Pastoral Prayer
November 22, 2026

Wondrous God,

This week we will gather and give thanks in homes all across these islands and the United States. We will enjoy favorite foods and favorite people. We will tell familiar stories and one or two new ones. We will marvel at the way children have grown over the past year. We will be aware of places at the table that aren't filled because of distance, illness, or death.

We will give you thanks.

If the thanks is bittersweet, O God, because we do live in a world of hurt and sorrow, the thanks is sincere all the same. We rejoice in your gifts in part because some of the things that come at us in the world cause pain and distress. We find both energy and serenity in the blessings you give, O God. They enliven us for the day, and they bring peace to our souls.

We ask that you continue to comfort and inspire us, O God, and that you bring your grace to our neighbors who, despite their efforts and ours, still struggle to assemble their daily needs of food, shelter, medical care, transportation, and rest. Bring healing for those with injuries or ailments. Lead those who are hungry or thirsty to food and water. Guide those who are homeless to welcome and shelter. And when day ends, may all your people have a place and a mental space to renew their bodies, minds, and spirits in rest.

Guide of shepherds, may those who lead nations, municipalities, and Church be wise enough to attend to your teaching and your promptings. May those who have much share much. May those who have some share some.

May all have reason, O God, to give you thanks.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.