**THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

**Gathering Prayer (to be read or sung): Now Thank We All Our God**

Now thank we all our God,   
With heart and hands and voices,   
Who wondrous things has done,   
In whom this world rejoices;   
Who from our mothers' arms  
Has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,   
And still is ours today.

**Reading: Colossians 3:12-15**

12As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as God has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

**Love Does That ~Meister Eckhart**

All day long a little burro labors, sometimes

with heavy loads on her back and sometimes with worries

about things that bother only burros.

And worries, as we know, can be more exhausting than physical labor.

Once in a while, a kind monk comes

to her stable and brings a pear,

but more than that,

he looks into the burro’s eyes and touches her ears

and, for a few seconds the burro is free

and even seems to laugh,

because love does that.

Love frees.

**Sharing of the Heart:**

* How has your ministry been blessed this past year? What have you harvested?
* For whom have you been a supportive monk this year? Who has been a monk for you?

**Closing Prayer (to be read or sung): Now Thank We All Our God**

O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,   
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;   
And keep us still in grace,   
And guide us when perplexed;   
And free us from all ills,   
In this world and the next.