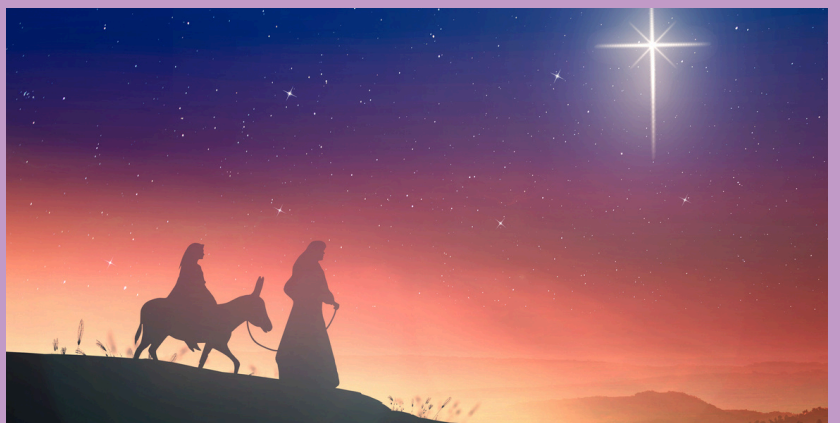


SERMON STARTER

# GRATITUDE

01.12.2024

Gratitude does not immediately spring to mind when we think of the first Sunday of Advent. This Sunday reminds us of judgment, which is not something that seems to bring us to think of gratitude. However, we can show gratitude to God that amidst all the readings of judgment, there is the promise of something better to come. This ties in with expectation and hope as we move through advent. It seems to make sense to view this as the greatest and most obvious reason for gratitude. God came amongst us, how thankful are we and how do we show our gratitude ? It may be in exhibiting the characteristics shown to us through the life of Jesus. These characteristics involve gratitude as service. We can go further than this to think of how much gratitude we show to one another and to our Churches. This can be gratitude through offering ourselves in service whether physically or through monetary ways.



# READINGS



## Jeremiah 33:14-16

These verses show us a lot to be thankful for. This is because they show that even though things may seem bad there is something much better on the way. God has a plan which will ultimately bring peace. We can show gratitude to God because He always has a plan for us, a plan to make things better.



## Psalms 25:1-10

In the section of Psalm 25 we can see that the Psalmist is able to make requests to God because forgiveness has been shown to him. We also can make our requests to God because we know and trust in His forgiveness.

What a reason to show gratitude.



# 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

This passage is full of gratitude to those receiving this letter. The gratitude is for all that has been done, for them having come to faith. How much gratitude do we show for our faith ? Do we support others in faith ? Those receiving the letter are promised support. Do we show our gratitude to those who have supported us, and also to those who continue to help us ? To those who pray for us ? Do we pray for others, giving thanks for God for them ?



# THE GOSPEL



## Luke 21:25-36

In this passage we come across a description of horror almost. The gratitude we can see is in the assurance that we have been both warned that we may suffer, but we have also been promised that God and His words remain throughout disaster. There is the hope that with the strength of God we can stay true to our faith. This is perhaps an immediate reason for gratitude. We are reminded that God is always there. How do we show gratitude to God for this ?

