

The Lord has done great things!

Joel 2:21-27

Thanksgiving is always a wonderful season for many reasons. There is plenty of food available. Turkey, cranberry sauce, gravy, and mashed potato... they are good. Black Friday is great for shopping. Of course, family gatherings are a key part of our joy and thankfulness. In this season of abundance, we give thanks to God for what God has done for us. We have already heard great testimonies from our Asbury church members.

What are you grateful for? I am grateful that Asbury was able to have our Christmas Bazaar this year and Juhee bought three Asbury Swedish coffee breads. We ate them all in two days. I am also grateful that I was able to finish the preliminary draft of my dissertation. I am still working on it but I am grateful for the progress. I am also grateful that all my family in Korea are healthy and well during this time of pandemic. Most of all, I am grateful that we are gradually moving out of the pandemic situation.

At the beginning of the pandemic, I worried about the uncertain future of the church. As the pandemic prolonged, I worried if people would ever come back to the church. But now we are able to worship our God in our beautiful sanctuary. Simply being together with God's people is a blessing. As I look back, I see how God has faithfully walked with us throughout this time and still guides us on the path of recovery.

Today's scripture reading is God's promise of the restoration of Israel. Joel prophesized that God would restore Israel, its lands, animals and people! God would provide abundantly and therefore he said, "praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you." I believe God has been faithful to us in this time of pandemic and will continue to restore our spirits and our church. So, let us give thanks to God as we share a rich table with family and friends. Praise God for the Lord has done great things! Because of our God, we can dream of the future without fear and give thanks to God.

Let me continue to share what I am grateful for. I am grateful that Children are coming back to the church and Sunday school has restarted to nurture the next generation of Christians. I am grateful that Asbury members have faithfully served our neighbors during the time of pandemic. I am grateful that Asbury has a strong leadership team so I don't have to work alone. I am grateful for my slang teacher at Asbury who loves polishing Chinaware from Myong dynasty. I am grateful for each one of you. So, I thank you and love you all. With grateful hearts, let us give thanks to God during this season of thanksgiving.