

# GRACE

(EVEN)

We gather together today to celebrate and to give **thanks** for the many gifts that have been given to us:

~ for our friends and for our families, here today or not;

~ for all our fellow creatures with whom we share the world and without whom our time on this planet would be barren and profoundly lonely;

~ for the beautiful and wondrous natural world in which we get to spend our time;

~ for our miraculous bodies for which we try to show our appreciation by keeping them in good health;

~ and, for our glorious gift of free will with which we try to make compassionate choices.

**We give thanks for all of these. And we ask for guidance to not take any of them for granted.**

We also humbly ask for **special blessings**:

- ~ for everyone here today, and those who are not;
- ~ for children who go to bed hungry and unprotected;
- ~ for voiceless animals---our friends---who are oppressed, abused and exploited;
- ~ for Mother Earth---our home---to keep her safe from the ravages of pillage and greed;
- ~ for anyone and everyone suffering in pain or confusion.

**We humbly ask for these special blessings.**

Now let's take a moment of silence here to give thanks for our individual blessings. [*-- pause--*]

May we keep peace and compassion in our hearts throughout the year.

Thank you!

11-19-23