

# Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

November, 2023

## Giving Thanks is the Will of God

In polite society we are taught to say 'please' and 'thank you'. However these words teach us more than just good manners. They teach a proper relationship with the giver and can ultimately teach us about our relationship to God.

When God gave life, man returned the favor through disobedience. When God gave the world, man showed his ingratitude by worshiping it instead of the Creator. When God gave food, prideful man saw it as the fruit of his own labor.

Through these sins man would die and God would give man over to the consequence of sin.

*"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." – Romans 1:21*

In this dispensation God has revealed the depths of his wisdom and grace by sending Christ to die for the sins of his enemies.

Through his blood we have received forgiveness of sins, redemption from the kingdom of darkness, justification by faith, sanctification by the spirit, and eternal life in heavenly positions.

(continued on page 2)



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**Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.  
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims  
Kathleen Smith, Editor**

**All Are Welcome!**

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM  
(Sunday Messages available on website:  
www.avalongracechurch.com)  
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM**

**"And to make all men see  
what is the fellowship of the mystery,  
which from the beginning of the world  
hath been hid in God, who created  
all things by Jesus Christ: . . ."**

**- Ephesians 3:9**

## Giving Thanks is the Will of God (Continued from Page 1)

Just as in the beginning when God first gave life he now gives life again by his grace and not because we deserved it.

The proper response to God's grace is thanksgiving.

*"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." - Galatians 2:20*

When we realize that what we have is not ours, and the life we live is not our own we are able to express our gratitude for what has been given.

The object of our gratitude is the only proper object of our thanksgiving which is the Living God, the fullness of the Godhead bodily, Jesus Christ.

Submitting ourselves to God, trusting in his grace, and living a life of richness is what God had always intended.

*"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" - 1 Timothy 6:17*

Yet even in times of financial or physical crisis, ultimately a result of our own sin, we are still able to give thanks to God for his wisdom in salvation and provision of eternal life.

*"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

*"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." - Colossians 3:17*

As we live our life each day, choosing to be thankful honors God and is a form of worship:

*"He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me." - Psalms 50:23*

Let's deny ourselves the right to complain and grumble regardless of the circumstances we encounter each day; let's embrace the joy of thanksgiving with a grateful heart that honors and pleases God.

May your Thanksgiving holiday be a special time of refreshment filled with abundant blessings, loved ones, good fellowship, and great food!

- Pastor Phil

(Portions) of the above article By Justin Johnson,  
Grace Ambassadors  
Last modified May 4, 2016 (with permission)

Hello sweet November! Where did October go?  
September was a wink; and October a blink!  
September was just here  
It seems like a few days ago . . .  
And October is a blur - as if it didn't occur!

Soon it will be Thanksgiving  
With family and friends  
But I'm already thinking  
As Christmas descends!  
Time to decorate and light my tree  
Time to display my nativity!  
Time to celebrate the infant Christ  
His holiness and sinless life  
Glory in the cross that He bore for you and me  
Died, buried, and risen again  
All for you - for me - for eternity!

Hello November, can you please tell us  
Where did October go?  
Was September a wink and October a blink?  
Thank you November! We hope you'll stay long.  
Slow the year down, before it is gone!

## Veterans Day - a Time of Reflection and Hope . . .



### “In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae

On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died and is the enduring symbol of remembrance of the First World War and strongly linked to Armistice Day, November 11th, now referred to as Veteran’s Day.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

The symbolism of the poppy flower started with a poem written by World War I brigade surgeon, Dr. John McCrae, who was struck by the sight of bright red blooms on broken, ravaged battlefield ground, McCrae wrote “In Flanders Field” which he channeled the voice of the fallen soldiers buried under those hardy poppies in 1915.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

*“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” - John 15:13*



Each year, Avalon Grace Church supports and participates in Samaritan's Purse worldwide ministry, “Operation Christmas Child.” It is wonderful to know that our small fellowship is a part of a greater worldwide ministry in bringing joy to children at Christmas with the good news of Jesus Christ! National Collection Week is November 13—20.

God is working in the lives of these little ones and we want to collect small toys to fill shoeboxes for children needing hope by bringing the salvation message of Jesus and His love for them. With every shoebox that contains toys and practical gifts, we include the gospel message.

Thank you for participating in this wonderful ministry with your monetary gifts and little toys, stuffed animals, books, and so much more. Please see Janet McClellan with any questions you may have. Stay tuned for more information in January 2024 about Operation Christmas Child ministry and how many shoeboxes we as a church family send gifts to little children throughout the world.

Always for His glory!

Pastor Phil

# Gather & Give Thanks



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Last year's Thanksgiving celebration at Avalon Grace Church was such a blessing for so many folks and so much fun we decided to do it again this year!

After so many hands were baking, roasting, basting, mixing, slicing, and preparing all the traditional side dishes, we all sat down for a fabulous Thanksgiving Turkey feast!

Everyone is invited and absolutely no one is required to bring a dish or do a thing - your presence would be the perfect blessing to a joyful day!

However, if anyone wishes to bring a favorite recipe, casserole, or a side dish, please let me know for menu planning purposes.

The McClellan family will provide the turkeys and the Smith's will bring a baked ham. If there is a favorite dessert you'd like to bring, please feel free to do so, but again, it is not necessary.

Thank you so much and we all hope you can join us this year! ~ Janet

**Y**ikes, can you believe it? It is that time of year when the calendar falls back an hour and we need to re-set our clocks accordingly; so please remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday evening, November 4th.

Don't forget, because if you do, you may miss a delicious breakfast with scrambled eggs and bacon to die for . . . prepared by Jordan and Yvonne McClellan on Sunday, November 5th at 9:45 AM!



"If you think Independence Day is America's defining holiday, think again. Thanksgiving deserves that title, hands-down." - Tony Snow

"I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new."  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Now thank we all our God,  
With hearts and hands and voices;  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom this world rejoices.  
Who, from our mother's arms,  
Hath led us on our way,  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today. - Martin Rinkart

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." Psalm 100:4

"On Thanksgiving Day, all over America, families sit down to dinner at the same moment - halftime."  
- Author Unknown

"Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause."  
~ Abraham Lincoln



Count Your Blessings  
(Instead of Sheep)

~ Written by Irving Berlin

When I'm worried and I can't sleep  
I count my blessings instead of sheep  
And I fall asleep counting my blessings  
When my bankroll is getting small  
I think of when I had none at all  
And I fall asleep counting my blessings

I think about a nursery and I picture curly heads  
And one by one I count them  
as they slumber in their beds.

If you're worried and you can't sleep  
Just count your blessings instead of sheep  
And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings.

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Church Mice

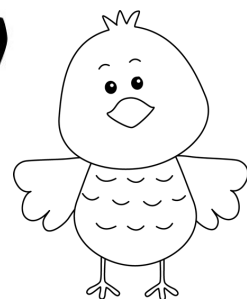
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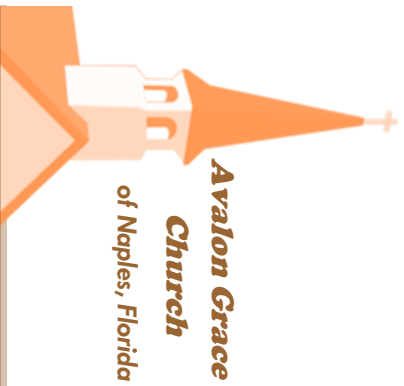
# Coloring for Jesus



**THANK YOU  
GOD**



“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:18



**Avalon Grace**  
**Church**  
of Naples, Florida

# November 2023



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**



- 2nd Jeff Stahl
- 19th Jessica Stevens
- 24th Ray Holsemback
- 28th Barbara Ramirez

**COMING IN DECEMBER**

3rd 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast

5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:45 Sunday Breakfast		<b>ELECTION DAY</b>				
10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						
<b>Daylight Saving Time ends</b>						

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10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
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