



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

*"..and remember, I am with you always until the end of the age" Matthew 28:20*

### Happy Thanksgiving and October!

How do you experience your personal life and the life of the world at this particular moment?

Do you feel sad and anxious or joyful and grateful? Or maybe both at the same time?

Every year at Thanksgiving, the world is full of both great joy and great sorrow but with social media we are all aware of it all more than ever!

Each year, the second Sunday and Monday in October bring us Canadian Thanksgiving. The celebration is observed by most religions as a time to give thanks to the Creator for the fall harvest and to reflect on the goodness of life, despite the hardships and losses that are part of the human condition.

While settler North Americans have a strong tradition of The Pilgrims and the Mayflower, (or the Hector in Nova Scotia), I love that in Quebec, it is "L'action de grace" – a day to volunteer! Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks and to give to others, especially those in greatest need.

Can you celebrate this year? Can you count your blessings and be joyfully generous?

Whether this is a tough year or an easier one, I would like to suggest that faith in an Unconditionally Loving ONE, who desires healing and wholeness for all Creation, can help! We are not alone.

God doesn't keep bad things from happening to good people, but being aware of the love and presence of God in our lives can make a real difference in how we cope with it all; how we reconcile to reality.

And so ... we should celebrate God's presence and "Give Thanks"!!

To do that, we have a few special services upcoming that we would like to highlight:

October 6 World Communion Sunday  
9:30 a.m. in Old Barns; 11:00 a.m. in Hilden

October 13 Thanksgiving Sunday celebration  
9:30 a.m. in Hilden; 11:00 a.m. in Old Barns

October 20 Hilden Anniversary Sunday at 11:00 a.m.  
Regular Service in Old Barns at 9:30 a.m.

October 25 Harvest Potluck Supper at the Old Barns church – 6:00 p.m.

Please join us for these celebrations and help us build stronger communities of love and service.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Rev. Phillip Kennedy

