

Great Thanksgiving  
(*Future Mission*)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Compassionate Heart, Out Poured Grace,  
we are amazed by the breadth of Your love  
and Your willingness to show mercy, not just to the likes of us,  
but to those who are not like us and who never desire to be.  
Thank you for your invitation to join with You in the next great out break of life altering  
mission.

We are amazed by just the flashes of insight You have blessed us with.  
You are revealing pains and hungers we never even realized existed.  
We have been so blinded by our own privilege that we have not heard  
Your voice calling us into deeper relationships with persons we never even noticed were there.  
Lord have mercy.

Lord allow us to be expressions of Your mercy.

It is joining with others in mission that exposes the depths of purest joy.

It is being used as instruments of Your healing and peace that causes all of heaven  
to break forth into their exuberant happy dance as we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed are all who come in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

You are breath takingly holy and so is Jesus Christ who chose to give up the ease of heaven  
to become a missionary servant to us upon the earth.

Jesus started a missionary movement  
in which all are encouraged to join in bringing Your good news to the poor,  
aid in binding up the broken hearted,  
being the voice for freedom for those in captivity,  
and for prisoners longing for release.

Jesus invites us to take the needs of others as personally as he does:  
to view the thirst of others as our thirst;  
the growl in their bellies as the same as the one in our own;  
to see the nakedness and shame of any as ours to care for.

When Christ's disciples forgot their call to mission,

Jesus demonstrated that call to love others with the same devotion Christ showed them,

no task being too menial,  
no act of compassion undeserved,  
as their Lord and teacher stooped low to wash their feet.  
Hear Christ's invitation to mission.

So we would not forget our call to mission,  
Jesus took with prayers of thanksgiving,  
the bread set apart to remember God's deliverance.  
Breaking this bread, all were invited,  
"Take, eat this is my body given for you.  
Hear Christ's invitation to mission.

So we would not forget our call to mission,  
Jesus took with prayers of thanksgiving,  
the cup set aside to remember the costliness of sin.  
Sharing this cup, Jesus said,  
"Drink with me everyone, for this is the cup of my blood  
poured out with faith the God's eternal covenant of gracious forgiveness,  
for you and for the whole world."  
Hear Christ's invitation to mission.

We hear Christ's invitation to mission  
and we do not want to draw away in fear.  
We want to make Christ's call our own,  
even as we proclaim the core mysteries of our faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Passionate Love, Relentless Grace  
allow these simple gifts of bread and wine  
to become for us the transforming body and blood of Christ.

Passionate Love, Relentless Grace  
allow the simple gift of our lives, our prayers, our presence, our gifts, service and witness  
to become for this world Your church, the sacrificial body and compassionate bride of Christ.

Passionate Love, Relentless Grace  
allow the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church  
to see the needs, You see,  
to hear the cries, You hear,  
to feel the pains, You feel,  
to smell the stench of injustice, You smell,  
and taste the sweet possibilities for redemption that You taste.

We pray with the hope that our lives might glorify Christ.  
We pray with the power that the Holy Spirit gives so Love shines forth.

We pray with the knowledge that You, O God are the creator of yesterday, the creator of today, and the creator of tomorrow. We pray that You might use our lives in mission, we are now only beginning to imagine. Amen.

Now as those in mission with Christ and the world, let us join with Christ in Prayer:

**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.**