

Thanksgiving Sunday – Messy Church Style!
October 10, 2021 *Gordon United Church*

Ancient Words: Psalm 126, p.850 VU; John 1:14, 16-18

Today in worship we're going to explore the relationship between the word "GRACE" and the word GRATITUDE – which is of course another word for THANKSGIVING.

The first reading is from the Psalms, Psalm 126. We will read it responsively from p. 850 in your Voices United hymn books. The Psalm celebrates the experience of people who have seen their sacred places destroyed and had to leave their country, but who now can come back and worship in their special places again. Imagine, perhaps, how it might have felt for First Nations people to be freely able to have a potlatch or sun dance ceremony on their ancestral lands for the first time in decades. It might feel something like this! I will read the words in the lighter type and invite you to join in with the bolder words. We won't sing or say the refrain today.

(read Psalm 126)

The second is from the beginning of the Gospel according to John. These are the gospel writer's words to describe the importance of Jesus. John 1: 14, 16-18

And the Word [of God] became flesh and pitched its tent among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth....
From his fulness we have all received grace upon grace. The law [of God] was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus the Anointed One. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close the Father's heart, who has made him known.