The Plymouth Colony celebrated the first American Thanksgiving in 1621. From the earliest history of the brave souls who colonized the New World, it’s clear they were thankful to God. Not all the colonies celebrated it on the same day until 1789 when George Washington declared Thanksgiving a national holiday. President Franklin D. Roosevelt later changed the date to the fourth Thursday of November, the date we celebrate today.

But being thankful is not reserved for only one day every year. Thanksgiving should be reflected in our lives daily.

This Sunday we have sung hymns of praise. Do you know we are to do that with thanksgiving?

**Psalm 69:30 (NIV)**

30 I will praise God’s name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

We have prayed. This too is to be done with thanksgiving.

**Philippians 4:6 (NIV)**

6 In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Paul sums it up by saying:

**1Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)**

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Another form of worship we are instructed to do with thanksgiving is our giving. After all, the word is thanksgiving.

In Deuteronomy 26 God gave specific instructions regarding what the giver was to say at offering time. As the tithe was offered to Him they were directed to thankfully say how they had been delivered from slavery and brought into the land of blessing and abundance.

Each of us has so much to be thankful for. Where would we be if it were not for the Lord’s intervention in our lives?

The older members of our congregation may remember the lyrics of a hymn often sung in bygone years.

Count your many blessings name them one by one…
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

So today, let’s do just that as we give. Let’s count and thank Him for our many blessings. Verbalize them, either audibly or silently in your heart as you give today.

**Congregational Response:**

Thank You, Lord, for the opportunity and privilege to give today. As I give, I reflect upon Your Amazing Grace. You have saved me. I once was lost, but now I’m found. You’ve turned my life around. You’ve given me a bright future. I was blind, but now I see.

**Notes**