THE HISTORIC
CALVARY
BAPTIST CHURCH
OF DOVER, DELAWARE

From the Office of the Senior Pastor
Bishop W. James Thomas, II, D. Min.

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Greetings CBC Family & Friends,

We have so much to be thankful for. As a church family, we have worshiped together across two campuses and grown stronger and more resilient despite our challenges. We are not just a "Sunday congregation," but we have blessed our community through outreach projects, ministered to families, cared for people beyond our congregation, and we continue to do more. We still find the grace to care for one another. As your pastor, I thank God for the people among us who pay attention to ministry and serve in ways that never make it into the announcements.

I am also thinking of those for whom Thanksgiving will be a long day. Some of you could make the dressing with your eyes closed, but this is the first year you cannot call the person who taught you. Some have worked hard all month and still had to count every dollar at the grocery store and the gas pump. Some will spend the holiday thinking about people who, for whatever reason, cannot come home. Whatever this day looks like for you, just remember you are God's beloved.

Before the day ends, I invite you to think of one person you can reach out to. Make the call. If someone comes to mind whose grief is still fresh, speak their name. Do not allow Thanksgiving to be about you, alone. Let your celebration be bigger than you. And if you are struggling to find something to be thankful for, simply tell God, "Thank you for keeping me…even when I did not want to be kept."

Psalm 126 gives us a beautiful way to hold our history and our hope together. The people remember a season when God's goodness caught them by surprise and filled their mouths with laughter. "The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad" (Psalm 126:3, ESV). Then, in the very next verse, they ask God to restore them again. I love that part because they can name what God has already done, and they still have something to ask of Him. Guess what? So do we!

So, may the Lord bless you and your family. May there be enough laughter to interrupt the meal and enough grace for the tears that come without warning. And when we bow our heads to thank God for giving us a place at His table, may we open our eyes, see, and be thankful for what we have left.

Happy Thanksgiving to each one of you. I love you, and I thank God for the privilege of being your pastor.

With pastoral love and gratitude,
✝*W. James Thomas, II*
Bishop W. James Thomas, II, D.Min., Senior Pastor

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