



## **A Prayer for Thanksgiving for November 24, 2020**

Chaplain Jeffrey A. Parkkila, Westminster Winter Park

O God, as we enter now into the Holiday Season, it is greatly apparent how things have changed as a result of pandemic that has brought suffering, loss of life and hardship throughout the entire World.

Regardless of what faith tradition we hold sacred, rooted deeply in our respective beliefs is the importance of gratitude, compassion, forgiveness, charity and spirit of thankfulness. While our spirits and emotions have been stretched and our faith put to the test, we are not defeated. May each of us persevere and be empowered through hope professed in our faith. While this World has gone through much and our Country continues to live with the burdens and suffering of this pandemic, may each of us find avenues this Thanksgiving to be thankful.

May we pause with gratitude and thanksgiving to bestow appreciation to God and our Country for the many freedoms we possess that affords us opportunity to express our faith in such matters of Assembly, Speech and Worship.

In respect to how our lives have changed because of this pandemic, may we give thanks for all those who continue to work for a cure and all who have sacrificed to keep us safe.

As we give thanks and pray for our loved ones may we pray for those who have experienced loss this year and have an empty chair at their table. As we give thanks for the meal and fellowship we will partake, may our prayers include those who are less fortunate and do not have such bounty and are in solitude. As we accept grace and love given to us this Holiday, may we share in the same manner to others.

And so O God, may our witness be evident of the Psalmist: “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.” (Psalm 107:1)

AMEN