



The Bishop's Journal

A Letter from Bishop Pryse

*Thanksgiving Sunday
October 12, 2008*

**GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM
God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.**

Pastoral letters from my office are, as you know, a rare and unusual event. However, it seems to me that the events of the last few weeks in global financial markets demand some sort of comment.

As I write this, turmoil in stock markets around the world continues. Attempts by governments to stem panic and restore some sort of normalcy have not, until now, had their desired effect. It appears that the fallout from this situation is spreading, and is beginning to touch ordinary Canadians in ways that would have

seemed unimaginable a few months ago.

We could be forgiven if we were to fall into panic or despair. Yet in the midst of our

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troubles and worry we hear the words of the psalmist, who wrote "Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine."

We are not facing famine in the literal sense, at least not on this continent. Yet it would be wrong to gloss over the suffer-

ing that may exist. I know that some of our members may have lost jobs due to plant closings. Others are watching their small businesses lose customers

and orders. Many who rely on their investments in retirement are contemplating severely reduced income. These losses are real, and they are serious.

For many people this Thanksgiving Day may seem nothing more than an empty ritual, at best a long weekend, at worst a bitter reminder of how things used to be.

Nonetheless, we have much

to feel thankful for. This is God's world. It does not belong to the Toronto Stock Exchange, the big banks or even the U.S. Federal Reserve. The financial system may be coming apart at the seams, but God's world is not.

I urge you not to give in to despair or panic. Ignore the messages coming from TV that tell us that the only thing to do is circle the wagons and look after ourselves. This is a time when, more than ever, we need to reach out to one another and be the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbours close to home and far away.

Psalm 33 concludes with the words "Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his

holy name. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you."

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, let us give thanks for God's infinite abundance and continue to place our hope in the steadfast love of our Lord.

With all best wishes,

The Rev. Michael J. Pryse,
Bishop