

## A Hymn of Thanksgiving

## Psalm 136

Give thanks to the Lord, O Grain of Wheat, for God is good,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

To the Creator who made the heavens with skill, who formed the great lights, the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night, we give thanks,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

God brought 20 people together to talk about community in Winnipeg in 1981, and gave us a vision that led us through 40 years,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

We do not forget the worship spaces we have been blessed with from living rooms to basements to beautiful old sanctuaries

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

Our journey's companion walked with us as we made 3 communities, Wolseley, Norfolk, Living Presence and then back again to one community,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

Later some Grain of Wheat members and others were inspired to once again try a rural community. We give thanks for PLOUGHSHARES Community.

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

We remember the many people God brought to GOW over the years - some in the past and those who are part of our church community at the moment,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

Our great parent gave us the joy of many children, for atrium, playgroups and child care swapping we give thanks

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting..**

To the God of joy we give thanks for circle dancing, clowns, and 'hallelujah parties',

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

For supper clubs and winter camp, for Sunday picnics at Vimy Park we give thanks,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

To Jehovah Jireh we give thanks for the practical support we share - meals, hand me downs, cleaning and child care,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

The Prince of Peace calls us to live in harmony with our world – all our neighbours and the earth we inhabit,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

To the God of Wisdom we give thanks for the gift of exploring spiritual questions with each other with an open heart and mind,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

To the God who came as a baby we are grateful for the beauty of children lighting advent candles with expectant joy,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

For the times of worship that draw on various traditions and deepen our experience of God, we are grateful,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

The God of music gave songs to nurture us – those we inherited and those written by and for us,

**For God's loving kindness is ever lasting.**

The origin of all beauty gave us an abundance of gifts to enrich our life together, art, drama, dance

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

The Great Comforter always remembers us when we weep, grieving the loss of our loved ones

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

God did not forget us when a global pandemic covered the earth

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

We hear the voice of Jesus say to us, "Don't be dismayed, I know the cry of your heart."

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

Give thanks, O Grain of Wheat, to the God of heaven,

**For God's loving kindness is everlasting.**

Amen