

Thanksgiving 1999: Extravagant Gratitude

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Seekers Church

A Christian Community

In the Tradition of the Church of the Saviour

Thanksgiving 1999

Extravagant Gratitude

SILENT REFLECTION

So while I think of it,
let me paint a thank-you on my palm
for this God, this laughter of the morning,
lest it go unspoken.

From Welcome Morning by Anne Sexton.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come and hear what God has done.

Community: Come away from the confusion,
from the pushing and pulling,
from the narrow focus of work and worry.
Come and celebrate the good news of the risen Christ!

INVOCATION

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SILENCE

LITANY

Leader: Come and hear what God has done –

Community: God has listened to all our prayer.

Voice 1: When we pass through the torrent
 of deep troubles,
God turns the sea to dry land.

Voice 2: When we are tangled in the web of
 life,
God does not let our feet slip.

Voice 1: When we are tested as silver is
 tried,
God keeps us in the land of the living.

Voice 2: When we go through fire and water,
God brings us to a spacious place.

Community: Come and hear what God has done –
God surrounds us with steadfast love.

SILENCE

PRAYERS

COMMON CONFESSION

Leader: Alice Walker wrote: "But one day
 when I was sitting quiet and feeling like a
 motherless child, which I was, it come to
 me: that feeling of being part of
 everything, not separate at all. I knew that
 if I cut a tree, my arm would bleed. And I

laughed and cried and I run all around the house. I knew just what it was. In fact, when it happen, you can't miss it...I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple somewhere and don't notice it."

Community: Every day, we walk by the color
 purple,

or green, or yellow, or blue,

and we don't notice it.

Leader: Every day, we refuse to hear

the sound of laughter,

or footsteps, or birdsong,

or weeping.

Community: Every day, God's extravagant gifts

surround us

and fill us

and connect us

with every one and every thing,

and we don't notice it.

