

A Thanksgiving Benediction

1 Thessalonians 5 directs us

to give thanks in all circumstances,

as this is God's will for us.

Let us confess together, our difficulty in doing so.

Gratitude; which often comes easily in retrospect,

but eludes us in the difficulty of the moment or in the significant trials of a season such as this.

Lord God, be with us and help us in the days ahead,

Reminding us that the fears, pains, and

disappointments

of this trying time,

even the losses of life which grieve us,

though significant, are temporary.

Help us to give thanks for your steadfast love,

For your forgiveness and mercy,

For the unearned and un-earnable gift of your grace

For the opportunity and calling to extend that love to others.

May these days be a chorus of thanks to you, the Almighty,

even from our voices and instruments so out of practice or tune;

an imperfect symphony we extend in gratitude.

[Let us] go forth to love and to serve, to give thanks...

Amen.

Ecclesia Houston, Sunday, November 22, 2020