

# ***St George's Anglican Church***

7051 Guelph Line,  
Campbellville, ON, L0P 1B0

October 2020

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

This year, Thanksgiving has a very different feel from anything that we have experienced before. Phrases like coronavirus, COVID19, social distancing, flattening the curve, and second wave did not exist at this time last year. Now they are part of our vocabulary. But even in these dark times, we still have much to give thanks for. Most of us remain healthy, and for this we give thanks.

We focus our thanks on National Thanksgiving for this country of Canada. Too often, we take for granted the freedoms we Canadians enjoy – freedoms of speech, assembly, the press, religion, to name a few. Again, we are uncommonly fortunate. But recent events have shown rents in the fabric of our society, and we need to repair them.

As we survey the world, we see many places where democratic freedoms are under threat. Autocratic leaders care little for ordinary citizens and instead seek to enrich themselves, their friends, families and associates. Their behaviour gives us cause to remember that human rights have meaning only when they are upheld politically, and are easily lost or trampled on.

This Thanksgiving season, we remember many people whom we have not thought to thank in the past. Here, I think of ordinary people who have worked through this period of pandemic to keep our utilities running, truckers who have delivered food and other necessities to our stores, the people who stock the shelves and work as cashiers in our stores and supermarkets, and those who carry out the unheralded and largely unseen care for the elderly in our long term care homes. Let's also spare a moment of thanks for the scientists who labour to find safe and effective vaccines against the coronavirus.

We thank God for the human ingenuity that allows us to keep in contact with friends and family we cannot meet in person at this time. Fewer people will sit at our Thanksgiving tables, but telephone, e-mails, WhatsApp, Zoom, and similar tools help us mitigate the separation.

So in this season, even though the pandemic is still with us, and will remain so for some time, I hope that we will be able to pause to count our blessings. When the pandemic is over, and we return to a semblance of what we used to call normality, I hope, too, that we will not forget those who have kept us safe in these darker days.

In closing, please join us at our Thanksgiving service. Our regular online service will be posted from 9:30 am on October 11<sup>th</sup> on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/StGeorgesLowville](https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesLowville)) and also on our parish website ([www.stgeorgeslowville.ca/sermon-blog](https://www.stgeorgeslowville.ca/sermon-blog)). You can also join us in person at the church, with all COVID precautions, to watch the on-line service followed by communion in person. Details are attached.

May God continue to keep us all safe this season, and give us thankful hearts.

Your brother in Christ,

