UP front

Thanksgiving.

I thought about making a gratitude list and sharing it here. But it's simple and reduces to a handful of basic truths. I'm thankful for every decision, good and bad, each success and failure, the joys and heartbreaks, and the twists of fate that have led me to the life I enjoy today. And I am thankful to God for setting it all in motion and providing the foundation to experience each moment in exactly the way it's supposed to be felt. And I am thankful to the people who show me love, have shown me love, will continue to show me love, when I want or earn or need it and when I don't. I am thankful for my gifts and shortcomings and for my overarching good fortune. In addition to the aforementioned God, my family is the embodiment of hope, happiness, and the sum of the forces of grace and good. I am more thankful for each one of them than they can ever properly know.

Perhaps you've done the thing at Thanksgiving dinner where you go around the table and each guest says what he or she is thankful for. It's stressful and nerve-wracking and you never get it quite right. Your heart is full, but your head is empty, and your mouth fails to reconcile the disconnect between the two. Maybe you're like my family – you are believers, but you've never developed the habit of praying over each forthcoming meal. So, you quietly hope (or pray, ironically) that someone else at the table is given the spontaneous assignment to say grace. Unless you're the world's finest grace-sayer (Cindy, I'm looking at you), if the proverbial hot potato lands in your lap, you're resorting to something like "Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts…." Your lack of originality leads to lingering lament.

Serial systemic failures (air traffic control, financial institutions, email servers); dangerous and seemingly intractable global conflict; societal decay; widespread ignorance; volatile financial markets; you might be a New York Mets fan…these are scary things. The chorus they comprise yields a deafeningly shrill alarm, but only if we fixate on the noise. This moment…the one right now… and every right now before and after it, provide continuous opportunities to celebrate the present and cede control of that which we can't. These tiny acts of personal liberation overwhelm dread and cultivate contentment, a virtuous circle of our choice.

I worry. Of course I do. Every ache seems terminal until it's proven not to be. Health insurance and property taxes and people who count on me…these burdens, at times, feel relentlessly heavy. But I've grown reasonably adept at pushing fear to the side and embracing clarity and calm. And I don't wish for things to be at all different from precisely as they are. I am very thankful for learned coping mechanisms and the constant support of my wife and kids.

I am immeasurably lucky to have been born into my unique circumstances. I am eternally thankful for this privilege and gift. I wish you health and peace and joy for the holidays and beyond. And thank you for reading this. I am grateful to be able to connect with you.



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Grateful for the place we call home.



This Thanksgiving, we're especially grateful for the trust our neighbors place in us and for the opportunity to serve The Landings community every day.

From all of us at The Landings Real Estate Company, thank you for allowing us to be part of your stories, your moves and your lives here in The Landings.

Wishing you and yours a warm and happy Thanksgiving.

Our office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day as we take time to celebrate with family and friends.

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