

## Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices.  
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices.

Who, from our mother's arms, hath blest us on our way,  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us.

And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed.

And free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

Many churches will sing this hymn today, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This is such a robust hymn, sung with great vigor and sincerity.

Looking back at the author and his time, we find that Martin Rinckart (1586-1649) was a Lutheran pastor in Eilenburg, Germany, during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). Eilenburg became a refugee city, afflicted with famine, disease, and war. During the height of that plague, Rinckart conducted as many as 50 funerals a week.

He spent most of his resources helping other people. Somewhere around 1636 he wrote this poem for his family to sing as grace before eating, giving God thanks for the meager scraps of food that passed for a meal.

As we think about celebrating Thanksgiving, there may be pain felt as well: that loved one who isn't here this year; that one who received bad news recently. Then there is that one in the crowd who wants to proffer his political views, ready to pick a fight.

Let's remember all the ways God has blessed us in the past year: we live in a country where we can freely worship with fellow believers; loved by our heavenly Father; with the promise of eternal life through the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, taking our sins, our burdens, our sorrows. We have the Holy Spirit, always speaking to us, encouraging us, directing us ... if we listen and allow Him to guide us.

Read this text again with courage and conviction.

*Dr. Terry C. Terry, a Lifeway Worship retiree, is ever thankful for all God has done for him and his family, in the Nashville area.*

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THANKSGIVING

**Give thanks to the LORD;  
proclaim his name!  
Make his works known  
among the peoples.  
Declare that his name  
is exalted.**

ISAIAH 12:4 (CSB)



# **SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Rev. Michael Dickey**

**November 24, 2024**

**[www.sapponybaptist1773.org](http://www.sapponybaptist1773.org)**

**Invocation and welcome**

**Hymn No. 637 "Come, You Thankful People"**

**Hymn No. 644 "Count Your Blessings"**

**Missionary Prayer Calendar**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn No. 636 "We Gather Together"**

**Doxology**

**Scripture Revelation 1:4-8**

**Message Rev. Mike Dickey**

**"Who is to Come"**

**Hymn 311 "Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart"**

**Benediction**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Be in prayer for our sick and shut-ins as they are unable to be with us.**

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:** There will be no Wednesday Bible Study on November 27<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Eve), December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas), or January 1<sup>st</sup>. (New Year's Eve). We will meet as usual on December 4, 11 and 18.

**Items for West Virginia need to be at church by December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**We have an app for your smartphone, in the app store find "Our Church-By ChurchDev.com." When you open it, search for Sappony Baptist Church. There you will have access to our Sermons, daily devotions, and other content.**

**The annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be on Tuesday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Concord United Methodist Church. Pastor Mike will be bringing the message**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be on Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.**

**PRE-READ FOR NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 33:14-16**