

Great Thanksgiving
(Opening Doors)

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: We praise You for opening the doors of heaven and on earth:
When others shut us out, You opened the door;
When shelter is needed from the storms of life, You opened the door;
When others have nowhere else to turn, you opened the door.
You responded to our knock, when no one else would,
You responded to our cry, when no one else could,
You always respond as You wished we would,
by opening the door to fill out hearts with joy, with hope and gratitude.
We can only respond by filling our world with our shouts of praise,
Our grateful hymns, joined with those of heaven saying:

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

Heaven and earth are full of your blessing.

Hosanna in the highest!

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

Hosanna in the highest!

One: You opened wide Your everlasting doors, and Jesus waits for us to do the same.
As Jesus stands at the door and knocks, Christ waits for us to respond.
When the refugee stands at our door and knocks, Christ waits for us to respond.
When the prisoner stands at our door and knocks, Christ waits for us to answer.
When the bullied and the harrassed stand at our door and knocks,
Christ waits for sanctuary.
Christ waits for us.

When others were slow to show hospitality,
Jesus was willing to make all feel welcome
by washing their feet.
Christ waits for us to open the door.

To open the door for those struggling under oppression,
Jesus took the bread of Passover with heart felt gratitude,
sharing it with all, saying:
“Take, eat, this is my body, broken and given for you.”
Christ waits for us to open the door.

To open the door for those paralyzed with sin hardened hearts,
Jesus took the cup of Passover wine with heart felt gratitude,
sharing it with all, saying:

“Please, drink from this cup of my blood
poured out to glorify the eternal covenant of God,
promising the forgiveness of sins to one and all.
Christ waits for us to open the door.

Can't you hear Christ knocking?
Can't you see Christ waiting for you to respond?
Now is your chance, open the door to your hearts
and respond with the proclamation of this holy mystery:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

One: Open Door, Haven of Safety,
bless these humble gifts of bread and wine,
give them the ability to become for us
the body and blood of Christ,
Your means of grace.

\ Open Door, Haven of Safety,
Bless our humble lives open to You
give them the ability to become for others
Your church, the sacrificed body and beloved bride of Christ,
Your means of grace.

Open Door, Haven of Safety,
empower this connectional table of the New England Annual Conference.
Use them to open doors to Your grace that no one can shut.
Use them to open doors of hope to inspire all those who struggle.
Use them to open doors that grant fresh opportunities
for demonstrating Your compassion and mercy.

We ask this with the one who is the open gate, Jesus our salvation.
We pray this to open space for the power of the Holy Spirit to flow among us.
We make this request of the One who creates new and unexpected ways out of no way.
May this our God received all of our gratitude, our devotion, and our open hearts.
Amen.

Now as those whose hearts are open to Christ, let us pray the prayer he taught:

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it was in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And for give us out 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. Amen.**