

ENTER
HIS GATES
with
THANKSGIVING
and his courts
with
PRAISE!

PSALM 100:4

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2025

JOHANNINE COMMUNIQUÉ

Newsletter of C.S.I St. John's Cathedral, Trichy



Annual Cookery Competition



Independence Day



Outreach - Alundur





Outreach - Mudigandam



Outreach - Pidarampatti





Teacher's Day



Viswavani



Outreach - Rasanayakkanpatti



Annual Thanksgiving Festival





Senior Citizens Sunday



New PC Committee

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From the Desk of the Presbyterian Incharge ...

Praise and Thanksgiving

“Praise the Lord” and “Alleluia” are common terms we use in worship, prayers and even while greeting each other. The book of Psalms uses these terms many times. The important rendering of the term in the New Testament appears in the book of Revelation.

The concept is simple and basic but vital to the believer. Let ‘God’s name be praised’ is an affirmation of many things. God is the creator. I am a created being like many other beings around me. God is to be magnified and others are subordinates. God is immortal and we are not. God is to be worshipped and others are to be respected – not worshipped. Any image, idol, force, power, being or human is not God and cannot be venerated the way we venerate God. Many times we see a sad state. Political leaders and people of power, matinee idols, sports personalities and even church leaders are worshipped as if they were God. This is pure idolatry.

The nature of God is revealed in the Bible and taught to us from our birth at various forums. The Church teaches us to be strong in understanding the nature of God by a systematic instruction of Theology. The liturgy we follow, the songs we sing and the prayers we offer must focus on the eternal, omnipotent and omnipresent God. People must use appropriate words when uttering words of praise to human beings, who are in power. No mortal being can be equated to God. People who cross this line are selfish and do it for their own good. This is blasphemy and I have seen it happening more often in recent times, both within the Church and in society.

Why should we praise God?

- 1. Because God revealed himself to us:** Scripture states, *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory”* (1 Timothy 3:16 KJV). This verse highlights Jesus Christ’s

divine nature, His human embodiment, His public ministry, and His eventual glorification, which is a central tenet of Christian belief.

2. **Because He is going to return:** Scripture also states, *“Which in His times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen”* (I Timothy 6:15,16).
3. **The Mystery of salvation is given to us:** St. Paul is very clear about this. *“Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him. If we disown Him, He will also disown us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot disown Himself”* (I Timothy 2:10-13).

The above quotes are only basic important New Testament claims made by Paul. We can give endless reasons for praising God.

Thanksgiving in the Old Testament was an important aspect of faith for the Israelites. They were nomads, shepherds and unaccepted by their neighbours, wherever they went. God accepted them as his own people and made known to them, “I am your God and you are My people”. God led them, freed them, gave them the land, water, safety and blessings. Their worship creed was simple but very authentic *“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”*. (Ps24:1.) Another classical example from the OT is the Bible reading we read in our Thanksgiving festivals – Deuteronomy 26:1-11.

The story of the patriarchs gives us a glimpse of how God was a reliable provider, mighty protector and the promised redeemer. Even though they were a minority community, God gave them peace and stability. The people of God were

reminded often to bring thanksgiving to God. This acknowledgement was vital in uniting the people and to remain faithful to the Lord God. Read Deuteronomy 8:17,18.

The best example in the gospels is Luke 17 where Jesus acknowledges and appreciates the gratitude of the Samaritan healed of leprosy. The act of thanksgiving is a mark of a true believer and enhances the faith and quality of life and inculcates hope for the future.

Praise looks at the person of God / Christ. Thanksgiving looks at the gifts of God / Jesus.

Praise God and bring your thanksgiving to his Holy presence.

- Rev. A. Suresh Kumar

Praise and Thanksgiving

Praise and thanksgiving are two ways to show our love to God. Praise means acknowledging who God is by recalling His attributes. We praise Him because He is holy, loving, and powerful. Thanksgiving means saying 'Thank you' for what God has done. We thank Him for life, family, friends, health, and blessings. Praise and thanksgiving are linked. We cannot do one without the other. They are inseparable.

Why Praise and Thanksgiving Matter: When we praise God, we focus on His nature. We remember that He is faithful and kind. When we give thanks, we notice His works in our daily life. Thanksgiving helps us see His hand in all things, great or small. Together, praise and thanksgiving bring us closer to God.

Praise and thanksgiving also change our hearts. They take away sadness and fear. They give us joy and peace. When we practise thanksgiving, we see life differently. We become more loving, patient, and hopeful. Our faith grows stronger.

Bible Verses on Praise and Thanksgiving: The Bible teaches us to praise and give thanks always.

- *"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4)*

- *“Give thanks in all circumstances”* (I Thessalonians 5:18)
- *“Do everything in the name of the Lord with thanksgiving”* (Colossians 3:17)

Ways to Practise Praise and Thanksgiving: There are many simple ways to practise praise and thanksgiving daily. These verses remind us that thanksgiving is not only for good times. It is for every season of life.

- Pray every morning and thank God for a new day.
- Sing songs that lift His name and celebrate His goodness.
- Read the Bible and meditate on His promises.
- Help others and show kindness as an act of thanksgiving.
- Write down blessings in a journal and review them often.
- Speak words that encourage and build others up.

These habits make thanksgiving a lifestyle, not just an occasional act.

The Blessings of a Thankful Heart: A thankful heart brings peace and joy. It teaches us to be content with what we have. It helps us face challenges with courage and hope. Thanksgiving is infective. When we are thankful, we inspire people around us to be thankful too. It creates a community of love and kindness.

Conclusion: Praise and thanksgiving are powerful gifts. They remind us of who God is and what He has done. They change our hearts and draw us closer to Him. By making thanksgiving part of our daily life, we live with more joy, peace, and faith. A life of praise and thanksgiving is a life filled with God’s love.

- Rev. Jerin Sester C.

“Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God. Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God. Every moment, thank God. – Rick Warren

Why We Need Both Praise and Thanksgiving

Praise and thanksgiving are central themes throughout the Bible, reflecting a heart that acknowledges God's greatness, faithfulness, and provision. Though often used together, they serve distinct yet interconnected purposes in the believer's relationship with God.

1. What is Praise?

Praise is the expression of admiration and reverence toward God for who He is — His character, nature, and glory.

- **Psalms 145:3** – “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.”
- **Hebrews 13:15** – “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.”

Praise is not dependent on circumstances; it focuses on God's attributes — His holiness, sovereignty, mercy, love, and power. Even in suffering, believers are encouraged to praise.

- **Habakkuk 3:17-18** – Even though the prophet sees no signs of provision, he says, “yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”

2. What is Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is the expression of gratitude to God for what He has done — His blessings, deliverance, guidance, and provision.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:18** – “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”
- **Psalms 100:4** – “Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!”

Where praise is about **who God is**, thanksgiving is about **what God has done**. Together, they form a complete expression of **worship**.

3. The Spiritual Power of Praise and Thanksgiving

Biblically, Praise and Thanksgiving are not just Spritual disciplines- They are also powerful acts of faith and warfare.

- **2 Chronicles 20:21-22** – Jehoshaphat sends out singers to praise the Lord ahead of the army, and God brings victory.
- **Acts 16:25-26** – Paul and Silas praised God in prison, and their chains were loosed.

These examples show how praise and thanksgiving shift focus from human strength to God's power. They realign the heart to trust Him, even in the darkest circumstances.

4. Thanksgiving as a way of life

The Bible encourages continual thanksgiving — not just as an act, but as a **lifestyle**.

- **Colossians 3:17** – *“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*
- **Philippians 4:6** – *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”*

Thanksgiving reminds believers of God's past faithfulness and encourages trust for the future.

Conclusion: Praise and thanksgiving are essential expressions of a heart aligned with God. Praise honors who God is; thanksgiving honors what God has done. Together, they cultivate joy, strengthen faith, and invite the presence of God.

As the psalmist declares:

“I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.” (Psalm 34:1)

- **Mr. Rupathilagan**

Sthothram!

A pastor explained in his sermon how we should lift our petitions to God with praise. The essence of what he said is this: when we pray for something, we should pray with the faith that we have already received it. We must kneel, raise our hands, and praise God. The word 'Stothram' (praise) should be recited with full devotion, with our whole heart and mind, and with complete faith and trust, saying it continuously for a minute, as though we have already received what we asked for. He said that when we pray with praise in this way, our faith will be strengthened, and we will experience the assurance that we will receive what we ask for.

Scripture says, *"Let us lift up our hearts along with our hands to God in heaven"* (Lamentations 3:41).

Last month, we had planned a trip to Ooty. After making plans and booking train tickets, we made all the necessary arrangements. However, in the last week of June, we were warned of heavy rains in places like Valparai, Pollachi, Coimbatore and Ooty, and a red alert was issued. As a result, my relatives in Pollachi advised us to reconsider our trip to Ooty. Since many had already planned their travels, we decided that the only option was to pray for favourable weather. With four days remaining, I resolved to follow the pastor's advice: to wake up early, praise God, and pray with the belief that we would be blessed with favourable weather. I praised God with full faith for the next four days and then travelled to Ooty. By God's immense grace, there was no rain in Coimbatore or Ooty on the day we travelled. The trip was a blessing. People said that it had rained heavily as soon as we left Ooty. Glory to God's name!

Our God dwells in the midst of praise. King Jehoshaphat defeated his enemies—the Ammonites, the Moabites, and the people of Mount Seir—by sending singers ahead of his army, who praised God saying, *"Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever"* (2 Chronicles 20:21).

The book of Psalms often shows that after presenting a petition, the psalmist ends with praise and thanksgiving. God says, *"He who offers praise glorifies Me"* (Psalm 50:23). The word "praise" appears more than 50 times in this book.

Even after losing everything, Job praised God, saying, *"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised"* (Job 1:21)

Apostle Paul, in his writings about prayer, emphasized the combination of joy, supplication and praise. He instructs us to *"Rejoice in the Lord always"* and not to worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, to present requests to God (Philippians 4:4-6). When we are in distress, we often pray with tears, but Paul encourages us to pray with thanksgiving, without worry. He urges us to *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances"* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). He also advises us to *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer"* (Romans 12:12).

Therefore, only those who maintain a constant joy in their hearts can pray without ceasing. They are the ones who can offer praise with the unwavering belief that their petitions have already been granted. So, when you present your requests to God in prayer, begin praising Him immediately. Rest assured, you will receive what you've asked for.

Sthothram!

- **Dr. E.C. Henry Amirtharaj**

*Gratitude lets us see that our cup is neither half-empty nor half-full, but more than enough."***Anon**

An active faith can give thanks for a promise, though it be not yet performed, knowing that God's bonds are as good as ready money" - **Matthew Henry**

A Day of Gratitude and Joy

Annual Thanksgiving Festival 2025 -A Report

'The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad'
(Psalm 126:3).

On Sunday, 3rd August 2025, the family of CSI St. John's Cathedral, Trichy, gathered with hearts full of joy and gratitude to celebrate the Annual Thanksgiving Festival.

From the very first hymn at the 7:30 a.m. worship service, the atmosphere was filled with praise, thanksgiving, and an overwhelming sense of God's presence.

The service was led in a spirit of thanksgiving, with the guest speaker, Rev. Dr. S. P. Gideon Sam, Director of CSI DMR Junior Church Ministries, delivering a stirring message that reminded the congregation that true thanksgiving is not a single day's celebration, but a way of life—rooted in gratitude, service, and faith in God's abundant grace.

The Cathedral Choir lifted hearts heavenward with their special anthem, their voices blending in harmony as a sweet offering of praise. The church, adorned with vibrant decorations, radiated the festive spirit.

A touching highlight of the morning was the Blessing Tree, where members joyfully pinned their testimonies of God's goodness over the past year. As these were prayerfully dedicated by the Pastors, the congregation was reminded of how richly God has blessed both families and the church as a whole.

After the service, the Cathedral grounds came alive with a buzz of excitement. More than 500 members of the church and community joined in the celebrations, turning the campus into a place of fellowship, laughter, and joy. The 30 colourful stalls—including four exciting new ones this year - offered something for everyone - delicious food, fun games, and warm moments of togetherness.

From the youngest child to the oldest elder, all found reasons to rejoice.

What made the festival shine most brightly was the spirit of unity. Every committee and volunteer poured in their time, energy, and resources, ensuring every detail was thoughtfully cared for. The generous giving and cheerful serving of the congregation itself became the most powerful expression of thanksgiving—living proof that gratitude is best shown in action.

This year's Thanksgiving Festival was not just an event—it was a celebration of God's faithfulness, a testimony of His goodness, and a beautiful reminder that when God's people come together in gratitude, His name is glorified.

Truly, the Annual Thanksgiving Festival 2025 was a day where heaven's blessings met the gratitude of God's people, and the Cathedral family rejoiced as one body in Christ. It was a day of rejoicing and unity. With hearts overflowing in gratitude, the Cathedral family looks ahead, trusting in God's continued faithfulness.

We extend our gratitude to our Pastors, Rev. A. Suresh Kumar and Rev. Jerin Sester, for their unstinted support and guidance in making our ATGF a blessed and a successful church community event. Praise God!

-Lt. Col. Paul Devadasan

How *Not* to Worship

When we gather for worship, we often ask, "*What pleases God?*" But Scripture also warns us about ways of worship that fall short. To understand true praise, we must be honest about how *not* to worship.

1. Worship that's all show

Jesus cautioned against those who pray or give just to be seen by others (Matthew 6:1–5). Worship becomes empty when it is more about performance than God's presence. Singing loudly or lifting hands is not wrong—but if it's done

to impress rather than to honour the Lord, it has lost its heart. Worship should flow from humility, not pride.

2. Worship without obedience

Isaiah rebuked Israel for offering sacrifices while ignoring God's commands for justice and mercy (Isaiah 1:11–17). To sing hymns on Sunday yet walk in disobedience on Monday is a contradiction. Praise cannot be divorced from daily faithfulness. God delights in a life aligned with His will more than in well-polished liturgy.

3. Worship that ignores others

Paul reminded the Corinthians that their gatherings were chaotic and self-centred (1 Corinthians 11, 14). They thought they were worshipping, but their lack of love for one another spoiled it. True worship is corporate—it builds up the Body. If we sing beautifully yet refuse to forgive a brother or sister, we are missing the mark.

4. Worship without engagement

Jesus said the Father seeks those who worship “in spirit and truth” (John 4:23). Half-hearted mumbling of prayers or distracted drifting during the Eucharist is not the worship God desires. It is possible to go through the motions without offering our hearts. Worship calls for attentiveness and honesty before God.

5. Worship that treats God lightly

Leviticus tells of Aaron's sons who offered “strange fire” before the Lord and were struck down (Leviticus 10:1–3). This is a stark reminder: worship is not casual entertainment. We approach a holy God. Reverence does not mean stiffness—it means remembering who God is and why He is worthy of awe.

Worship is the highest calling of the Church, but it is not defined by music styles, length of services, or outward forms. It is defined by truth, humility, obedience, and love. Let us beware of worship that is shallow or self-centred, and instead offer God the praise of hearts fully turned to Him.

- Mr. Samuel M.

Prison to Praise

'Prison to Praise' is the autobiography of Merlin Carothers, an American soldier who had to spend time in prison for desertion from the Army. While in prison he came into a living relationship with Jesus Christ. He discovered the power of praise, which transformed his life. He went on to be an army chaplain and later on started the "Foundation of Praise" a ministry focussed on teaching people to praise God in every situation. In his book, he says, "Praise is based on faith not on emotions".

What are the spiritual secrets of praising God?

1. It's the will of God

1 Scripture says, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). A faithful believer will try to please God by seeking to do His will always.

2. It's a spiritual weapon

Jehoshaphat's army praised God before the battle, and God caused their enemies to be defeated (Chronicles 20:21-22). Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns in prison, and an earthquake opened the doors (Acts 16:25-26). Praising God gives victory over fear and challenges.

3. Praise puts our eyes on God's greatness

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1) *"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise"* (Hebrews 13:15).

When we praise God in difficult situations, our primary focus shifts to God from our problems and this gives God the opportunity to solve our problems.

4. God is enthroned in our praises

"Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel" (Psalm 22:3). The psalmist experienced God's presence manifesting in a special way as a king enthroned when he praised Him.

Every believer is called to give God the throne of his life, his family, his workplace, his church and the best way to do it is through our praises.

What are the spiritual benefits of praising God?

1. Replaces discouragement with gratitude:

God gives *“the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness”* (Isaiah 61:3). Praise is presented as an exchange therapy where heaviness and fear are replaced with joy. If we are going through tough times the best solution is to start praising God.

2. Releases spiritual authority:

“Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). When we have true faith we continue to praise God even before a breakthrough, demonstrating our confidence in His assurance.

3. Opens our eyes to see hidden opportunities for growth in trials:

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him ...” (Romans 8:28). Praise keeps us positioned to see God working for our good even in difficulty.

God commands our praise in all circumstances, and He promises to work all things for our good, So praising Him even in hardship is an act of obedience and faith that unlocks His power on our behalf.

- **Dr. Shibu Varkey**

The Heart of Praise and Thanksgiving

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Praise and thanksgiving are at the very center of the Christian life. They are not optional extras but vital expressions of our faith. When we pause to reflect, we realize that every breath, every blessing, and even every trial comes under the loving care of our Heavenly Father. Gratitude and praise lift our eyes from ourselves and turn them toward the greatness of God.

Praise is the joyful recognition of who God is. The psalmist declared, *“Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom”* (Psalm 145:3). In praising God, we remember His majesty, holiness, and mercy. Praise reminds us that our God is sovereign, faithful, and unchanging, no matter what our circumstances may be. It is not limited to songs in a

church service — it is the posture of a heart that delights in God daily.

The Heart of Praise and Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving flows from remembering what God has done for us. “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever” (Psalm 107:1). When we give thanks, we acknowledge God’s hand in our salvation, His provision, His protection, and His countless mercies. The discipline of thanksgiving guards us against grumbling and forgetting His goodness. It shifts our focus from what we lack to the abundance of grace we have already received.

It is easy to give thanks when life is smooth. The true test comes in seasons of hardship. Yet Paul urges us to “*give thanks in all circumstances*” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This does not mean ignoring pain or pretending all is well. Rather, it is an act of trust — believing that God is good even when life is difficult. Consider Paul and Silas, singing hymns of praise while in prison (Acts 16:25). Their joy was rooted not in their comfort but in Christ. When we choose gratitude in trials, we proclaim that our hope rests in the Lord, not in our situation.

A life filled with praise and thanksgiving transforms both the believer and the community. St. Paul assures us that thanksgiving in prayer brings the peace of God, which guards our hearts and minds (Philippians 4:6-7).

A grateful congregation becomes a joyful congregation. Praise and thanksgiving unite us, lift our spirits, and shine as a witness to the world that our God is worthy of honor.

How can we cultivate this spirit? By making thanksgiving a daily practice — pausing to name our blessings, lifting songs of praise even in the quiet of our homes, and sharing testimonies of God’s faithfulness. As we do, gratitude becomes more than words; it becomes a way of life.

Reflection

Lord, give us hearts that overflow with praise and thanksgiving. Teach us to trust You in every circumstance, to rejoice in Your goodness, and to live as witnesses of Your enduring love. Amen.

- Prof. J. Godwin Prem Singh

Know Your Elders

Mr. Raj Thilak, who spends more time in church than most of us, is quick to greet every member and newcomer. He volunteers as the church photographer and is a longtime bass singer in the choir. He is the new Secretary in the Pastorate Committee. He shares his life experiences with Johanan Eric Mathuram.

Johanan Eric Mathuram: Uncle, tell us about yourself.

Mr. Raj Thilak: Since my father was the Headmaster of a Government High School, he used to get frequent transfers and my siblings and I were schooled in different places. I completed my SSLC in Bishop Heber High School, Teppakulam, in 1968. I completed my degree in Madurai Wakf Board College, and my Masters in Sociology and B.Ed. in Chidambaram University. I joined BHEL in 1977 as an Administrative Assistant. Later I completed my MBA (HR) and served in various departments. I retired as Chief P&A in 2012. My wife Mrs. Vanitha retired as a Government Higher Secondary School teacher. My married daughter Rency lives in Chennai and our son Renato works as Risk Analyst for Canadalife. We are also blessed with a granddaughter.

JEM: How did you come to attend St. John's, Uncle?

Mr. RT: In 1983 some of us moved to various churches and I came to St. John's. Though the atmosphere was different from the earlier one, Presbyters like Rev. P.D. Peter, Rev. David Christudoss and others guided me. They invited me to attend cottage prayer meetings and also involved **me** in the administrative matters of the church. Incidentally, they were the ones who conducted my marriage in 1989 at Sirkazhi. My wife was also always supportive of my involvement in church ministries.

JEM: When did you begin singing in the choir?

Mr. RT: Earlier, for the Passion Music and Carol services, a combined choir was conducted by Mrs. Jane Noble. Later in the eighties, when Rev. Rayan Samuel served as a Presbyter

in our Church, he mobilized all the youth and initiated the move to have our own choir. From then on, our choir has been led by Mr. Edwin Selvadoss, who also nurtured my interest in singing. He used to invite me for church events and trained me to sing.

JEM: Can you tell us about your faith journey, Uncle?

Mr. RT: In my childhood days I was not much attracted towards the church. It was my parents' compulsion that took me to church then. Even during my college days, I was only a seasonal Christian. After joining BHEL, I was led by the spirit of God through one Mr. S. Joseph, who got me involved in church activities. He used to meet me regularly and share his experience about God. On Sunday evenings he would take me to nearby villages for village outreach programmes. He took me to the FMPB Annual camp at Danishpet every year and also got me involved in church prayer groups. I felt the spirit of God slowly working in me. Later I joined the singing ministry at BHEL Church.

EJM: What has been the most difficult moment in your faith journey and how did God help you through it?

Me: There were times when I felt discouraged and lonely following some events in my life. But nothing has deterred me from trusting in the Lord. I used to bow down to the will of God. He knows what to do, and when and how to do things that are needed in my life. With God's help, I hope to continue my journey of faith and in serving Him. I feel the presence of God has sustained me in every area of my life.

EJM: Uncle, we know that you do not live nearby. How do you always manage to come for services ahead of time?

Mr. RT: Earlier we lived in BHEL Nehru Nagar Township which is 16 km away but I was always keen on coming to church on time. Now we live in Nagamangalam which is 16 km away. Even for choir practices I could not be late. Arriving ahead of time for services has given me personal satisfaction. May our ever loving Father continue to bless me with the strength and dedication to exalt His name in my life.

EJM: As the new Secretary, do you have any plans that you would like to share with us?

Mr. RT: Holding a position in church administration has never been in my mind. I'm always interested in serving the Lord through His church. I humbly accept this as the will of God. We have a competent Chairman and a committee eager to serve the church. Since our church has become a Cathedral, we have to give a facelift to the building. We are planning to concentrate on proper documentation and transparency in every matter. The matter of encroachment on our church land is pending for the past several decades. Clearing it still remains a distant dream. God willing, we have to do something on this and a prayer hall has to be built. With the help of our Lord Almighty we will work together and glorify His name.

EJM: Thank you for sparing your time, uncle!

Mr. RT: Thank you Eric!

Does God Need Our Thanks?

Sometimes I ask myself, "Does God really need my 'Thank you?'" After all, He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He is all-powerful, all-sufficient, and lacks nothing.

The truth is—no, God does not need our thanks in the way a person needs appreciation to feel valued. He is God, with or without our words of gratitude. But gratitude transforms us. When we thank God, our hearts are softened, our perspective shifts, and we become more aware of His goodness in our lives.

The Bible calls us to give thanks in all circumstances: "*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This does not mean pretending everything is perfect. Life is not always easy. There are days of joy and days of pain. It means choosing to fix our eyes on the goodness of God even when life is hard. When we pause to thank Him, we open our eyes to His daily blessings—the breath in our lungs, the love of family, the food on our table, and even the trials that shape our character.

Ten lepers came to Jesus. He healed all ten but only one returned to say, "Thank you" (Luke 17:11-19). That one man was healed not only physically but made whole spiritually. Thanksgiving draws us closer to God in a way that mere asking and receiving never can.

Thanking God is an act of worship. It acknowledges His sovereignty, His grace, and His presence. *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him"* (Colossians 3:17). It is not about increasing His worth, but aligning our hearts with the reality of His love, mercy, and faithfulness. Our gratitude testifies to that truth.

The Psalmist says, *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name"* (Psalm 100:4). Thanksgiving is like a doorway into God's presence. When we approach Him with gratitude, our relationship with Him deepens.

So, why do we thank God? Not because He *needs* it, but because we need it. A thankful heart keeps us humble, joyful, and connected to our Heavenly Father. It reminds us that every good thing we have is a gift from Him.

May we take a moment each day to whisper, "Thank You, Lord!" Not just for the big miracles, but for the little mercies that often go unnoticed. And as we cultivate this habit of gratitude, we will find that our hearts grow lighter, our faith grows stronger, and our lives reflect the joy of knowing that God is always with us.

- **Mrs. Shirley Deepak**

Wedding Bells

The marriage of Mr. U. Steve Arul, son of Dr. A. Umesh Samuel and Mrs. Henrietta Samuel, to Ms. P. Abigail Hepsy, daughter of Mr. R. Paul Ratna Karunakaran and Mrs. R. Nirmala Jansi Rani, was solemnized on 4-9-2025 at CSI St. John's Church, Avadi.

"May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 115:15)

Yield to God's Calling!

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord: let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation" (Psalm 95:1).

The Almighty God knows our needs and necessities, even before we ask in prayer. Doesn't he? Then what else is important to get closer to God, rather than submitting a long list of needs in prayer? What sort of prayer pleases God? Like a mother who never leaves her child alone, our Saviour Jesus Christ never wants us to be far away from Him. He wants us to keep us close to His heart. Are we so?

Trials and tribulations are part and parcel of our lives, till we breathe our last in this world. We, as God's beloved children need to praise and give thanks at all times, in all situations and in all places. Especially when we are caught in the web of struggles and cannot free ourselves.

Praise Him and thank Him for the situation you are in right now. Miracles will start happening in your lives. It's not that all problems vanish in a jiffy. God gives the strength to stay calm and quiet during such times. His abundant wisdom to think the right way. The Holy Spirit, will guide us throughout to do the right things, that even when we stumble and fall down, He makes us stand and carries us upon his shoulders. The angels, *"will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone"* (Psalm 91:12). Praise and thank him wholeheartedly. For He is our sole refuge.

If we do not surrender ourselves completely to the Lord God we will drift away from Him. He has created us and breathed his life-giving breath into us (Genesis 2: 7). And every day we live only because of His abundant grace. In a life full of uncertainties, we ought to thank Him as soon as we wake up from our sleep every morning.

But, how do we praise Him and thank Him? We have so many ways to do that - during prayer, while singing songs of praise, making use of travel or commuting time, reading

psalms aloud. Also when you have free time and in your own personal way in personal situations too.

Are we confident that all our Praise and Thanksgiving have reached Almighty God? Let me tell you my friends, if all these words of Praise don't complement a God-honouring life, they remain unheard. Jesus quotes Prophet Isaiah, *"These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me"* (Matthew 15:8).

God seeks a sensitive heart, which empathises with the needy and the isolated. When you become a blessing to such people, it becomes the actual Praise of God that our heavenly Father loves to hear.

Eventually, thanksgiving pours out of our hearts, the reason being that we have yielded ourselves to His Calling and Jesus our Savior, has revealed Himself through us. Amen!

- Dr. A. Shirley Mary Vanitha

Living in Gratitude

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!" (1 Chronicles 16:34)

Gratitude is the lens through which I see my life; a life filled not with just one blessing, but with countless gifts from God. From the very breath I take each morning to the quiet moments before I sleep, I see His hand in everything. I am thankful for life itself, the gift of waking up each day, the chance to begin anew, and the opportunity to live out the purpose God has placed in me.

My journey has not been without challenges, but even the trials have shaped me, drawing me closer to Him and teaching me to trust His plan.

I am thankful for the simple, everyday joys: the warmth of the sun, the sound of rain, the laughter of loved ones, and the comfort of fellowship with my family. These moments remind me that

God's goodness is not just in grand miracles but also in the small, quiet blessings that we sometimes overlook.

My heart overflows with gratitude for the people he has placed in my path; family who love me unconditionally, friends who encourage me, mentors who guide me, and strangers whose kindness has touched my heart. I praise God for the lessons learned along the way, the moments when I stumbled, only to feel His strong hand lifting me up again.

And most of all, I am thankful for the unchanging love of God, the anchor of my soul. His presence gives me peace in uncertainty, strength in weakness, and hope for the future. My entire life is a testimony of His faithfulness.

Truly, each day is a blessing, and my heart is full of gratitude, for the life I have been given, for the love I receive, and for the promise of eternal life through Christ. *Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift* (2 Corinthians 9:1)!

Thankfulness is not just a season for me, it is a way of living. Every breath is a gift, every heartbeat a reminder, and every moment an opportunity to give glory to the One who has given me everything.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

- Dr. X. Mercy Angeline

Home Call

"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands (2 Corinthians 4:5).

Mrs. Susan Clifton, aged 68, wife of late Mr. Anil Clifton and mother of Ms. Michelle Clifton, went to be with the Lord on 14-7-2025. She served as Assistant Professor in the English Department of Holy Cross College. Since 2010 she also managed 'Good News Book Shop', the Christian book store at Woraiyur, started by her father, late Mr. M. J. Jacob.

The Hymn and the Hymnwriter

'Now Thank We All Our God' is a beautiful hymn usually sung during 'Thanksgiving' services. Our hearts overflow with gratitude as we sing 'O may this bounteous God, through all our life be near us'. We recall the many blessings received from the hands of our loving Heavenly Father.

When I went through the words of this hymn, I thought that it must have been written by someone blessed with everything he wished for. But it was not so.

Martin Rinkart, a German Lutheran Pastor, wrote this hymn around 1636, during a period of intense suffering and loss. A thirty-year war (1618-1648) fought primarily in Germany, was one of the most destructive conflicts in European history. It began as a religious conflict between Protestants and Catholics, within the Roman empire and escalated into a devastating war involving Germany, France, Sweden, Spain and Denmark.

Pastor Rinkart lived in the walled city of Eilenburg in Germany. Political and military fugitives landed there causing overcrowding, deadly pestilence and famine. War victims sought refuge in the Rinkart home. Pastor Rinkart provided food and shelter even when he was hard pressed to provide for his own family.

In 1637, during the peak of a severe plague, Rinkart was the only surviving pastor in Eilenburg, conducting as many as fifty funerals in a day. He performed more than 4000 funerals during that year, including that of his own beloved wife. Despite his personal tragedy and the devastation around him, Rinkart's hymn reflects a profound sense of thankfulness to God.

Pastor Rinkart wrote this hymn in German and Johann Cruger composed the tune. Catherine Winkworth translated it into English.

The hymn's enduring popularity lies in its simple, yet powerful message of gratitude for God's blessings in all circumstances and even in the face of extreme adversity.

(Based on Internet sources)

- Mrs. Esther James

Thanking God for Our Past, Present and Future

“Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6).

King David can be best quoted as an example for ‘Praise and Thanksgiving’. His life journey included betrayal, pain, fear, the death of his best friend, walking through the valley of death several times and still more. Amidst all these David viewed his problems through the lens of God’s faithfulness.

Thanking God for the past:

We need to recall the past events in our lives – the achievements, emergencies, crises, exploitations, accidents, sicknesses, turning points - and reflect on how God’s hand was upon us and how faithful He was to us. Gratitude to God is where our true worship begins and that is the key to our faith in God.

I still remember the days when both my husband and I were down with Covid. Our daughter was then a 9-year old. My husband was in isolation at home and keeping my daughter away from him was a real challenge. Both of us recovered. When the three of us were able to sit together as a family, the first song we sang, recorded and posted to all our family and friends was “We are together again just praising the Lord”. We thanked our Heavenly Father who drew us out of many waters, heard our cry, healed us and sustained us as a family.

Thanking God for the present:

There is a verse in a hymn that goes this way:

‘Every day, the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He Whose Name is Counselor and Power;
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;

“As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,”
This the pledge to me He made.’

The Lord is with us in all our present circumstances. Our gratitude to Him for the present day, the hour, the minute and the second enriches our faith and helps us grow in a stronger and deeper relationship with Him. Today is a gift and a blessing from God. We can count God’s blessings – waking up in the morning, sipping coffee with the family around us, enjoying the sights and sounds of nature that surround us, a song that consoles our souls – the list would go on.

Thanking God for the future:

Thanking God for the future is nothing but absolute faith. St. Paul writes, *“And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:19 ESV) We ought to sow the seed of faith by worshipping the Lord for His supernatural role in our lives. God multiplies the seed, and increases the fruit that grows from the seed. Abraham sowed faith, trusting God and God’s blessing stretched far into the future.

My nephew’s faith comes to my mind when I think of thanking God in advance. While completing his BE in Anna University he was selected for a placement interview after clearing the initial tests. On the Sunday before his interview, his prayer at church was – “Lord, I am like Moses. I don’t know how to speak well. Yet I believe you will help me get through this interview. I give my thank offertory in advance”. He cleared the interview and was one among the two who were placed in Oracle. Absolute faith!

God has a plan for our life, a future and a hope. We can look back and see what He has done, we can see Him right now and we can know in faith that He’s ready for our future. Praising God in every season of life is a proof to our living in Him!

- Mrs. Malathy Anand

Schedule of Services OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2025

Date	Theme	Bible Passages	St. John's Cathedral, Trichy		St. Thomas Church, Olaiyur
			08:00 a.m.	6:15 p. m	
01/10/2025	First Day of the Month		<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. A. Suresh Kumar		
05/10/2025	Laity Sunday Priesthood of All Believers	Isaiah 61: 1 - 11 Psalm 135: 12 - 21 1 Peter 2: 1 - 10 John 17: 1 - 8	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. A. Suresh Kumar	<i>Evensong</i> Rev. S. Sudharsan	Mr. Beril Matthew
12/10/2025	Sunday for Mentally & Physically Challenged and Palliative Patients Disability: Care and Honour	2 Samuel 9: 1 - 13 Psalm 146 Acts 9: 32 - 35 Mark 3: 1 - 6	<i>Matins</i> Dr. Ravi Stephen	<i>Evensong</i> Rev. A. Suresh Kumar	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj
19/10/2025	Youth Sunday Youth with Christ in Action	Daniel 1: 1 - 17 Psalm 98 Acts 6: 1 - 7 John 1: 35 - 42	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. C. Jerin Sester	<i>Evensong</i> Rev. A. Suresh Kumar	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. C. Jerin Sester
26/10/2025	Reformation Sunday Celebration of God's Sovereignty, Justice and Peace	Deuteronomy 26: 4 - 11 Psalm 109: 21 - 31 Acts 2: 43 - 47 Matthew 13: 33 - 35	<i>Matins</i> Rev. A. Suresh Kumar	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. V. Babu Alexander Christopher	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj
01/11/2025	First Day of the Month		<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. C. Jerin Sester		
02/11/2025	Unity Sunday Vine and Branches	Ezekiel 37: 15 - 23 Psalm 133 1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 27	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. A. Suresh Kumar	<i>Matins</i> Rev. C. Jerin Sester	Mr. Beril Matthew
09/11/2025	World Sunday School Day What this Child is Going to be?	John 15: 1 - 8 Judges 13: 1 - 14 Psalm 119: 9 - 16 Ephesians. 6: 1 - 4 Luke 1: 57 - 66	<i>Matins</i> Dr. S. Isaiiah BHC	<i>Evensong</i> Rev. A. Suresh Kumar	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj
16/11/2025	Sunday for the Girl Child Affirming the Worth of the Girl Child	Numbers 27: 1 - 11 Psalm 71: 1 - 12 Acts 21: 7 - 14 Mark 5: 35 - 43	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. C. Jerin Sester	<i>Evensong</i> Rev. Richard Reid	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. C. Jerin Sester
23/11/2025	Peace in the Context of Violence	1 Samuel 24: 1 - 12 Psalm 52 Romans 12: 14 - 21 Matthew 5: 38 - 48	<i>Matins</i> Rev. A. Suresh Kumar	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. C. Jerin Sester	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj
30/11/2025	Advent Sunday Grace of God: The Hope for the Lowly	Exodus 2: 1 - 10 Psalm 30 2 Thessalonians 2: 13 - 17 Luke 1: 46 - 59	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev. T. David Christodoss	<i>Advent Carols</i> Rt. Rev. Dr. D. Chandrasekaran Former Bishop	Mr. Daniel Selvaraj

A Testimony of Praise and Thanks to God

I want to praise and thank God for His grace and faithfulness in my life.

When I was in 3rd standard, I lost my father - late Mr. Arputhasingh - in a train accident. At that age, I didn't fully understand what had happened. But as I grew older, around the time I was in 6th standard, I began to truly feel the pain and emptiness of his absence.

Through all of that, it was just me, my brother, my mother and our faithful God. My Mom Mrs. Kala Arputhasingh, laboured alone without my father to share the work in Mission to the Blind. They had served together in this ministry earlier. I thank God for giving her the strength to carry our family. Even in the toughest times, God did not abandon us. He carried us.

By His guidance, after I finished my schooling I chose Aviation for my college studies. I stayed in a hostel and later rented a room in Chennai. While studying, a friend's friend helped me to get a part-time job in digital marketing, which helped me manage my pocket expenses. Truly, Jehovah Jireh is our provider.

After finishing college, I returned to Trichy. Within three months, in God's time, I received an offer letter from Trichy Airport. I joined Bird Airport Services as a Representative for Air India Express. After just three months, they promoted me to the position of Team Leader appreciating my performance, but I know it was only by the grace and favour of God.

Today, I stand as a living testimony that even in loss, struggle, and uncertainty, God is faithful. He is the one who lifted me, provided for me, and led me every step of the way.

All glory and honour to my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

- Mr. Sam Alwyn Singh

Beyond Thanks

I was once asked to deliver the 'Vote of thanks' in a very formal occasion. I wanted to write it down, and it should be heartfelt, I thought. But I couldn't find a synonym for "Thanks" that could convey all the overwhelming gratitude I felt in my heart. So, I began my vote of thanks with the sentence, "Thanks is too small a word to convey all my heart wants."

That moment taught me something profound: our human words of appreciation, though courteous and kind, often remain shallow compared to the depth of true gratitude. In worldly settings, "Thank you" is an expression of politeness, a mark of good manners. We say it to acknowledge favours, services, or kindnesses received. Yet it usually ends there, simply on the lips.

Biblical thanksgiving, however, flows from the heart to God, not just for what He has given, but for who He is. The psalmist declares, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name" (Psalm 100:4). This kind of thanksgiving is not situational; it is foundational.

Paul reminds the Thessalonians, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Unlike worldly thanks, which depend on external benefits, biblical thanksgiving is rooted in faith and trust, even in trials.

When we contrast the two, the difference becomes clear. The world says "thank you" for what hands can give; the Bible calls us to thank God for what hearts can receive. One is transactional, the other transformational.

Therefore, let us move beyond polite words and embrace biblical thanksgiving, a gratitude that transcends circumstances and turns every breath into worship.

- Dr. Catharin Kayalvizhi D.

Praise and Thanksgiving in Recent Times

In the midst of today's fast-paced and uncertain world, Christians are reminded of the timeless call to live with hearts full of praise and thanksgiving. While our era has been marked by rapid technological advancements, global challenges, and social changes, the essence of gratitude remains constant, rooted in God's unchanging nature. The Apostle Paul reminds believers, *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This directive challenges us to see beyond difficulties and recognize God's hand at work even in times of struggle.

Praise and thanksgiving are not mere responses to favourable outcomes but profound acts of faith. In uncertain times, they shift our focus from fear and anxiety toward God's sovereignty and provision. The psalmist declared, *"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth"* (Psalm 34:1), highlighting that worship is an ongoing posture rather than a seasonal activity.

In recent times, gratitude has become especially significant as we reflect on God's sustenance through challenges such as pandemics, conflicts, and economic instability. Many have witnessed His provisions through strengthened families, resilient communities, and innovations that bring healing and hope.

Thanksgiving also unites the Church, encouraging believers to gather in worship and build each other's faith. St. Paul teaches that everything we do should be offered with gratitude to God (Colossians 3:16-17). Thus, in our modern context, praise and thanksgiving remain vital disciplines, grounding us in God's enduring grace and pointing us toward hope in Christ.

- Dr. Jafrey Daniel James D.

Hearts that Praise God

People praise God for several reasons. They thank Him for giving a wonderful life, good health, and abundant blessings. They also show respect for his power, wisdom, and love. In hard times, praising God becomes an antidote to anxiety and increases hope. It is a way to stay close and connected to God. Praising him is also part of worship, which makes the heart feel stronger and increases faith. When people join in praising God together, it brings unity and a sense of belonging. In short, praising God is a way of expressing our gratitude, thanking him, trusting him, and staying connected to him.

- **Mrs. J. Joan Sweetlin**

We Praise God because He is worthy, it's our purpose, it brings us close to Him, and it changes us.

1. God is worthy of praise: *"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; His greatness is unsearchable"* (Psalm 145:3). Praise is the natural response to God's holiness, power, and love.

2. We are created to glorify Him *"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."* (Psalm 150:6). Praise is part of our purpose as His creation.

3. Praise draws us closer to Him. *"God inhabits the praises of His people"* (Psalm 22:3). Worship is not just words, but a way to experience His presence.

- **Mrs. Blessy Sam**

As Psalm 150:6 says

"Let everything that hath breath Praise the lord".

- * We praise God as He is our creator.
- * Praising God brings us closer to Him.
- * We praise God for His goodness and blessings.
- * Praising God strengthens and builds Faith.
- * We praise God as He is worthy of honour.
- * It strengthens our relationship with God.
- * We praise Him for his daily provisions, forgiveness and guidance.
- * He is a protector and deliverer.
- * Praising God brings Joy and Peace.

- **Mrs. Priya Alex**

We praise God because He's been good to us. It's how we show love and gratitude. I'm thankful for life, peace, and the people who stand by me.
– **Mr. Sam Alwyn Singh**

Praising God definitely brings forth a reprieve from problems. The results of praising God - we get our eyes off the circumstance, God gets His eye on the circumstance, the devil gets his hand off the circumstance and stands confused. Praising God strengthens us in God and helps us realize His might.
– **Mrs. Malathy Anand**

My Favourite chorus or song

"He's able, He's able,
I know my God is able,
I know my lord is able
To carry me through."

This chorus emphasizes unwavering faith and trust in God's infinite power to solve any problem, overcome any challenge. It reminds me of God's strength and faithfulness, fills me with hope knowing that no matter what I face the lord is always able to carry me through.
– **Mrs. Priya Alex**

The song 'Altar' by Forrest Frank. It just sounds different, simple, heartfelt, and it reminds me to bring everything back to God.
– **Mr. Sam Alwyn Singh**

"Maaridaa Em Ma Naesarae" is truly my favourite song for all time. It's God's love song for me; that's how I have knit the lyrics in my heart. Deep down, we all need someone who is constant in a world full of variables. This song makes me feel the power of God's love - the true love, the forgiving love, the consistent love, and the love that surpasses all understanding. I pray and hope everybody in this world would understand the Power and Love of God.
– **Mrs. Susan Stanley**

My favourite song is 'Count Your Blessings'. Right from childhood days, I was enchanted by the melody of the song though I knew nothing about the meaning and content then. As I grew up, I came to understand what it really means. We face a lot of challenges in life and when we are in desperate

situations, this song gives us comfort and strength. It reminds us to focus on the positive aspects of our life. It fills me with hope, comfort and joy.

The words, "So amid the conflict whether great or small, do not be disheartened, God is over all" fill me with joy, peace and hope. The lyrics give me a sense of why we should count the blessings He gives us day in and day out. When I am in a perplexed state of mind, just humming this delightful melody fills me with a sense of gratitude and brings peace.

– Mr. Renato Grendik

Praise and Worship in Scripture and in Churches Today

When we think of worship the first thing that comes to our mind is singing and music. Perhaps a worship leader with a microphone leading a congregation, with an entourage of musicians. But The first time the word worship occurs in the Bible is in Genesis 22:5. When Abraham was taking Isaac to Mount Moriah, they were definitely not going to sing or dance on the mountain. There was no choir and no music. Abraham was about to sacrifice the joy of his life - his one and only son Isaac on the altar. To God this was the highest form of worship. Abraham proved his loyalty to God through implicit obedience.

I believe this is the true essence of worshipping God. To surrender and sacrifice our desires, plans and our will, to obey the voice of God. As Jesus later says to the Samaritan woman, *"Yet a time is coming and has now come when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks"* (John 4:23).

While singing and making music to God can definitely help us feel the presence of God, they should not and cannot replace a life of obedience and total surrender to God.

- Mrs. Johannah Abishek

In scripture, praise and thanksgiving were raw and real people just poured their hearts out. Today, it's more structured, but the heart behind it is still the same.

– Mr. Sam Alwyn Singh

(Compiled by Mrs. Malathy Anand)

Why I Praise and Thank God Junior Church

Why I Praise God - Primary Section

I praise you God – for You have made me, You have given me food, You have made me a good girl, You have made my family and You always love me and care for me even if I do wrong.

- **Juel Nazarene Joshua**

God you are very powerful. Thank you for healing me.

- **Jeevan**

To thank you for loving us, helping us and giving us good things.

- **Adriel Ben**

God gives us food that's yummy to eat,

Fruits and veggies, oh! What a treat!

He helps us grow both strong and tall,

Thank you God, you love us all!

- **Evanya Sester**

Juniors

God made the world, God made the light, God made the food to eat, God made humans, God is my Saviour. We are the kids of God. So we praise God.

- **J. Johan Diego**

Making me walk in the good path of light, forgiving us our sins, helping to live a holy life with the Lord our God - **J. Juwan**

For giving life to us. His Son came down to our level and died on the cross for us.

- **John Barnabas**

He is our Saviour, He cares for us and He is the one and only God.

- **David**

We are led in the right path, we know to differentiate the truth from lies, and what is correct and what is wrong.

- **S. Sherwin Abraham**

For many things – family, friends, school, church, teachers etc.
when we praise God every day, he gives us what we need.

- Sarah

For our parents, friends and our relatives. When we praise
God, He gives us what we need. So our parents always tell us
to praise the Lord.

- Gisha

He only made us. Every day He is with us. He knows what we
will do next.

- A. Jerin Josh

He died for us. He created us and He is the holy spirit. We
must praise God at all times since He is the Saviour who saved
us from sin. (Psalm 139 : 14)

- Iwan Rico Sester . J

He was the One who made us and the One who takes us to
heaven. He makes us do good things and saves us from sins.
So we call Him Saviour.

- Jeremy Simeon

What I am thankful for - Inters

The things that I am thankful – God saying that I should wait
with patience and trust and He will help me one day.

- Sambhranjeet Ker

I am thankful for my life, family, friends. I am thankful for
being able to know and obey God.

- A.S.Netanya

I am thankful for my family. I am specially thankful to God for
giving me good friends.

- Danita

For making me, my family and all the things He has given me.

– Ana Fedora Mathuram

I am thankful to God for giving me a great family and wonderful
friends. I am thankful to Him for being in my life.

- Christina Renee

My Favourite Chorus or Song - Seniors

‘God will make a way’. It teaches us that God will come with
us everywhere.

– P.Joshua Mathuram

'Way Maker' because it has a wonderful lyrics. It goes like this – "Way maker, miracle maker, promise keeper, light in the darkness ... "So, it really encourages us during tough times. The music is good as well. **- Johanan Eric Mathuram**

'God is good all the time' – I love this song because it says that God is good, kind and loving to us all the time.

My Lighthouse – I love this song as God says that He will keep us safe and carry us to our destination safely and so I will continuously follow Him. **- A. Joyce Shalva Catherine**

'Your way's better' – because it helps to keep myself happy when I'm down and it is a joyful song. – **S. Shawn Lenarial**

'Jesus the Rock' – I like the song because in real life too He is my rock and my cornerstone. I don't have a backbone instead I have Jesus by my side.

'My God has a Great Big Heart' – In real life too my God has a great big heart. He knows me and loves me since before the world began. Before even seeing me, He started to accept me and love me. **- Chrissida**

'Jesus the Rock and He is my cornerstone' – I love this song because the lyrics are true.

'This is the day' – I love this song because it is like rejoicing in the Lord for giving us another day. **- G. Prenita**

Praise the Lord – As long as I am breathing I have a reason to praise the Lord. **- A. Cyril Josh**

Compiled by Mr. J. Kishore David

True Worship: All that I am, responding to all that He is, in gratitude and praise. –Adrian Rogers

"Careful for nothing, prayerful for everything, thankful for anything."- D. L. Moody.

Always, in Everything, in All Circumstances

Praise and thanksgiving are the duties of Christians. God expects these two things from us. When we praise God, we are fulfilling the purpose of creation.

“Praise’ and ‘Thanksgiving’ go together. Praise is worshiping God for who He is and thanksgiving is expressing gratitude to God for all He has done and all He has given us.

1. Praise:

- a) Definition:** The Hebrew root word for praise means to shine, to boast, to celebrate, and it is the root of the word Hallelujah. It also means extended hand, to throw out the hand, and lifting God up. Another definition by Daniel Forster is, to sing, to tell of, to give, or to confess and in simpler terms, to be thankful for God’s blessings, to declare that good news to God and to others, and to proclaim the glory of God. Topical Encyclopaedia says, praising God is the act of expressing admiration, gratitude, and reverence towards God.
- b) Biblical Context:** God is enthroned on the praises of Israel (Psalm 22:3, NKJV). All the Old Testament sacrifices are abolished except the sacrifice of praise. The Bible says, “...let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips” (Hebrews 13:15). Dr. Joseph R. Nally, Jr., says, there are seven types of praising, and they are, giving thanks, raising hands, kneeling, singing with instruments, shouting praises, and singing spontaneous songs. King David was praising God in every situation. When he was driven away by Abimelech, he sang, “*I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips*” (Psalm 34:1). Job praised God, even when he lost his children and all his belongings. (Job 1:21). Daniel prayed and gave thanks to God, just as he had done before, even when he learned that a decree to trap him had been published by the king (Daniel 6:10).

- c) **Benefit:** Praise has more power. Praise gives victory and deliverance from afflictions and bondages. When the people of Judah began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. (2 Chro. 20:22). When Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God, the prison doors were opened, and everyone's bands were loosed. (Acts 16:25-26, KJV).

1. Thanksgiving:

- a) **Definition:** Thanksgiving means, expression of gratitude or appreciation to God. According to Topical Encyclopaedia, "Thanksgiving refers to the act of expressing gratitude to God for His blessings, provision, and grace. In the Old Testament, thanksgiving is often associated with offerings and sacrifices. In the New Testament, thanksgiving is a recurring theme in the teachings of Jesus and the writings of the apostles."
- b) **Biblical context:** Apostle Paul insists, "*in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*" (Phil.4:6) and "*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*" (Col.4:2). God expects hearts of gratitude. When Jesus healed ten lepers, only one among them came back, praising God in a loud voice. Jesus asked him, "*Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?*" (Luke 17:15-18). The Bible scholar Chuck Smith says, "The leper received more than just the healing of his leprosy. He received salvation."

The Bible says, "*give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*" (1 Thes. 5:18) and "*always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (Eph. 5:20). The Bible says, "*all things work together for good*" (Romans 8:28). So, whatever things happen in our lives, all are according to God's will. Nothing will happen in our lives without the knowledge of God (Job 1:12; 2:6; Luke 22:31; Matthew 10:29-31). By giving thanks for

every good and bad thing, we are acknowledging or accepting God's will in our lives. A godly man says, thanksgiving is not only a response to God's actions but also a reflection of a heart aligned with His will.

- c) **Benefit:** Jesus took the five loaves and gave thanks even before the miracle took place. (John 6:11). Because of this, the loaves were multiplied and there was a great blessing for all. Daniel prayed and gave thanks to God, just as he had done before, even when he learned that a decree to trap him had been published by the king. (Daniel 6:10). God rescued Daniel from that trap.

David says, *"What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord"* (Psalm 116:12-13). Godly man Matthew Henry states the meaning of gratitude as, "God, having bestowed so many benefits upon me, whatever cup he shall put into my hands I will readily take it, and not dispute it; welcome his holy will."

The Bible says, *"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord"* (Psalm 150:6). Amen.

- Mr. Joshua Kamalanathan

We Praise You Lord

St. John's Youth Fellowship

I come before you with a grateful heart, overflowing with thankfulness for the blessings you've bestowed upon me. Thank you for the gift of creativity and talent. May I continue to nurture and develop my skills, using them to bring joy and inspiration to others.

I'm grateful for the love and support of my family. Thank you for keeping me safe, guiding me, and providing for me. May our bond grow stronger with each passing day.

Thank you for providing for my needs and giving me the means to support myself and my loved ones. May I be a good steward of the resources you've entrusted to me. I'm thankful

for the chance to work and contribute to society. May my work bring value to others and fulfilment to myself.

Thank you for the big and small blessings in my life. For the roof over my head, the food on my table, the friends who care for me, and the opportunities that lie ahead. May I always remember to be thankful and gracious.

I offer my sincerest gratitude for all that you've given me. May my heart remain filled with thankfulness, and may my life be a reflection of your love and kindness. – **Jennilda**

“When we offer praise and thanksgiving, our faith grows stronger. As soon as we pray, we should praise God with confidence, believing that He has heard our prayers. This praise shows how close we are to God and how much we trust Him.” – **H. Christa Miracline**

Praise and thanksgiving remind us that our strength and success come from God alone. The Bible says, *“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18).s

In my own research journey, I experienced this truth. Like Peter, who tried all night to catch fish but failed until he obeyed Jesus, I too tried many approaches in my work but kept failing. When I finally prayed and sought God's guidance, He showed me the way, and the idea worked. That led to the publication of our paper in a high-impact journal.

I am thankful for how God has guided me turning my struggles into a testimony of His faithfulness.

– **Gifta Evangeline**

St. John's: A Foundation of Praise

Growing up at St. John's, I was surrounded by a spirit of praise and thanksgiving that shaped not just my Sundays, but my heart and faith. Worship was never just a routine — it was alive, joyful, and deeply rooted in our church.

As a kid, I still remember Nishal Anna and Lappy Anna setting the rhythm with their guitars and drums, bringing the church alive in praise. Paul Anna leading the teen choir with

his heart, Carol Akka patiently teaching the Sunday school kids to sing their little praises, and Marwyn Anna's ever-cheerful "Good morning, church" that felt like a hug in words.

I think of Thilak uncle's family bringing back the beauty of old hymns, Ravi Stephen uncle passionately singing his favourites, Master Edwin tirelessly conducting the church choir, Shantha aunty and all of us kids shouting out worship songs in the foyer like it was the most natural thing in the world. And of course, Col. Paul uncle's voice — always the loudest, always full of conviction. The youth choir, no matter how last-minute, always found a way to bring it all together in harmony.

Those moments weren't just music — they were ministry. They taught me that praise is more than a song; it's a posture of the heart. And in every season, with every generation, God is worthy of it.

St. John's wasn't just the place I went to church. It was where I discovered what it means to live as the church. It taught me how to praise God not only in the high moments but also at the lowest. It taught me to thank him not just for the big blessings, but for the small ones too — the people, the moments, the memories.

Through every note sung, every story told, every hand held — St. John's helped build my foundation of faith. It reminded me that there is always something to praise God for, and always something to thank him for. And for that, I will always be grateful.

- **Ms. Dhiya Deepak**

The Habit of Praise and Thanksgiving

Habits shape the way we live. Just as brushing our teeth keeps our **mouths** clean, the habit of Praise and Thanksgiving keeps our hearts clean and close to God. Yet a common question arises: If praise and thanksgiving are supposed to come from the heart, why should we **practise** them? Doesn't practice make it fake?

When children are taught to say "Thank you," at first it may feel like mere words, but gradually they learn genuine gratitude. Just like practising kindness or forgiveness,

practising praise and thanksgiving doesn't make it fake—it makes it real.

The Bible reminds us, *"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Some days gratitude flows easily, other days we're discouraged or tired. On those days, practice keeps us anchored. By deliberately giving thanks, even when our feelings are weak, we gently remind our souls of God's truth. Over time, this habit transforms us.

How to practise praise and thanksgiving:

Start the Day with Gratitude: Don't wait for big breakthroughs to be thankful. Each morning, begin by thanking God for at least three blessings your life, your health, your family, or simply the gift of a new day. These small acts of gratitude set the tone for a joyful heart.

See God in Everyday Moments: A flower blooming in the garden, the beauty of a sunset, or the song of a bird all these can become moments of worship. Let creation lead you to the Creator.

Reflect Compliments Back to God: When others compliment your talent, wisdom, or character, let it become a moment of worship. Say "Praise be to God, for He is the one who gave me this gift." As James reminds us: *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights"* (James 1:17).

Turn Complaints into Praise: This does not mean thanking God for every problem, but thanking Him in every situation. We can rest in the truth that He is with us, and He has the power to turn even challenges into blessings.

Over time, the habit of praise and thanksgiving changes us:

- Worry is replaced with peace.
- Joy replaces complaining.
- Our eyes are opened to see God's hand in everything.

That is why Paul writes, *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice"* (Philippians 4:4). **- Mr. Samuel Finney**

My Testimony

I'd like to share a testimony from my time in college, when I was pursuing engineering at VIT University. In my first year, God opened the door for me to join the college UESI prayer fellowship, which was led by a senior who was about to graduate. God spoke to me through that fellowship personally and placed a burden on my heart to lead that student prayer cell. I had never led a Bible study or counselled students, but God gave me the courage to say "Yes."

With the faith God gave me and the training I received at UESI camps, I began leading the student fellowship at a church near the campus, which was mostly attended by believers. Each week God gave me a portion of Scripture to meditate on and wisdom to share it with the students. A year later, He laid a fresh burden on my heart to begin a fellowship inside the VIT Boys' Hostel specifically for non-believers. I knew this would not be easy, but I trusted God to lead me.

While I was praying and preparing, I received a call from the UESI office in Trichy about a boy at VIT who had contacted them asking if there were any fellowships for hostel students. He came from a different faith but was eager to know more about Jesus. With the support of a Christian professor, I started a prayer cell inside the hostel and invited him to join. Over time, the fellowship began to grow.

The boy attended regularly, and his faith journey became a great encouragement to me during my own ups and downs as a student. After a year, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. The joy I felt that day was unlike anything I had experienced before. He also became a witness for Christ among his family and community.

Looking back, I know I did nothing to deserve such a privilege. It was entirely God's faithfulness that carried me through my student ministry. If He could use someone like me, He can use you too when you surrender to Him. All glory to my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

***-Mr. Shelton Abraham Ruben
(Compiled by Mrs. Rose Jasper)***

Word Search

Giving Thanks

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4

The puzzle is based on Psalm 100



C T Y A E E G G E F W S O Z D
W Q K V B O F H A N E N V G S
Y Q O X Q Y P O G T D A G C F
W L K Z R S N W R O E U R J U
V O S O N G S Q V E T S R T W
O U R F E I X E U U V H N E H
Y O T S D J C H O K F E N B S
A T E T H J R H O J O Y R H W
Y R G F N I S O E B J Y H Z E
Z L O N R O P S E Q S M X I N
G L A D N E S S F S H L N A T
X A T W C L I P A S T U R E E
Q U U H Q A G F C H N Y L R R
D A P I R H M V I Q S H E E P
X N N P G O H H Z T H A N K S

WORSHIP	EARTH	JOY	LOVE	ENTER
ENDURES	FOREVER	SHEEP	THANKS	SHOUT
SONGS	PASTURE	GLADNESS	GATES	PRAISE

Bible Quiz on Praise and Thanksgiving

I. Give short answers:

Marks:20

1. Where do we find the word "Praise" first in The Bible?
2. Name any 5 women who offered their praises to God in The Bible.
3. Name any 5 prophets who have offered their praises unto God in The Bible.
4. Whose prayer of Thanksgiving unto God was rejected?
5. Which Psalms are often read at the time of Thanksgiving?

II. Match the Following:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 6. Miriam | - Firstborn |
| 7. King David | - Burnt Offerings |
| 8. Abel | - Tambourine |
| 9. Noah | - A declaration |
| 10. Habakkuk | - Psalms |

III. Who said the following?

11. *"Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord".*
12. *"Praise ye the Lord for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves".*
13. *"And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small".*
14. *"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation".*
15. *"Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever".*

IV. Mention any 2 occasions -

16. when the disciples gave thanks
17. when Jesus gave thanks to God
18. When Thanksgiving is mentioned in the Book of Revelation
19. of Thanksgiving celebrations in The Bible
20. when children were praising God.

Note: 1. Kindly use KJV Bible 2. Kindly hand over hand-written answers to Mrs. Lalitha Peniel or send the answers on WhatsApp to 96292 22200 3. The last date for receiving the answers is 15.10.2025 4. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the year.

Answers to The Bible Quiz on Understanding Christian Education:

1. Nicodemus & Mary Magdalene 2. Jesus spoke in parables – a. in fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 6: 9-10) b. the parables he used were familiar with everyday situations and objects to illustrate abstract concepts of the kingdom of God, drawing the attention of the people into a deeper consideration of the message. 3. i. Paul distinguished between the baptism of John the Baptist and the baptism in the name of Jesus ii. Later in the same chapter, the riot in Ephesus, opposing Paul's arguments that were focused on the kingdom of God.

4. As they were trying to follow the Law of Moses, despite having begun their Christian walk by faith in Jesus Christ. 5. Unlike the Thessalonians (who stirred up persecution against Paul and his companions), the Bereans received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. 6. The Good Teacher 7. Prophet Isaias 8. 13 Epistles 9. False Teacher 10. A Jewish Teacher 11. Paul to Timothy 12. The Jews to Paul 13. Ethiopian Eunuch to Philip 14. Paul to men, brethren and fathers in Jerusalem 15. Lord Jesus to Mary & Joseph 16. True 17. False 18. True 19. True 20. False

Answers to The Bible Quiz on Christian Education were received from:

1. Mrs. Ruth Backiaraj 2. Mrs. Monica Reid 3. Mr. Charles Chelladurai 4. Mr. Abraham Isaac Mohan Raj 5. Mrs. Malathy Anand 6. Mrs. Herlin Star 7. Mrs. Grace Ravikumar 8. Mr. M. Samuel 9. Mrs. Sumathi Valentine 10. Mrs. Susan Samuel 11. Dr. Jafrey Daniel James D 12. Mrs. Felicia Amirtharaj 13. Mrs. Vimala Paul Viswasaraj

He Gave Thanks!

".. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he (Jesus) gave thanks ..." (Matthew 14:19, Mark 6:17, Luke 9:16).

"Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks ..." (John 6:11a)

This was a public miracle, not a private one, a mega event witnessed by the dozen or more trainee disciples and the 5k multitude. The only miracle recorded in all four gospels.

Imagine the same crowd with smartphones, WiFi, and social media. The event would have gone viral, triggering likes, claps and shares. The little boy would have been the hero.

There's no mention of the boy getting patted on the back for giving his lunch away. Are we miffed when, what we think is "our" contribution for the Lord's kingdom, is not recognized or appreciated?

At the 'Last Supper', "After taking the cup, Jesus gave thanks and said, *"Take this and divide it among you ..."* (Luke 22:17). *"And he took the bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them ..."* (verse 19). Jesus knew that agony and death awaited him but he didn't fail to sing a hymn or give thanks to the Father.

Back in Exodus days, the Israelites grumbled and complained even after manna rained from heaven. As we often do with inconveniences, delays, denials or even monotony in our lives.

Our Lord Jesus taught much by what he did. He prayed much. He obeyed the Father. He washed His disciples' feet.

He wouldn't command stones to be turned to bread when He was hungry. Every miracle fulfilled another's need. He was concerned about the hungry, the grieving and the sinful who needed a Saviour.

And in everything, He gave thanks to the Father!

- Mrs. Devina Albert

*You are my God, and I will give you thanks;
You are my God, and I will exalt you.” - Psalm 118:28*

Jubilaté

Birthdays - October

- 1 Mrs. Damayanthi Kanagaraj
Mr. Jeffrey Anurag Modak
Dr. Mercy Bernard
- 2 Mr. G. Athisayam Samuel
Gnanadoss
Mrs. Priya William
Mr. T. Gnanasekaran
Mr. Daniel
Mr. Benjamin Sampath
Ms. Agnes Amirtha
Dr. Marcus Deepan
Boominathan
- 3 Mr. Gerard C. V. Diamond
Er. Nishal John Vethanayagam
Mr. Vijay Dhanaraj
Mr. John Winston Reid
Mr. S. Amrit Sagar
Mr. Jasan Samuel
- 4 Mr. Charles Peniel
Mr. Anthony Avinash Noel
Mrs. Linda Nesamani
Mrs. V. Theresa Christopher
- 5 Dr. Joshua Jasper
Mrs. Ida Priyadharshini
Dr. Victoria Jeremiah
Ms. Olympia Shilpa Gerald
Mr. John Samuel
Mr. Sunand Mathai
- 6 Mrs. Rani Andrew
Mrs. Esther Joy Andrew
- 7 Mr. T. Anand Divakaran
Ms. H. Christa Miracline
Mr. Leo Robert
Mr. S. Kirubakaran Mathuram
Mr. Peter Pradeep Stephen
Ms. Helena Hamshini
Mr. R. Sudhakar Devanesan
- 8 Mr. Benjamin Houlder
Mrs. Christina Yoganth
Mrs. Rani Anand

- Mrs. Pauline Rupa
- 9 Mrs. Sashi Ruben
Mrs. Cinthia Paulraj
- 10 Mrs. Deepa Elizabeth
Mr. S. R. Binu kumar
Mrs. Hannah Divya
Mrs. Priya Ernest
Mr. Charles Sundaram
- 11 Mrs. Manjula Mohandoss
Mrs. Ida Gnanaraj
Ms. Devina Parker
Mrs. Jenifer Paul
Jaden Timothy Samuel
- 12 Mr. S. Immanuel Suresh
Kumar
Mr. S.T. Jeyarajah
Dr. S. Sundar Manoharan
Mrs. Grace Soulwin
Mr. Herbert Balachandran
Mr. S. Paul Viswasaraj
Ms. Vimala
Ms. Samentha Ruth
Seelam
- 13 Ms. Nadia Caroline
Dr. Catharin Kayalvizhi
Mrs. Sheryl Weston
Er. B. Stephen
- 14 Mr. T. Gunaseelan
Mr. Earnest Ravi. S
Mr. T. Daniel Moses
- 15 Ms. Diana Sheryn
Dr. Joseph Devadason
Rev. A. Suresh Kumar
- 16 Mrs. Belinda Houlder
Mr. Alex Ruben
Mr. J. Jonathan
Mrs. Sheela Justin
Vijayakumar
Mrs. Yvette O’ Dath
- 17 Mr. John Caleb

Mrs. Lizzy Chris
 Mast. Samuel Herbert
 Mr. N. Vinoth kumar
 18 Dr. Joe Premkumar Raj
 Mr. D. Ponjeya
 19 Ms. Sherine Jenifer
 Harvey
 Ms. Joanna Christine
 Mrs. Mercy David
 Dr. Tovia Stephen
 Mrs. R. Shiny
 20 Mast. A. I. Theoben
 Dr. G. Jos Jasper
 Mrs. Chrysenta Vijay
 Ms. J. Neya
 Mr. Nithin David
 Mrs. Kamini Prabahar
 Mrs. Susanna Jeniffer
 21 Mr. Steve Silus Reid
 Mrs. Beula Moses
 Mr. N. Jayagopal
 Mrs. D. Reeta Mohana
 Vadivu
 Mas. Adam Benedict
 Abraham
 22 Ms. C. Shobana
 Mr. S. Shawn Lenariel.
 Mrs. J. Angelin
 Jeevakarunya
 23 Dr. E. C. Henry Amirtharaj
 Dr. J. Ebenezer
 Mrs. Vimala
 24 Mrs. B. Deepika Sharon
 Mrs. Agnitta Michelle
 Singh
 Mr. Justin
 Ms. Evanya Valentina
 Sester

25 Baby. C. Glyston Zane
 Ms. Chrizzy Chris
 Baby. Grace
 Ms. Felishia Enceitta
 26 Mr. G. Jefferson Bernard
 Mr. M. Isaac Samuel
 27 Mrs. Ruth Quinn
 Mr. D. Gnanasekar
 Vasantharaj
 28 Mr. Clifford Paul
 Mrs. Hannah Gnana
 Shobana
 29 Mrs. N. Sajane Morrison
 Mrs. Sarah Herbert
 Dr. Vandana Palanivelu
 Dr. John Robinson
 Mrs. Annie Lydia Paul
 Mr. Anand
 30 Mrs. Brenda Sridhar
 Mrs. Joannah Abishek
 Mr. Simeon William
 Mast. R. Elwin Jebaseelan
 31 Ms. Sharon Priya
 Ms. G.K. Ida Ruth
 Mr. Robert Foncecca

Wedding Anniversary – October

1 Gp. Capt. Clement &
 Mrs. Jemimah
 Dr. Roopkumar & Mrs. Beulah
 2 Mr. Haniel &
 Mrs. Linda Nesamani
 5 Rev. Lorens Joseph &
 Mrs. Stella Kanthimathi
 9 Mr. B. Benjamin Sampath &
 Mrs. B. Abirami
 10 Mr. John Wesley &
 Mrs. Pamela Wesley
 11 Mr. Immanuel Sugumar &
 Mrs. Delilah
 Mr. C. Franklin Paul &

Mrs. S. Vijayalalitha
 12 Mr. Steve Silus Reid &
 Mrs. Juanita Reid
 13 Dr. D. Jubilee & Mrs. A.
 Shanthi
 17 Mr. Ravi Jonathan Dhanraj &
 Mrs. Pamila
 Mr. L. Bobby Pravin &
 Mrs. S. Vanitha
 18 Mr. Raj Thilak &
 Mrs. Vanitha Margret
 20 Mrs. Paul Samson &
 Mrs. Shiny Kiruba
 23 Mr. Remigius Dominic
 McCrahan & Mrs. Alita
 Charlotte
 26 Mr. Jacob Rajeswaran &
 Mrs. Punitha Jacob
 27 Mr. Jibu Jacob John &
 Mrs. Reetu Rachel Vaghese
 Mr. Charles Ekka &
 Dr. Snehalatha Ekka
 31 Mr. Deepchand &
 Mrs. Lydia Deepchand

Birthdays - November

1 Mr. Donavin Faron Bronkhurst
 Mrs. P. Shamlin Esther Selin
 Mrs. E. Prathibha Vinoharan
 Mr. M. Samuel
 2 Mrs. Jansy Vincent
 Mrs. Edna Chandran
 Mrs. Diana Priyadharshini
 Mr. Job Martin Durai
 3 Mrs. Smita Vijay
 4 Rev. Ravikumar V. E.
 Mrs. Kamalam Appadurai
 Mrs. Dolly Felecea
 Mrs. S. Vanitha Bobby
 5 Ms. Andrea Doss
 Mrs. Cynthea Peter
 Mrs. Hannah Suganthi
 Mr. Simeon Y.E.
 6 Mrs. Muriel Reid
 7 Dr. Deena Sangeetha

Rev. J. Unicy Arivolivu
 Mr. Siddharth David
 Mr. D. Karunakar
 Dr. David Varghese
 8 Ms. K. Hannah Miraculine
 Mrs. B. Mary
 Mr. Rajkumar
 Ms. S. Prathana Miraclyn
 9 Mr. S. Alwyn
 Mr. A. Samuel Giftson Durai
 10 Mrs. Shanthini Kirubakaran
 Mrs. Malathi Dhanaraj
 11 Mr. Paul Christo Raj
 Mr. Davis Christle Raj
 Baby. Jairus Jeric Samson
 Mr. Anand David
 12 Mr. Samuel Prabagar
 Dr. Shibu Varkey
 Ms. Shruti Caterina
 Mrs. A. Mercy Suresh
 13 Ms. Shanthi Mary
 Mr. A. Xavier Kennedy
 14 Dr. S. John Arul Jothi
 Mrs. D. Ruth
 Mrs. Reetu Rachel Varghese
 Mrs. B. Bharathi Theophilus
 Mr. M. O. Mathew
 Ms. J. Shanwon Calista
 15 Mrs. Yolanda Wemyss
 Mast. Alwin Joshua R.
 Ms. Michelle Clifton
 16 Dr. D.E. Bennet
 Mrs. Jemimah Clement
 Ms. P. Jenifer Jasmine Mary
 Dr. B. Janet
 Mr. G. Ernest Raj
 Mr. C. Samuel Jeffry
 Mr. Dhanabala Singam
 Mr. B. Karunakaran
 17 Mr. Remigius Dominic
 McCrahan
 Mr. J. S. Mohan Kumar

Mr. Ebanuel Anbu
 18 Ms. Jebisa Blessy
 Ms. Feby Brigitta
 Mr. Sam Riddh Mahim Tigga
 19 Ms. Chantelle Lydia Reid
 Mr. Christopher Foncela
 Mrs. Anita Rajasekar
 Dr. Sherene Paul
 Mr. Gnana. Gladstone
 Ms. Abigail Christina
 Baby. Adeline Keziah
 Mr. C. Justeen Deepak
 20 Mr. Elvis Wemyss
 Mr. J. Julian Abraham
 Mrs. P. Karen Praiselin
 Mr. Reuben Jacob
 Baby. Tomas Antony
 Mrs. Scinthea Anne
 Mr. Shawn Michael
 21 Dr. Jayanthi Peter
 Mrs. Premila Michael
 Mr. Stanley Ananth
 Ms. Eva Arumainayagam
 22 Mrs. Gracia Jebaraj
 Mr. M. Chris Rohan
 Mr. Kevin Gnanaraj
 Mr. Peter Daniel
 Mrs. Sheiba Mathuram
 Mrs. Mary Samuel
 Mrs. Rajammal Ranjitha Mary
 23 Mr. V. Stanely
 Mrs. G. Shanthi
 Mr. Vimalan Rajkumar
 24 Mr. M. Bensen Suraj
 Mr. M. Nitin Joshua
 Mr. Joshua Joel Charles
 Ms. Keren Arunothayam
 25 Mrs. Joy Britty Shaline
 Baby. Ruhika
 Mrs. Jasmine Beulah
 26 Mrs. S. Portia Sylvina
 Rev. Richard Reid
 Mrs. D. Bernice Samina
 Mr. P. Diel Devathayavu

Mrs. Winsom Reid
 27 Mrs. Vanaja Mohan
 Dr. Kavitha
 Dr. Varuna
 Dr. Mrs. D. Kirubai Nimalan
 28 Dr. U. Santo Grace
 Mrs. Shiny Kirupa
 Ms. P.S. Johanna Baptista
 Mrs. P. Vimala Kirubaharan
 29 Dr. Arun Immanuel Muthiah
 Mrs. Brownie Janet
 30 Mrs. Susan Samuel
 Dr. Sharmili Priscilla
 Mathuram
 31 Mrs. Sharon Oliver
Wedding Anniversary – November
 6 Mr. Christopher Thomas &
 Mrs. Lizzy Chris
 7 Dr. E. Andrew Santhosh &
 Dr. Edwina Vasantha
 Mr. Errol Augustus &
 Mrs. Blanche Augustus
 8 Mr. Joshua Pradeep &
 Mrs. Annette Ruth
 11 Mr. Indrajethkar &
 Mrs. Suchismita Panda
 Mr. Isaac Abraham
 Mrs. Sherry Abraham
 16 Mr. A. Sam Ebenezer Raj &
 Mrs. D. Blessy
 22 Mr. J. P. R. Tucker &
 Mrs. Doris Tucker
 Dr. J. Isaac Gnanaraj &
 Mrs. Baby Jebamalar
 23 Mr. V. Stanley &
 Mrs. S. Juhil Susanna
 Mr. K. Antony &
 Mrs. Irene Antony
 24 Mr. D. Ebenezer &
 Mrs. Nesam Kalai Selvi
 27 Mr. P. Sam Gnana Nimalan &
 Dr. Mrs. D. Kirubai
 29 Mr. G. Ernest Raj &
 Mrs. Shantha Ernest

Contact persons for Church Ministries

Presbyter Incharge	- Rev. A. Suresh Kumar – 94427 04254
Assistant Presbyter	- Rev. C. Jerin Sester – 96009 47250
Junior Church	- Mr. J. Kishore David – 94438 62979
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Youth Fellowship	- Rev. C. Jerin Sester – 96009 47250 Mrs. Rose Jasper - 97900 03368
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This newsletter is for us, members of the family of St. John's, to grow in the knowledge and love of our Lord and to inspire and encourage each other in our walk with Him.

We invite articles, poems and testimonies for our forthcoming issues. The deadline for contributions to the 'Advent and Christmas' special issue is 5-11-2025. For the January issue the theme is 'Peace' and the deadline for contributions is 5-12-2025. Hand-written copies of contributions (not exceeding 500 words) may be given to a member of the Editorial Board or emailed as an attachment in MS Word format to devinaalbert@yahoo.com. Please follow the guidelines and honour the deadline.

We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

For an online copy of this issue or all future issues of Johannine Communique, please send an email request to Dr. J. Isac Gnanaraj <ajisac@gmail.com>. Your id will not be shared with others. It will also be available on St. John's Cathedral website – Csistjohnstry.com

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THANKFULNESS FOR GOD'S PROVISION

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Give thanks in all circumstances
- Psalm 107:1 - Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good
- James 1:17 - Every good gift comes from above
- Philippians 4:6-7 - Present your requests to God with thanksgiving
- Psalm 100:4-5 - Enter His gates with thanksgiving
- Colossians 3:15-17 - Be thankful in all things
- Chronicles 16:34 - Give thanks for His steadfast love

PRAISE FOR GOD'S GREATNESS

- Psalm 150:1-6 - Let everything that has breath praise the Lord
- Psalm 145:1-7 - God's greatness and goodness
- Exodus 15:1-2 - The Lord is my strength and song
- Psalm 95:1-6 - Praise and worship the Lord
- Isaiah 25:1 - God's faithful and wonderful deeds
- 2 Samuel 22:50 - I will praise You among the nations
- Revelation 5:12-13 - Worthy is the Lamb to be praised

GRATITUDE IN TRIALS

- Romans 5:3-5 - Rejoice in suffering, producing endurance
- 1 Peter 1:6-7 - Rejoice through trials, faith refined by fire
- Habakkuk 3:17-19 - Rejoice in God even in lack
- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - God's grace is sufficient, even in weakness
- Job 1: 20-22 - Job's worship and praise amidst suffering
- Psalm 34:1-4 - Bless the Lord at all times
- James 1:2-4 - Consider it joy when you face trials

THANKSGIVING FOR SALVATION

- Ephesians 2:8-9 - By grace you are saved through faith
- Romans 6:23 - The gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus
- Titus 3:4-7 - Saved not by works, but by God's mercy
- 2 Corinthians 9:15 - Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift
- John 3:16 - God's love shown through the gift of His Son
- 1 Peter 2:9 - Called out of darkness into His marvelous light
- Psalm 103:1-5 - Praise the Lord for all His benefits

PRAISE AS A LIFESTYLE

- Hebrews 13:15 - Offer a sacrifice of praise to God
- Psalm 71:8 - My mouth is filled with Your praise all day long