

November 2019

Dear Beloved,

Happy Thanksgiving! I pray that you will be able to give thanks to God for His goodness.

Let's be honest. This has been a very difficult year for us as a church family. We have seen our share of prayer requests for members battling various ailments. We have also had our share of announcements of the passing away of loved ones, and have been to many funerals. Yet, in the midst of these trying and difficult occasions that bring me to my knees in prayer to God, I am always comforted in knowing that God is sovereign; in control, and He is good all the time! Otherwise, I could not continue on, nor give thanks.

In writing this letter, I am copy-pasting below, much of what I wrote in the Thanksgiving Letter of 2013. I am doing this, because I feel that what I wrote then is still appropriate for us today. Secondly, the dates of the coming church activities were exactly the same in 2013 as it is this year.

To understand what true thankfulness is, we must look to the One who gives us reason to be thankful. We are able to give thanks to God for: His goodness and lovingkindness (1 Chronicles 16:34); answered prayers in saving us (Psalm 118:21); His Word (Psalm 119:62); His wonderful creation, including us (Psalm 139:14); His forgiveness and mercy and comfort (Isaiah 12:1); victory over sin and death through Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:57); and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who share in God's salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

We have much to be thankful for, and all of this is possible because of Jesus! As long as our faith is in Him; as long as our eyes are fixed on Him, then we will always have thankfulness in our hearts, and do what we are exhorted to do: *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.* (Hebrews 13:15)

Let us give thanks to God by continuing to come together for worship and fellowship. I invite you to join us for the following times of Thanksgiving celebration, and also our Christmas Program Sunday:

Sunday, November 24	9:00 am	Japanese Worship Service
	10:30 am	English Worship Service
Wednesday, November 27	7:00 pm	Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service
Sunday, December 8	10:00 am	Joint Worship Service
	11:30 am	Love Feast Luncheon
	1:00 pm	Christmas Program
		(Includes: Play by children, Choir, other musical numbers, and Gospel Hula)

With love in Christ,
Pastor Ichibei