

# PROACTIVE GRATITUDE

---

October 13, 2019

Pentecost 18 - Thanksgiving - All Ages

[Jeremiah 29:1,4-7](#)

[Luke 17:11-19](#)

---

(prayer)

## **SMALL**

- Short Treks ~[Q&A](#)~ young Ensign Spock (fresh out of Starfleet Academy) asks the USS Enterprise's second-in-command about whether she has ever observed (first hand) a *triple mode high amplitude Delta Scruti star*. The perma-seriousness of her demeanor is overcome by an obvious sense of awe as she recounts once coming with *half a light year of 99 Pegasi*.
- Later, with a nebula filling the bridge's view screen, Captain Pike asks his newest crew member, *Do vulcans ever feel awe, Spock?* - *They do, Captain, but they tend to keep it to themselves.* - a response that brings a brief smile to Number One's face.
- Star Trek is awesome!

//

- As I was at the Leduc Coffee, thinking about what I might say today, I found myself staring at the various offerings of local art that decorates the walls. The works on display change from time to time. Right now, there are some very realistic painting of earth's moon. One, in particular, from across the room, I thought might have been a photograph.
- With to small of a mass to hold down an atmosphere, there is no wind to erase the eons of history of cosmic interactions with the moon's surface.
- With the naked eye, you can discern the shadows and shapes defining some of the largest craters. With a home telescope you can see even more detail.
- We know that there is evidence of a human presence on our moon, but even the strongest earth telescopes can't get a good look. Even the Hubble space telescope can't zoom in that close.
- There are NASA photographs (taken from lunar orbit) available of the six [Apollo landing site](#) locations. Fifty year old footprints are undisturbed.
- The moon is so close; it is relatively small. And yet we barely know it.
- Sometimes, I feel as if my life is so full, that I don't know how I have anymore. And yet, staring at a painting in my local java joint, I am struck with such an overwhelming sense of awe that I know and understand so little about the whole of the created order.

//

## **MY STRUGGLES WITH GRATITUDE**

- fear, worry, *karma*; *can't catch a break* - My life over the past year, past week, yesterday! But, you don't need my examples. You have or can imagine your own.
- Luke: grateful for past -- credit where credit is due
- How does it feel to be unacknowledged (does that mean you are unappreciated)?
- Hard to feel thankful, when parts of life are difficult.
- Down the road of life, with some perspective, maybe a silver lining will colour the memories of now... but hard to be thankful.

//

## **PROACTIVE GRATITUDE**

Rev. T. Blaine Gregg

- Jeremiah: grateful for future.
- Being grateful for the opportunity to have the *next* experience.
- There is awe to be had in the unfolding of mystery... clarity on where we've been; the time that is now; and the light of tomorrow's new day.
- *Prayer shawls*

//

**ad lib**

//

- "I'm unsure of the future, but I'm not concerned. I will rely on those closest to me, and I will share their burdens, as they share mine. I will live and love."  
~ Major Roy McBride (Ad Astra)

//

### **BACK AND FORTH GRATITUDE**

- For what has happened.
- Notice how.
- Believe in the future. *Hope is believing in spite of the evidence and then watching the evidence change.* (Jim Wallis)

//

Let us pray:

Be with us God, when we are thankful and when we can't be. Be with us with compassion. Be with us in peace. And when words and logic fails, just be with us. Thank you, O God. Amen.

#51MV "Yahweh Be Praised" (3x)