

20th October 2024

Thanks

**“O Lord, that lends me life,
Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.”**

William Shakespeare, *Henry VI, Part II*

This is a special day in the life of our local churches, as it marks the final Sunday of two separate congregations, each with a long and distinguished history – Cockenzie Old, and Port Seton and Cockenzie Chalmers Memorial. Next Sunday will see a Union of the two congregations, and the birth of Cockenzie and Port Seton Parish Church of Scotland.

As a contribution to the final act of worship in Chalmers Memorial, my own worshipping community, I was asked to write a hymn, in which we could express our thanks for a century and more of worship and service. It was an honour to be trusted with this task, and I hope the hymn which we will sing together this morning will do the occasion justice. It's set to the tune *Woodlands*, and is entitled, "Give Thanks to God". And it's yours to use now, when you also have "a heart replete with thankfulness".

*Give thanks to God, with heart, and soul, and voice!
His Spirit calls, so let us all rejoice!
Let rafters ring with every joyful song,
as we proclaim a faith that's ever strong.*

*Give thanks to God, for worship in this place,
when lives were touched by God's abundant Grace;
for Scripture read, and stirring sermons given;
for prayers that joined us with the hosts of heaven.*

*Give thanks to God for gifts of bread and wine;
for Love that binds the human and divine;
for marriage vows, and babes with water blessed;
for special praise, and words of faith professed.*

*Give thanks to God for those who've served us here,
with Christ-like love through all their faithful years,
good, honest folk who've stood where we now stand,
who heard Christ's call and followed His command.*

*Give thanks to God, as we set forth like them,
to sing our faith with every glad "Amen!"
launching our craft to sail a different sea,
to trust in God for all that's yet to be.*

A prayer for today

Thanks for the past; strength for the present; trust for the future. This is my prayer. Amen

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