



The harvest of the earth is ripe.
REVELATION 14:15

Thanksgiving 2018

Dear Friends

Autumn continues to be my favourite season. Still, this fall, we remain witnesses to a litany of disasters in terms of climate change, aggression of nations, political confusion, and ethnic and gender issues we had thought long resolved. When I feel overwhelmed, I am reminded — in this community of St. James, in my family, in worship — that God's dream for the world is very different. God's dream for the world is one of a global community built on compassion, kindness, humility, forgiveness, integrity, and peace for all.

Indeed, the world is aching, but the formula we have for being the Body of Christ in the world offers hope. In James' letter to the tribes of the dispersion — to believers who had been scattered across the nations — he writes, "And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace." Jesus' Way assures us that when we follow the template of the Great Commandment, when we share in God's dream of this holy harvest, we become the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

As Christ's own in the world, I know there is always so much for which to be thankful. We are blessed with vibrant, shared ministries. We are thankful for new friends, for new and returning parishioners, for a renewed commitment to justice in our community and world, and for a profound sense of hope and possibility.

Your harvest gift this year contributes to our community Outreach (including our weekly hosting of the Women's Community Lunch) and Pastoral Care (our own particular outreach to parishioners and others identified as being in need of company or prayers). I hope you will prayerfully consider your harvest gift and give generously, as you always do!

My prayer at this time is that the Spirit surges in our hearts with gratitude and hope for a vision beyond the disasters of our time. May we reflect those blessings in our lives. May you feel this abundance and may your own sense of wonder overflow upon the lives of others. May you feel the abiding presence of our Creator and the Beloved, teaching and loving and healing each of us. May you be aware of and celebrate that indeed the harvest of our blessed earth is ripe! And may the Holy Spirit surprise you with a multitude of blessings in this season of thanksgiving.

Much love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann +". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Rev Ann +