

Great Thanksgiving
(Clothed in Love)

(Tune: Mighty God Irr.)

One: Open up your hearts right now.
Open up your hearts right now.
Give God praise and glory.
Tell salvation's story.
Open up your hearts right now.

**All: We have open hearts right now.
We have open hearts right now.
We give God the glory.
Give God all our worries.
We have open hearts right now.**

One: We come before You, O God with hearts wide open.
Aching to experience Your life transforming grace.
We come before You as the Bride of Christ
And we are saying "Yes to the dress" that has been provided for us.
One without spot nor blemish, made perfect in love.

We are amazed by its exquisite beauty;
tailored to bring out our very best qualities:
clothing us in compassion,
kindness,
humility,
meekness,
and patience.

We are proud to stand with You before the world,
and we want You to be proud to have us at Your side.
We rejoice in Your love for us,
and it is our deepest desire to gather all the world to sing Your praises;
To even gather together all the heavenly hosts to join with us in giving You glory,
as we sing:

(Words: Traditional African Folk Song, Tune: Mighty God Irr.)

**All: What a mighty God we serve.
What a mighty God we serve.
Angels bow before you.
Heaven and earth adore you.
What a mighty God we serve.**

One: You are the Almighty God we serve and Jesus Christ expressed that might as love.
Jesus invited us to come and learn to love from him.
Jesus taught us about Your compassionate love,
coming not to condemn world but instead coming so that everyone could be saved.

Jesus explained that love was shown through kindness by feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and taking time to visit with children. Jesus did not claim to be anyone of importance, but lovingly took the position of a servant, even inviting us to also wash the feet of those who betray us, those who deny us friendship, and those who care only about themselves. Jesus taught us that Your love was expressed through his forgiveness and patience with us. Jesus taught us that what binds us together is the gracious love You have for us, the same love Christ invites us to share with each other and the whole world in imitation of You.

As an expression of Your Divine love, Jesus took the bread that recalled generations of pain and suffering, blessed it and shared it, saying:
“Everyone, take and eat, this is my body given for you.”

After supper, as an expression of Your Divine love, Jesus took the cup that reminded your people of the consequences of sin, blessed it and shared it, saying:
“Everyone, drink from this cup for this is my blood poured out as a libation, honoring God’s eternal covenant of forgiveness with you and with the whole world.”

As You pour forth your Grace in this sacrament, clothe us in the love we have found in Christ Jesus. We want the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts. We want the word of Christ to dwell in us richly, and so with gratitude in our hearts we sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to You.

(Tune: Mighty God Irr.)

**All: Jesus bowed his head and died.
Christ arose into the sky.
Christ is soon returning.
Skyward we are turning.
We will dwell with Him on high.**

One: Loving Dress Maker, Consecrator,
work with these gifts of bread and wine
so that they may be for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ
our Bridegroom, the lover of our souls.

Loving Dress Maker, Consecrator,
work with the gift of our lives, our hope, and our vision
so that they may become for the world, your church,
the body and the bride of Jesus Christ,
our Bridegroom, the lover of our souls.

**All: Loving Dress Maker, Consecrator,
clothe our new bishop, Cynthia Moore-Kiokoi in love.
Allow her to teach and admonish us in all wisdom.
Bind us together with her and her family in perfect harmony.**

(Tune: Mighty God Irr.)

**All: We have prayed in Jesus name.
We have prayed in Jesus name.
Filled with God's own Spirit.
God's love we inherit.
We have prayed in Jesus name.**

One: Now as those who have clothed themselves in love, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Prayer after communion:

We have shared in such a holy mystery and the glory of the Lord has filled our hearts and we feel clothed in love. Lord, we cannot and will never let it all end here. Use us we pray to share this same love with others, that they too may join with us around your throne to sing your praises now and forever. Amen.

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