

Great Thanksgiving
(Mission With)

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.

We praise You, our communal God.

You are the one who shows us that it is never good to work alone.

You choose never to work alone, but always in community.

You choose never to create alone, but always as Trinity.

You choose to dwell in perpetual fellowship with Christ and the Holy Spirit.

When You heard the first bird sing, You experienced it together.

When You spread out the brilliant bow to remember, You made that choice together.

You live out Your mission with each other,

seeking to transform each individual life with unconditional love.

Hallelujah! We have been transformed.

Thank you for inviting all of us into mission with You.

So now we boldly join with others.

Everyone we can find to join in mission with us

as we seek to follow Your example of sacred community.

We want every one to join with us: everyone and everything on earth

as well as all in the vastness of heaven,

as we proclaim Your endless praise.

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

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thank you for sending us Jesus to be Immanuel, “God in mission with us.”

Jesus did not work alone, but with women and men just like us.

They were not sent out in mission alone but in community.

They did not force anyone to believe.

They did not force anyone to receive their blessings.

They only invited others to join with them in this mission of grace.

When Jesus was in mission with

no one was more important than another.

Those whom others saw as least important,

Jesus saw as essential to God's mission.
So Jesus showed how the greatest was the servant of all,
by leaving a place of honor, to take a place of humility,
washing the feet of all as a common house slave.
This was Jesus being in mission with us.

When Jesus joined with the disciples and their families
to remember how You deliver the oppressed,
Jesus took the bread of deliverance with thanksgiving,
broke it and shared it, saying:
"Take, eat, each of you, for this is my body given for you."
This was Jesus being in mission with us.

After all had feasted, Jesus took the cup with thanksgiving
remembering being passed over by Your judgement,
sharing it with everyone, saying:
"Drink with me all of you, for this is the cup of my blood
poured out as a witness to the eternal covenant of God,
promising the forgiveness of your sins, and those of the world."
This was Jesus being in mission with us.

The living Christ, who never leaves us, nor forsakes us
continues to invite us to be in mission with the world.
Jesus still challenges us to follow with him in the way of the cross.
It is this holy mystery that we proclaim with our words and our lives:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**
Communal Spirit, Mission With,
receive these gifts of bread and wine,
transform them for us so they might be the body and blood of Christ,
saving grace.

Communal Spirit, Mission With,
receive the gift of our lives into Your community
transform them for the world so that we might become the church, the body and bride of Christ,
saving grace.

Communal Spirit, Mission With,
Create among these women a community of those who intimately know You,
who experience a greater freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ,
allow them to develop throughout the world a creative, supportive fellowship
with all who feel isolated and alone.
Expand their concepts of what it means to be in mission
with those others exclude: the overlooked, the despised, and the forsaken.

We ask with Jesus whose love includes all.

We ask with the Holy Spirit whose gifts are for all.

We ask with You, Great God of Love,

so that all might witness Your mercy and compassion today and in the years to come.

Amen.

Now as the United Methodist Women and other disciples of Jesus Christ, let us join with Christ in prayer: