

Great Thanksgiving
(Legacy)

We have a legacy.

We are a legacy.

The Lord has used our mothers to change lives and transform their world.

The Lord is using us to change lives and our world.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Yes, God is deserving of our thanks and praise.

Inspiration of the past, Inspiration of the present, Inspiration of the future,

We celebrate what You have done through the women of our church.

Hearing that women were dying from a lack of proper medical care,
our mother's sent a woman doctors to provide not only care but training.

Hearing that women and girls were denied an education,
our mother's raised the money to send teachers and to build schools.

Seeing the harmful effects caused by racism in our nation and in our world
our mothers published the charter for racial justice helping our church to live the gospel more
faithfully.

Today we hear the call of women and girls caught in the clutches of traffickers, and we must
respond.

Today we see the plight of women and children who are working in exploitive and dangerous
conditions in the fields picking vegetables and we must respond.

Today we understand the sin of environmental injustice
and know we must call the church to a way of living the gospel more faithfully.

You see so much more than we do, open our eyes.

You hear the cries of women and children more distinctly than we do, open our ears.

You feel the anguish of mothers and children all over the world, open our hearts.

With the strength found in our legacy of the past, empower us to become a powerful legacy for
our daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters.

As we join together as generations of women from all over the world, we worship you with our
words, our actions, our dreams, and our determination. Joining with the great cloud of witnesses
of great women of the past who stand before Your throne of grace to proclaim:

**Loving, supportive, creative friend,
maker of all that is. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are all who come together in Your name.

Hosanna in the highest.

Through Jesus, You have created us into a community of women,
giving us the freedom to become whole persons,
allowing us to develop a creative and supportive fellowship,
that is always expanding our concepts of mission.

You chose a young woman to entrust the salvation of the world.
Mary was a supportive mother throughout the life of Christ,
from conception, to that terrible death upon a cross.
She was part of the supportive fellowship of the Upper Room
and received the Holy Spirit that came as a rushing wind and a dancing flame.

Jesus was followed by a supportive fellowship of women
who were encouraged in their faith to move beyond their society's expectations.
They supported the saving mission of Christ, with presence and their meager resources.
They supported each other as they bravely showed their devotion at the cross,
and then at the tomb where they became the first to be greeted by their risen Savior.

While men were posturing,
seeking positions of power,
Jesus felt it was a greater honor to
take up the task of a servant girl to wash their feet.
May we be inspired to do the same.

To build a supportive community,
With words of thanksgiving,
Jesus took the bread prepared as a memorial to all who live under oppression,
sharing it with the disciples and their families,
"Take and eat, all of you, for this is my body given for you."
May we be inspired to do the same.

To build a supportive community,
With words of thanksgiving,
Jesus took the cup prepared as a memorial to those harmed by sin,
sharing it with the disciples and their families,
"Drink with me, all of you, for this is the cup of my blood
poured out to demonstrate God's faithful covenant promise to forgive our sins,
and the sins of those who know not what they do."
May we be inspired to do the same.

We love being part of the supportive community of the United Methodist Women.
We know that it is formed by Christ working and living through us.
We know that this community is only strengthened as we enter fully into this
holy mystery we proclaim clearly before the world:

Christ died for all.
Christ arose for all.
Christ will come again as a blessing to all.

Active Faith, Living Hope, Sacrificial Love
embrace these gifts of the hearth and garden
grant that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ

empowering Your mission in the world.

Active Faith, Living Hope, Sacrificial love
embrace these gifts of our hands and feet, our minds and hearts
grant that they may become for others, Your church,
the vibrant body and the vigilant bride of Christ
empowering Your mission in the world.

Active Faith, Living Hope, Sacrificial love
be with women and children who know neglect and abuse,
use us to bring healing and deliverance.
Be with women and children who do not know where to turn,
use us to show them a way to hope, life and a brighter future.
Be with women and children who feel alone,
use us to become the supportive community they need, so they might feel Your presence.

We seek this together with Christ, with the fruit of the Holy Spirit, in creative fellowship with
You,
the lover and delight of us all, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

Now as the United Methodist Women, let us pray as our Savior Jesus Christ taught us:

**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 are so thankful for all you have given to us through this holy mystery in Jesus Christ.
We have found a new depth to our fellowship with You and with each other. We have an even
stronger desire to work side by side with You as You seek to bring Your saving grace to all in
need. Use us in ways that bring Your transformation to one sacred life at a time. For the glory
of Christ. Amen.