

# ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL

12 September 2021

Give  
Thanks



## A season to give and to give thanks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rPygnRgkyM&t=44s>

## Now thank we all our God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLjJJBIFXRO>

### Verse 1

Now thank we all our God  
With hearts and hands and voices  
Who wondrous things has done  
In whom His world rejoices  
Who from our mother's arms  
Has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love  
And still is ours today

### Verse 2

O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace  
And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next

### Verse 3

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given  
The Son and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven  
The one eternal God  
Whom earth and heaven adore  
For thus it was is now  
And shall be evermore



CCLI Song # 86638

Catherine Winkworth | Johann Crüger | Martin Rinkart

## A Giving Day Psalm

Hear our cry, O God, listen to our prayers.

The world is wounded by coronavirus, by isolation, and by inequalities made worse by the pandemic.

There is so much injustice, God, with people excluded because of skin colour, gender, and debt, and harmed by violence, wealth and climate crisis here, nationally and across Your world.

Creation herself groans, crying out to You in brokenness. And while we cry out, the injustices and inequalities go on, against Your will, O God, though, we confess, not always against our own interests.

Yet in our losses and failures, we know we can cry to You, and that You listen to us and love us. We know that You promise to be with us always, and that You are beside us in all the mess. We know we can pray for Your ways to come, and that You invite us to join You in changing the world.

You are a faithful God, walking with us through 2020 and 2021, as You have walked with people for millennia. So in our woundedness, we trust in You for healing. In our unjust behaviours, we turn to You for transformation. In our uncertainty, we seek Your presence to guide us to new life.

For all this we give thanks for You: God of love, God with us, God of life, thank You. And may we hear Your call, O God, to seek peace and justice, to love tenderly and fairly, and to listen and learn humbly for ourselves and our communities, for all people and Your whole creation. May we hear Your call, O God, and respond with all that we have and all that we are, being transformed and so helping change the world. Amen

Rev Jenny Adams

## The Lord's Prayer

## Bible Reading 1: Matthew 25:35-36

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

## Brief Reflection 1:

The merits of community are sometimes defined by busyness and activity levels. A 'good' community is seen as one with plenty leisure and social facilities, clubs, organisations and events. This is commendable but the real gauge of community should be generosity. This includes inward generosity – acceptance, welcome and support for those with greater needs – but must also include outward generosity.

The truly defining measurement of community – and a congregation is a community within a community – lies less with how much it looks after itself as how much it reaches out beyond itself. That's why it's essential to engage with need, justice and development beyond our own streets, towns or shores to feed, clothe and welcome those whom Jesus so personally identifies Himself with. It's not optional. It's a Biblical imperative

## Bible Reading 2

Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?' 'Why do you ask me about what is good?' Jesus replied. 'There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.' 'Which ones?' he enquired. Jesus replied, "'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honour your father and mother," and "love your neighbour as yourself.'" 'All these I have kept,' the young man said. 'What do I still lack?' Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

## Reflection 2

Having wealth makes us anxious. The security gets tighter and the walls higher. But the good news is that every good gift comes from God and is only held by us in trust, so unlike the Gospel's foolish farmer we don't need to build bigger barns to store it: we need to discern how God wants us to use it.

And then there's the myth of scarcity upon which our whole economic system is based. This skews the whole society as the rich get richer and the poor, poorer. Instead, we are invited to live out of the truth of abundance: that there is plenty for all, and some left over, if we give thanks and share.

But there is a hard note to this Gospel too. Despite looking on him with love Jesus lets the rich young man turn away; for no-one can serve two masters. This young man had everything, had done everything to be good enough, except trust God. 'Give away all you have to the poor and come follow me,' said Jesus. The man's face fell and he went away sad, 'for he was very rich'.

Abundance, gifted by God, made for sharing. Perhaps the gospel for the rich and for the poor are the same, after all.

## Stewardship Prayers

Generous and loving God, we offer you thanks and praise as we recognise that all we receive comes from you.

Guide us as stewards of your abundance, and caretakers of all you have entrusted to us, that with thankful hearts

our faithful stewardship will bear witness to your glory. In Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

Lord God, make me a true steward of your bounty, where there is a need – let me see it; where there is abundance – let me share it; where there is time – let me spend it; and where there is treasure – let me use it for your glory.

Christ Jesus, as you had compassion on the starving multitudes, let that mind be in us also which was in you, that we may have the will and the wisdom to work until all be fed, to your glory and through your grace and love.

Michael Counsell; Prayers for Sundays

Eternal God, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendour of creation and in the beauty of human life. Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share our blessings with our sisters and brothers, and to experience the joy of life in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer Book for Australia

## Song: Meekness and Majesty

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJDKIII-bgY>

Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity  
In perfect harmony, the Man who is God  
Lord of eternity, dwells in humanity  
Kneels in humility and washes our feet

### Chorus

**O what a mystery  
Meekness and majesty  
Bow down and worship  
For this is your God  
This is your God**

Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence  
Yet learns obedience, to death on a cross  
Suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice and  
as they crucify Prays 'Father forgive'

Wisdom unsearchable God the invisible  
Love indestructible in frailty appears  
Lord of infinity stooping so tenderly  
Lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne

Graham Kendrick © 1986 Thankyou Music  
(Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd)  
CCLI Licence No. 707503

## Sending (All)

For the life you have given us and all the good things it contains, we praise You, Creator God.

For all those You have made, sisters and brothers of every kind, we praise You Creator God.

For the way You hold us all in Your love, gifting us even Your own Son, we praise You Creator God.

And praise be to You Loving, Creator God – and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now, this moment, and forever more. Amen

Very Rev Dr Susan Brown