

Tuesday, 13 July 2021 – Weekly Inspiration from Rev. Jason

[Apologies for the delay; coming back from vacation my mind is still catching up to what day it actually is!]

Recently, my daughter went to Maymont (an historical site in Richmond that also has a pseudo farm exhibit) to see the animals, primarily goats, chickens, and sheep. She had an opportunity to feed some through the fence, offering her little handfuls of food which the goats especially appreciated. And as she gave each handful, she would proclaim (every time), "Thank you, goats!"

We tried to explain to her that the goats were probably the ones who were thankful, but that didn't make a difference. With each handful of food offered, so too was the proclamation of gratitude. And it made me wonder: Perhaps my daughter wasn't just confused about who says "thank you" and who says "you're welcome," but perhaps she was - and is - truly grateful for each encounter to offer a handful of food.

Several instances in our scriptures, especially the Psalms, encourage us to be grateful in all circumstances, recognizing the presence of God, of grace, of providence and guidance and creation. It's also a theme that Paul revisits in every letter, giving thanks for those who are reading his words. In his letter to the Colossians, he writes, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God" (Colossians [3:15-16](#), NRSV).

Grateful hearts, which see every occasion, every encounter, every interaction as an opportunity to show forth thanksgiving for the joy which it brings. We often expect others to say 'thank you' to us for whatever we offer; perhaps we are invited to practice more regularly the act of giving thanks for encounters of each and every day.

Prayer: Lord, help me to indeed be thankful, and receptive to the unlooked for gifts and joys of this day and week. May this attitude reflect your love, and bring deeper joy to the world around me. Amen.