



The Rt. Reverend Rachael Parker

Diocese of Brandon

Anglican Church of Canada

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October 9, 2025

Happy Thanksgiving!

This weekend brings Canadians together in a Celebration of all that is good, heartfelt, and blessing. Many will gather around tables laden with turkeys or ham or other cultural delights as stories are told, laughter rings out, and people take time to reflect on where they have been and what tomorrow might hold. This long weekend is one which offers the promise of rest after harvests (of all sorts) and the anticipation of a season calling us to slow down, enter into the shortening of the days that we might rejuvenate, and allow ourselves - bodies and souls - to anticipate the seasons to come.

As Christians, Thanksgiving is not a foreign concept which we must learn. It is a way of life which is inherent to who we are! Each time we gather to worship and every time we celebrate the Eucharist we are celebrating the greatest of Thanksgivings. Whether we are sharing in the Great Thanksgiving of Holy Communion or praying and offering our time to God through liturgies and litanies, we are offering ourselves back to God with thanks.

Our Diocese has been hit hard this past many months with forest fires and evacuations. Congregations have come together to celebrate who they are amid challenging times. The world around us has become more chaotic and uncertain. Yet here we are – listening for God's wisdom; sharing the love of Christ; being led to love and support one another and our greater communities with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As you reach out to loved ones, take time to serve at a Community Meal, travel or stay home, always know that the season of Thanksgiving is truly an unending one and every day is a new opportunity to give thanks to God for the beauty and bounty of the life God shares with us.

From the Diocesan Staff to every community member in the Diocese of Brandon, please receive our heartfelt prayer that this Thanksgiving will be one of great hope, peace, and joy.

God bless you all.

Bishop Rachael

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