

Great Thanksgiving
(Expansive Truth)

One: God is here with me.

All: And Also with all of us.

One: God is improvisational.

All: God is always evolving into something new.

One: God is more than either or,

**All: We are inspired to praise a God who is both and,
and even more than we ever dreamed.**

One: You are not a one dimensional God,
nor are You bound in any three dimensional box.
You are always traveling outside the lines of our imaginations,
ever creating new realms that confuse us, intrigue us,
and inspire us to join with You in a realm of wonder and awe.
You are the God who dwells in infinity, with unlimited options.
This is how all things can work to good, no matter how dyer they seem.
This is why there are infinite shades of blue.
This is why there are no two people who look alike, act alike, are inspired alike,
or even read your Word alike.
Instead of one answer, You can always see a bouquet of possibilities.
So today we praise You in all Your wondrous mystery.
Today we praise You with hearts filled with questions
and the profound joy of being a life long learner as one of Your disciples.

Accept our symphony of praise, as our voices are joined with the rustling praise of trees,
the hum of insects, the songs of birds, and the cry of the mountain lion. We join our
voices blending them with ten thousand tongues from all around the globe and through
out the vastness of heaven so that we might declare Your praise together:

**All: You are holy!
You are always loving!
You are joyful!
You are the source of peace!
You are very patient and infinitely kind!
You are so good!
You are eternally faithful!
You are gentle and self controlled.
Blessed are those whom Your Spirit makes just like You!
May we all be so blessed!**

One: Jesus was just like You, and has invited us to follow adding our uniqueness to his own.
Jesus want us to be one just like You are one.
Jesus does not want us to be all the same, but our true selves.
Jesus does not want us to become less, but to learn and to grow into something more;

to become together, Your holy temple,
to become together, Christ's body, transforming the world into paradise.
Jesus came to show us that Your truth is so much more than the truths we hold so dear.
Jesus knew what we had been taught before, but there was always so much more to learn.
There was always another angle, a fresh perspective, a new understanding.
For Jesus the truth was never monochromatic,
it was always more interesting, with subtle colors and shading.
Always leading to more questions, and a need to continue the journey.
For Jesus the truth was never a monotone,
it was always an intriguing tangle of harmonics and rhythms,
full of color, texture and depth, causing his disciples to struggle to understand.

When they believed they understood what it meant to be great in this world,
Jesus lead them in a totally different direction.
The greatest serves the least.
The teacher serves the student.
Love is even for those who betray, deny, and abandon.
This was part of the expansive truth Jesus shared.

When they shared in the ritual of Passover,
Jesus took the matzah, set aside to remind Your people
that there are still those praying for deliverance.
Christ prayed thanking You for Your provision.
Jesus then broke the bread and shared it, saying:
"Take and eat, this is my body broken and given for you."
This was part of the expansive truth Jesus shared.

After the supper Jesus took the cup of wine,
set aside to remind Your people that there is always hope.
Christ prayed thanking You for Your provision.
Jesus then took the cup and shared it, saying:
"Drink with me all of you, for this is the cup of my blood,
poured out as a testimony to God's Eternal Covenant of grace,
promising forgiveness not only of your sins, but the sins of the whole world."
This is part of the expansive truth Jesus shared.

We are drawn to the expansive truth we find in Jesus Christ.
It is a way into the unexplored.
It is a truth that is filled with intriguing nuances.
It is a life of holy mystery, that we proudly invite everyone to join:

**All: The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"
Those who have heard the Good News say, "Come!"
Whoever is thirsty, let them come;
and whoever wishes, let them enjoy the free gift of the water of life.**

One: Holy Dreams, Sacred Imagination,

settle upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may become for us the very body and blood of Jesus Christ
sacrificed for all.

Holy Dreams, Sacred Imagination,
settle upon the gift of our lives
that they may become for the world,
your church, the living body and loving bride of Jesus Christ
sacrificed for all.

Holy Dreams, Sacred Imagination
bless the people of Saint Luke United Methodist Church.
Inspire their imaginations as they explore new dimensions of thought and service.
Deepen their curiosity to include those who do not believe as they do,
see the world as they do,
nor express their faith as they do,
that they might become more than they are and more like You.

**All: May we love like Christ, being empowered to love by the Holy Spirit,
and become more creative in our loving as we are inspired by the Creator of us all.
May our lives and our worship bring more grace into the world and more glory to
God. Amen.**

Now let us pray the prayer Christ taught us:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

We were privileged to be invited to share in this holy mystery in Jesus Christ. You have humbled us. You have amazed us. We have realized that even though we fall short, Your love still without reservation embraces us with Your grace. We want others to feel this inclusion. We want others to be set free to be their whole selves before You. So help allow us to see Your grace in others, and allow them to see it in us. Use our lives to be instruments of Your healing in the power of Your love through Jesus Christ. Amen.