



October 11, 2017

### *THANKSGIVING FOR QUIET AND GRACIOUS SOULS*

*In The Oxford Book of Prayer is an old prayer that gives thanks for “the saints of all ages.” The prayer gives thanks for their faith and daring, but it also describes saints as “the multitude of quiet and gracious souls whose presence has purified and sanctified the world.”*

*I bet you know people like that. I bet you can remember how certain people made an anxious and hurting world more holy. Wherever you are reading this, can you take a few minutes to remember those who have purified and sanctified the world by their very presence?*

*Go ahead.*

*Remembering them will be a gift.*

*Remembering is a kind of prayer.*

*This “multitude of quiet and gracious souls” is not usually what we think about when we talk about “how the world is going.” Of course, there is much in the world that calls for action and change, and this work for the good will take persistence and daring and faith. But we are not alone. We are in the company of saints, whose lives remind us that God is with us.*

*In the midst of everything, I invite you to join in the words of that wise, old prayer:*

*We thank thee, O God, for the saints of all ages; for those who in times of darkness kept the lamp of faith burning; for the great souls who saw visions of larger truth and dared to declare it; for the multitude of quiet and gracious souls whose presence has*

*purified and sanctified the world; and for those known and loved by us, who have passed from this earthly fellowship into the fuller light of life with thee. Amen.*

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster  
Senior Minister