

Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Gracious Heavenly Father,

**Today we come to you with thanksgiving in our hearts and at our tables,
and we invite you to both:**

Invade our hearts.

Join us at our table.

**Thank you for our family and friends
and the special memories we have made together this year.
We have laughed and cried
and hugged and held hands,
and these acts of kindness have softened
the rough edges of our lives.**

**Please comfort people who have lost loved ones this year.
Their table may be less one person,
and we ask you to fill their heart with your presence.
(If this person is you, God's deep peace to you.)**

**Be with people today who do not have plenty.
We ask you to be with people who have lost homes, crops, jobs, and sustenance for daily living,
and we plead with you to supply all their needs.
Show us how to extend our hand of friendship and material blessing.**

**We thank you for the simple things in life
that we would have missed if it weren't for your hand:**
sunrises and sunsets
brilliant full moons and clear constellations
fields of harvest and trees with giant shade
rhythmic ocean waves
puppies and kittens that give unconditional love
comfort food
funny jokes

We thank you for the bigger things in life:
health
forgiveness
friendships
faith and hope
justice and mercy
and especially the sacrifice of Jesus for our eternal well-being

**We ask you to heal our hearts and lives.
Help us love each other more fully every day.
Thank you for all of these good gifts.
We love you so very much. Thank you for loving us.**

***In Jesus' Name we pray,
Amen.***