

November 18, 2018

Psalm 128

Just celebration service

There is much to celebrate

- 150 or so baskets
- Lots of people served
- Lots of people with food for Thanksgiving dinner

As the psalmist wrote:

“You worked hard and deserve all you’ve got coming.”

This is true for those who worked so hard to bring in the food and those who were the recipients

And, as the psalmist also wrote, I hope those who received food yesterday will

“Enjoy the blessing!”
and “Revel in the goodness!”

But, that is not all we celebrate today

I celebrate the unity in Christ our Thanksgiving Basket Project created:

- 4 other Tiverton churches took active part

I celebrate how our youth helped

- kind
- thoughtful
- energetic
- willing

The psalmist bears witness here, too:

“Your partner will bear children as a vine bears grapes, your household lush as a vineyard, The children around your table as fresh and promising as young olive shoots.”

Interesting also to note where the psalmist and our reality meet:

“Enjoy the good life in Jerusalem every day of your life.

And enjoy your grandchildren.”

Over half of the youth helping were brought there by their grandparents – they have much to celebrate and be proud of

Here is the true source of my wanting to only focus on Celebration:

“soli Deo Gloria” – to God alone the glory

All done following Jesus Christ command to
feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome
the stranger

What happened yesterday, and all the work
that led up to it, is a living example of the
psalmist's words:

“How happily you walk on God's smooth
straight road!”

Lots of people could take credit for the success
of this massive undertaking

Lots of people deserve credit

But, that is not what happened

What happened, whether they knew it or not,
whether they intended it or not (but I think
they did), is “solī Deo Gloria”

All the hard work was and is nothing more,
and nothing less, than Thanks-Giving

Thanks to God and to our neighbor, thanks to
the love and nurture of this particular faith
community, who helped their hearts to love

A “Thanks” grounded in “Giving” of
themselves, ultimately to the glory of God

So, for solī Deo Gloria, and all the other
above-mentioned reasons, today I rejoice
and celebrate, giving thanks for how
yesterday embodied Thanks-Giving.

Amen.