by day. We can choose to spend our energy on being faithful, working for justice and peace, and sharing mercy and love. We can actually make a difference for good. It's just like the song "Day by Day" from the musical, *Godspell*, which you can view [here](#).

*Day by day,
Oh, Dear Lord,
Three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly
Love thee more dearly
Follow thee more nearly
Day by day.*

Thanksgiving is an opportunity to see God more clearly, love God more dearly, follow God more nearly. I challenge each of us to share with each other what makes us thankful and what helps us not to worry, so we can encourage each other. Whatever you do this Thanksgiving, trust and believe that God sees you, loves you, and walks with you, day by day.

Giving thanks,
Pastor Andrea