

CLIFTON PASTORAL CHARGE
Hilden and Old Barns United Churches

Thanksgiving 2023



*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and God will dwell with them.
They will be God’s people, and God will be with them and be their God.
God will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death, nor mourning or crying or pain,
for the older order of things has passed away.”*

Revelation 21: 3-4

As I looked back through my Clifton files these past three years, my previous Thanksgiving letters all acknowledge the more stressful situation that we and the rest of the world find ourselves in compared to earlier times in our lives. It is a too long list of things these past few years. Even my kids find themselves speculating about “the end of the world as we know it”.

When I asked you last spring to think about “What difference God makes in your life?”, and as I have been working on answering this question for myself, it occurs to me that faith in God is what keeps me going and helps me be thankful in tough times. I hope it does you too.

The God I know in and through Jesus gives me hope of both healing and resurrection from death. Life has the final word.

“Hope” is not the same thing as the power of positive thinking or natural optimism. Nor is it based on denying the pain and suffering of the present or uncertainty of the future. Hope is based on trusting the character of God; on the belief that the One to whom we give thanks and praise; the One who is the shaper of all that is, is good and loving.

God loves us unconditionally and journeys with us in our brokenness. God brings healing, not judgement and punishment.

And so, this Thanksgiving and always, we give thanks and praise to God for all the ways life, love, healing and hope come to us through faith and for the promise of the kingdom coming (despite appearances sometimes) “on earth as it is in heaven.” There will come a time of “no more tears”.

May this thanksgiving be a time of rekindled relationships and a time of deep felt thanks to God for life.

Rev. Phillip

Up-Coming Dates to Mark in your Calendar:

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| October 1 st | Joint Service in Hilden at 10:00 p.m. followed by Harvest Soup Luncheon with free will offering |
| October 8 th | We will not only celebrate Thanksgiving, but also World Communion 9:30 a.m. in Hilden; 11:00 a.m. in Old Barns |
| October 12 th | Bible Study resumes at 1:00 p.m. Thursdays in Old Barns |
| October 15 th | 2:00 p.m. we will again be offering an opportunity to join with others in a Spiritual Walk along the Cobequid Trail, starting at the Old Barns church Sprituality Circle and then ending there for some food and drink. |
| October 29 th | Joint Service in Old Barns at 11:00 p.m. followed by Soup & Biscuits |

Happy Thanksgiving!

