

## **God Provides**

God Can: Part 5 “God Provides”

Rev. Cameron D St. Michael – November 20, 2022

Thanksgiving Sunday

**Readings:** 1 Chronicles 29:9-18; Matthew 11:25-30

**Reflection:** Psalm 100

**Greeting:** Let us love each other, because love is from God. Everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. God’s love is revealed to us through his only Son. Christ came to the world that we could live through him! (1 John 4)

**Prayer:** O God, our guide and our guardian, we humbly enter into your presence. May we be blessed by your grace and your love as we join together to worship you this day. May we grow in heart and mind with you, Lord. May you lift us up and strengthen us by your righteousness and your steadfast faithfulness. Help us to be bold in our faith so that we may do your will joyfully and eagerly. May we worship you in a spirit of truth, that we may follow you all the days of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Reflection:** Psalm 100

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100 NRSV\*)*

We read the words of Psalm 100 and we hear of giving thanks. That we should give thanks for all that God is and all that God does. That we should praise God and give thanks for his love and faithfulness. How have you experienced that great and enduring love in your life? How have you shared that love with others? How do you show that you are thankful? What does it mean to share in all that God has provided? How can we learn to love as Christ loves us? How can we praise God as we give thanks for all the ways that we have been blessed?

**Prayer:** O God, your steadfast love and faithfulness have brought us together this day. Help us to live by your grace and mercy always. May we share in the hope you have inspired in us and may we share always in your blessing. We ask that as we come before you with our joys and our concerns that you will strengthen us by your spirit. As you are with us in our celebrations and sorrows, may you lift us up in both our laughter and tears. May your light guide us and lead us to life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

**Sermon:**

Our scripture readings for today come from the New Revised Standard Version Bible. Our first reading for today comes from 1 Chronicles chapter 29 verses 9 through 18.

*Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the Lord; King David also rejoiced greatly. Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; David said, "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name. "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. I know, my God, that you search the heart and take pleasure in uprightness; in the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people who are present here offering freely and joyously to you. O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our ancestors, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you.*  
(1 Chronicles 29:9-18 NRSV\*)

Our next reading for today comes from Matthew chapter 11 verses 25 through 30.

*At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*  
(Matthew 11:25-30 NRSV\*)

This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Today we finish out our series with a message about being thankful. We have a couple of readings today to help us to think about being thankful. We begin today with First Chronicles. King David is rejoicing over just how much the people have given. The call went out that they needed materials to build the temple. The people responded by offering up all that was needed. David rejoices over how much they have willingly given while recognizing they could give because it all comes from God. Here we get some ideas the begin to play off each other. In recognizing that all things come from God's abundance, the people are more

willing to give because they know that it is from God. They acknowledge that God is the source for all they have, so they are much more willing to freely give when the call comes. But it also shows that we can recognize that it isn't all about how much we can give or what the amount is. Because everyone is able to give at different levels depending on where they are at, so the same spirit of generosity might yield different amounts of giving depending on that person's situation. So, when David is celebrating, he also celebrates that wanting to give back comes from an uprightness of heart. That people have given because of their joy because they are following God. Not that there was a specific amount being requested of them, but that because they knew God's abundance they could give in abundance. And it is those who are better off who give more because they have more. But it doesn't take away from the fact that those who had less gave what they could, because all of the giving was a sign of thanks to God. And we can miss that when we get too caught up in how much one can give financially or materially, and we forget about why and how we give back to God. We don't always think about the love and dedication that comes with giving thanks to God and the gifts of time and effort. But all are worthy gifts to lay before the Lord.

Our gospel reading picks up on another aspect of being thankful. We look at being able to give and being able to love as part of God's great gift to us. Because Jesus is talking about the way that people have rejected the call to repentance that John the Baptist was making. That they continue to reject the call to repent that has been spoken everywhere. So, he gives thanks that there are those who hear and believe. And speaks to the relief that we find in Christ. That God is with us in our struggles and our pain and God is there to help. That our burdens will be made light, and we may find rest. That even in hardship, we have peace in Christ. That we can give thanks for all that God has done already and be thankful for all that God will do.

I think it's important to keep in mind as we move through Thanksgiving into the Christmas season. Because it is easy for us to overburden ourselves in trying to make everything perfect with Thanksgiving. And that just gets bigger as we move towards Christmas. Because we should let the whole season be a season of thankfulness. Too often we begin to measure how grateful we are by how much we can buy or how much we can put on the table. In that rush, we can get too wrapped up in the material and worldly measures of wealth and prestige. We can forget how much God has provided for us and forget how we are called to share in that blessing. Because sometimes we measure it only in how much God has provided for our physical needs, and we don't recognize the many other ways that God is actively providing for us. We can get obsessed over the material things that we need and more often that we want. We can forget Christ's call to remember all the ways that God attends us materially, spiritually, and mentally. That God is our rest and our sanctuary. Before the people could build a house for God, God had already given shelter to the people of Israel. Everything that they could give was simply sharing in what God had already provided. Because God had provided for them, they provided for each other. Everything they did was a response to God's

love. Everything they gave was a response to the way God had already provided for them. And they gave to support the whole community. They were thankful for the way God provided, so they provided for everyone.

One of thing that I would like to encourage everyone to do this year is to make this Christmas season be filled with the sprit of thankfulness and let it be a season of thanks. That we let the season be filled with the knowledge that God provides for all that we have so that we may freely give from God's abundance. Instead of measuring all of our achievements by just how much we can buy for each other that we remember how much we can do to share God's love in all that we do. That we remember the ways that God provided for us in our time of need, and we share because of the love we have known. That we remember that acts of love and signs of care are just as important gifts to give. Let us find all the ways that we can support each other, physically, mentally, and spiritually because all of those ways matter. That we let the gifts that we give be an extension of the love that Christ has shown us. That we let the care that we find in the Holy Spirit be the care we provide to others. That we share in the grace that God has given us so that we provide for others in the abundance that God has provided for us. That we invite others into the peace that is Christ, inviting them to let their burdens be lightened and their yoke made easy. That we may share in hope so that all may know hope. That we may share in love so that all may know love. That we share in grace so that all may know grace.

May we do all of this with Christ in mind so that we never give in order to show off. Instead, let us give in our humility so that we know that all we give has been provided by God. That it is in our humility that we live, knowing that each and every day has been given to us by God. That it is in our humility that we care, knowing that we care because we have known Christ's care for us. That we lift each other up in love, sharing in all that we have and all that we are because of all that has been done for us. That we give thanks for a God who adapts to the mistakes that we make along the way and always has a word for us for tomorrow. That we give thanks that God listens to us and hears our prayers. Because God is always there for us, even when we can't see him, he sees us. That we may give thanks that God unites us in all that we are and all that we do. That even when we push for division, God brings us together so that we may do more together than we ever could apart. That God gives us community so that we may truly understand how to love God by loving each other. And that we can give thanks for a God whose steadfast love endures forever. A love that knows no bounds. That we may be thankful in the knowledge that God loved us before we could love him. And that we may be thankful that God provides all things for us. That we give thanks by remembering all that God has done and sharing with others so that all may know God's grace and love. That God has provided a way for us to forgive and be forgiven. That God has provided for us that we may know peace. That God has provided for us that we may know generosity so that we can help each other thankfully. And that we may be thankful that we are provided for out of God's great love, from this day forth and forevermore. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession and Pardon:** God, you are with us even when we turn away from you. Guide us back into your loving arms. Judge us not by the perfection of our actions but show us mercy and love. We have strayed like lost sheep from your ways, failing both in what we have done and what we have failed to do. Bring us back into your fold that you may guide us and lead us in all things. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us and forgive us. May we walk in your love and trust your ways. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you. May the Lord forgive all your sins and lift you up in love through Jesus Christ our Lord, and by the Holy Spirit keep you in life eternal. Amen.

**Offering:** If you are so moved to make an offering, you may send it to the church treasurer, or you may send it to the PO Box listed below. We are still the church, and the church still needs your support to keep doing all the important work that we do.

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Dismissal with Blessing:** May we go forth reflecting God's love in our lives as we go forth in the peace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Our Next Series – Season of Thanks**

Our current series is a look at the ways that God is a part of our lives, and all that God can do. We will spend five weeks exploring the ways that God acts. In them, we will see the ways God responds to us and how we can respond to God.

November 27th – *Thankful for Hope* – Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

December 4th – *Thankful for Peace* – Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 13th – *Thankful for Joy* – Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 18th – *Thankful for Love* – Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

December 24th – *Thankful for a Child* – Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

## **Our Current Series – God Can**

Our current series is a look at the ways that God is a part of our lives, and all that God can do. We will spend five weeks exploring the ways that God acts. In them, we will see the ways God responds to us and how we can respond to God.

**October 23rd** – *God Adapts* – Exodus 3:7-12; 4:1-17

**October 30th** – *God Hears* – 2 Kings 20:1-7; Luke 11:5-13

**November 6th** – *God Unites* – Ephesians 1:11-23; John 17:11-24

**November 13th** – *God Loves* – Zephaniah 3:14-20; Romans 5:1-11

**November 20th** – *God Provides* – 1 Chronicles 29:9-18; Matthew 11:25-30

## **Prayer List**

Rev Charliam Renner	Bishop Frank Beard	Our Conference	Our Healthcare Workers
Patti Corder and the Greenup Ambulance Crew		Eric Veach	Ed & Verna Titus
Henry Catey	Jake Kiser	Cindy Cisney	Tricia Adkins
Don Stewart	Ronnie Winstead	Lauren Stewart	Phyllis Gabel
Ruth Ann Finley	Tom Finley	Laura Carlen	Rosie Chancellor
Kenny Holmes	Chuck Hogan	Brittany Gilbert	Jeremy Klinger
Phil Hawickhorst	Ray Carr	Jane Williams	Alice Sherwood
Dean Carlen	Ross Matteson	Richard Durham	Carol Miller
Donna Carlen	Emily Blade	Tim Schnauzer	Steve Carlen
Connie Brown	Family of Leroy Kemper	Kyle Lehman	Kathy Hanks
Gary & Mary Winterrowd	Leo Smith	Sue & Bob Smyser	Larry Thompson
Nick & Leana Ochoa	Evelyn Sue Icenogle	Kristen & Zach Morecraft	Greg Williams
Martha Roberts	Charlie & Charlotte Baxter	Paul Schulte	

Rev Camron D St. Michael

<https://stmichael.pw>

[cdstmichael@outlook.com](mailto:cdstmichael@outlook.com)

(316)530-3182 (call or text)

PO Box 54, Charleston IL, 61920

\* Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

+ Scripture quotations are from the Common English Bible, Copyright © 2011 by Common English Bible.