

[music] Good morning.

It's good to be here.

A couple of things.

The readings that you find within your guide to worship are not the ones I've given, so please ignore them and use your listening skills to hear what the less readings are for today.

Our order of service, we're going to try and use the hymnal supplement.

I haven't used it for a while, but I thought this being a Thanksgiving kind of festive weekend, we'll use the hymnal supplement.

So please be aware that the order of service is from the hymnal supplement, and the hymns are from the hymnal, the cranberry red is what is taking place.

And finally, my wife Vera and I this past week, we visited the food bank to make our cash and food donation to the food bank.

And again, I urge everyone that if you can give something to the food bank to do so, the need of it is becoming greater every year, and they do appreciate any kind of support that we can offer to your local food bank.

So please keep that in mind.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

[Music] Jesus tells us, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear.

Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds of the air, they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are you not of more value than they?

And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

And why do you worry about clothing?

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow.

They neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying, what will we eat or what will we drink or what will we wear?

For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

But strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The gospel of our Lord.

Please be seated.

[Pause] Where did the summer go?

Thanksgiving weekend is here.

You know, when I see the abundance of fruit and vegetables on display in the local markets and at the supermarket, it reminds me of a story about a farmer.

He took a chance on buying a run-down abandoned farm.

And after a period of hard work and the planting and harvesting of good crops, the farm became one of the most successful farms in the county.

One day he received a visit from his pastor.

Now this was before COVID, computers, cell phones, zoom gatherings, when people would visit one another and pastors made house calls.

The farmer proudly went out toward the farm showing the pastor what he had done.

The pastor said to the farmer to be thankful that God had given him this beautiful piece of property.

The farmer replied, "I don't disagree with you pastor about being thankful, but you

should have seen this place when God owned it."

Having been blessed with great wealth, material goods, or whatever talents that we have should not make one feel guilty or thinking that they are better than the person who may not be as wealthy or blessed with material goods or good talents or blessed with a house or expensive car, whatever.

It is the trappings of what we own or possess that can make one lose sight of what is important in life.

I remember my father, a tough old Finlander, upon hearing that my younger brother had wrecked the brand new car which my younger brother had just purchased.

My dad, oh boy, he just went on and on and on about all that money is gone to waste because of the accident.

My dad went complete silent when I said, "You know dad, you can always buy a new car but you can't buy a new son."

Jesus is right to say, not to worry about what we wear and what shall we eat, but we do worry, we do worry, especially when we do not have the necessary resources and finances to house and clothe and feed ourselves, which is why I'm sorry we need food banks.

The writer of Timothy, you know the second reading, I think the writer is giving us some good advice in helping alleviate society's problems and dealing with lack of housing, unemployment, poverty, poor health, coverage, you name it, transportation problems.

Did you listen?

The writer says we are to pray.

We are to pray for people in authority to do the right thing so that all may lead in quiet and peaceable life.

You know on my way to church today, Uncle was, I don't know, embarrassed, disturbed, probably disturbed to be the right word at how many bumper stickers are on cars, trucks, flags flying everywhere and especially in front of homes that are proudly, they say proudly, using vulgar language, and it is vulgar language, in condemning our political leaders.

It's not right.

And instead of belittling and bullying the people who were democratically elected to service, why not pray for them?

Pray for them as the Holy Scriptures tell us.

You know I remember getting a nasty phone call from a parishioner upset because I did a funeral for her brother who was nothing but a drunk, didn't contribute to anything, and I said that God loved him and she said, "How dare you say that?"

And she concluded the phone call by saying that she would pray for me.

Well, I said, "Thank you.

I need all the prayers that I can get."

Tomorrow is a secular holiday.

It's not a religious one.

I cannot think of any other secular holiday that crosses all religions, cultural boundaries, and it brings all Canadians to be thankful where we live.

And contrary to what is being heard, Canada is not broken.

It's not broken.

Canada is not perfect.

There is work to be done in making our country a better place to live in, but do people realize just how many people in our world would love to trade places with us?

Canada is at peace with our neighbours.

There is no war or acts of great violence happening within our country, and I'm thankful for that.

The world we live in, it's not perfect.

Humanity has left the Garden of Eden a long, long time ago.

Poverty, violence, war, destruction of our environment may be numbing many of us to do nothing.

But God has never stopped loving what God created.

Our faith in God, especially in whom God sent, Jesus Christ, asks us to continually love one another.

We Christians are encouraged to do something no matter how big or how small.

Listening, being concerned, and the simple act of praying for one another, and especially for those in positions of authority, think of Donald Trump, we're to pray.

We're to pray for them.

I think that is the beginning of taking the right step in the right direction of our society.

Don't you think?

I think so.

Be happy and blessed thanksgiving to all of you.

Amen.