



Doxology

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow
Praise Him all Creatures Here Below
Praise Him Above Ye Heavenly Host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

The doxology, meaning “words of glory”, is a hymn of praise to God. It begins with words that are familiar in many Anglican churches throughout the world: “Praise God from whom all blessings flow.”

These words form a thread of thanks for me throughout my life. They used to be the words always used at the Offertory in the church when I was growing up. They were often sung as the offering of the people had reached the high holy place of the altar. They were part of the Anglican theological understanding of what was happening at that moment. That all our lives as followers of Jesus were somehow swept up into those words. That time, talent, and treasure were moving toward the altar to be lifted up as a sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise. Those words have formed my understanding of what happens at St George’s as one of the priests gathers and offers the Prayer Over the Gifts. In our case, that offering consists of several items, including food for the breakfast program. All of that is drawn together and swept up into doxology, words of glory, a moment of praise and gratitude to God.

This word has been sitting with me in the life of our community since returning from holiday. Doxology has come to mean small moments of gratitude to God.

I have thought about this in relation to the restoration project. As the incredible work of restoration has unfolded, revealing several stories above where we gather for worship, I have been struck by the inspiring generosity of so many. I have had a myriad of conversations of doxology that often begin with an expression of gratitude for the way that our community touches lives. What has followed from individuals, families, businesses, and corporations has been doxology, a sacrificial or proportional gift. This momentum has brought us to where we are in the campaign, approximately \$130,000 away from paying this off.

I am reminded that the Apostle Paul says to be thankful in all circumstances, note it is not “for all circumstances, but in all circumstances. There is a significant difference. We live in increasingly anxious times. There is more isolation, dislocation, and disconnection. There is a politically charged climate on the world stage that impacts everyone. And yet we have the ability as followers of Jesus to practice doxology. To picture the moments of our lives as they unfold day by day, with the image of our gifts coming to the altar to be lifted up and offered to God, for whom we give thanks.



We may not be grateful for all the circumstances we are in, yet a moment of doxology is closer than the song of a bird high in the trees.

As I write this, our Community Dinner has not long passed by. At the dinner in September, when I walked in, volunteers wanted me to know right away that the recipe used for that evening was Ann Koppels. Ann, whose life we lifted up to God at a powerful memorial less than a week ago. In that gesture, I also saw doxology at play—a powerful moment of words of glory, praising God in gratitude for someone like Ann. Two of the guests at the dinner wrote a note thanking Ann for the delicious recipe and reflecting on her deep influence on their lives.

As Thanksgiving approaches once more this year, I have been reflecting on how doxology happens all around us all the time.

This Thanksgiving, I invite us to look for those moments and recognize doxology in our own lives. To be full of praise and thanksgiving for a gesture, or a beautiful comment that lifts our soul, for the gift of family and friendship, and for the surprising gesture of a child or grandchild that warms us from the inside. It is all of these moments I think of at the altar on Sunday when the Rectors gather all of the week in a moment of doxology to God as we “Praise God from whom all blessings flow.”

The Blessings of Thanksgiving, and may Doxology be with you all.

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