

## Worship Service

November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

<b>9:30 am</b>	Welcome & Opening Prayers
<b>10:00 am</b>	Sunday school: Divine Ownership (Special Study)
<b>10:40 am</b>	Praises & Worship
<b>10:55 am</b>	Congregational Hymns
<b>11:00 am</b>	Today's Message <b>Thanksgiving as a Christian Lifestyle</b>
<b>11:45 am</b>	Offering - Ushers <i>Offering Hymn</i>
<b>12:00 pm</b>	Closing Prayers & Benediction

## November Birthdays

Sister Owusu	Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>
Brother James	Nov 19 <sup>th</sup>
Sister Stella	Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>
Sister Josephine	Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>

## Message: Thanksgiving as a Christian Lifestyle

Luke 17:11-18

“Thank you” is a simple word, or so it appears. It is part of our everyday vocabulary; in fact we are supposed to say it as often as possible. But, wait, it is that simple to say thank you, is it that simple to be grateful? I often hear the question: why do I have to say thank you? Don't you think the word loses its value if I keep saying it? It is right to ask for a reason to be thankful. The question is do we have a reason to be thankful to our maker or not? Luke 17:11-18 records the story of Jesus cleansing ten lepers. Note that leprosy was regarded as a disease of shame, it was incurable, and it was seen as a punishment for sin and as such a mark of God's punishment. It was a disease that banished one from society and family, one that left the affected lonely and without help. The good thing is that Christ as the Savior of the world took notice of lepers and cleansed them of their infirmity (17:14). When the Savior healed these lepers only one out of the ten returned to give thanks (17:15). Shame, right! Well, that is what happens in everyday life, most of us commit the sin of ingratitude against God and neighbor. Like the nine lepers we aim for what we want, we ask for it but once we receive it we are on our way to enjoy what we have. Note that Christ expected gratitude from all 10 lepers (17: 17 and 18 - especially from the Jewish nine). In the same way He expects gratitude from us! Isn't it wonderful that we have an occasion like Thanksgiving where we can just take a break, reflect on the past and give thanks for all we have. My question here is: do we do it the right way? May I suggest three ways in which we can / should give thanks.

- Give thanks for the one thing we could not accomplish on our own – Salvation and the gift of life (call it our spiritual needs)
- Give thanks for our needs and wants – a realization that all we have comes from the Lord
- Give thanks for difficult/challenging situations.