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 ${\it Welcome\ Morning}$ 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.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE

Leader: Come and hear what God has done:

Even when we don't notice,

God's extravagant gifts continue

to surround us

and fill us

and connect us

with every one and every thing,

Showering our lives with grace.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

HYMN

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

SILENCE

GOSPEL LESSON

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader: Go forth into the gift-laden world.

Beauty is before you.

Beauty is behind you.

Beauty is above you.

Beauty is below you.

Praise to the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Praise! Praise! Amen.

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LITURGY RESOURCES

Confession: Based on The Color Purple by Alice Walker

Litany: Based on An Improbable Gift of Blessing by Maren C. Tirabassi and Joan Jordan Grant, pg 192-93.