



## Ste-Genevieve United Church Thanksgiving Letter



October 9<sup>th</sup> 2022

*1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,  
2 To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:  
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.*

*3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,  
4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all  
God's people—<sup>5</sup> the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven  
and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has  
come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the  
whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly  
understood God's grace.*

Colossians 1:1:6

To the People of Ste-Genny's,

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, our traditional hymns call us to give thanks for the harvest. We give thanks for the abundance of food coming from the earth, the sea, the animals, and human labour.

This year, I feel called, like Paul before me, to give thanks for the harvest of the heart and for the fruits of the Spirit. Although the beginning of my journey with you made it difficult to get to know you quickly (with the pandemic and my maternity leave), the more I get to know you, the more blessed I feel to be serving God with you.

In 2022, I have celebrated the lives of many of Ste-Genny's saints who passed away within the last two years. As I am pondering the meaning of Thanksgiving for us this year, a funeral prayer is resonating in my heart: "We give you thanks for the life of this person and for all in them that was generous and kind." I do not want to wait for your funerals to tell you that I thank God every day for all in you that is generous and kind. I thank God for your spirit of community and the genuine love you show each other in how you care for each other and the community around you.

Happy Thanksgiving!

May God continue to bless you with abundant love!

Rev. Joëlle