

The Great Thanksgiving
(Praying A Way Forward)

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.

Receive our gratitude for the rich blessing of the United Methodist Church.

Through her You have enriched our lives,
saved our souls,

freed our burdens,

given us vision and purpose.

Thank you for using the United Methodist Church
to reveal Your presence,

Your love,

Your mercy,

and Your unfailing grace to us and to others.

Your hope is that we your children from all around the globe
will love and care for each other as one family.

Your hope is that together we will join with all the company of heaven
and join in their unending hymn:

(Musical Setting C UMH)

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

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

Heaven and Earth are full, full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are You and holy is Beloved Jesus Christ.

We so easily forget that we, the church are His body.

Some of us are the eyes that help illumine His body.

Some of us are the ears that help His body hear the sweet sound of Your voice.

Some of us feel we are unmentionable, yet You claim us as indispensable.

Some of us do not understand your purpose for the activities of other parts of Your body.

Some of us are too proud of our unique qualities and fail to see the full worth of others.

Yet we know You want Christ's body whole and not dismembered.

Give the humility to stoop and serve like Christ.

Give us the compassion to wipe away each others tears like Christ.

Give us the courage to not have our own way like Christ.

Help us love each other as much as You love us in Jesus Christ.

Help us to love each other like Christ,
who gratefully took the bread,
that reminded all that there are those still living under oppression.
Jesus broke that bread and shared it with everyone, saying:
“Take and eat, for this is my body given for you.”
Let us never forget how much Christ loves us.

Help us to love each other like Christ,
who gratefully took the cup,
that reminded all that our sin have real consequences.
Jesus too that cup and shared it with everyone, saying:
“Drink with me, each of you, for this is the cup of my blood,
poured out as a witness to God’s eternal covenant of grace,
insuring Divine forgiveness for the sins of all.”
Let us never forget how much Christ loves us.

Because we are loved so passionately by You
through Jesus Christ, we want to embody that same love
in the United Methodist Church for each other and the world.
And from the very core of our being
we desire to embody this truth as we proclaim this mystery of our faith:

(Musical setting C UMH)

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

Spirit of the Living God, Spirit of the Only God
consecrate these gifts of bread and wine
open our hearts that we might experience the living presence of Christ.

Spirit of the Living God, Spirit of the Only God
consecrate the gift of our bodies, our souls and our spirits
open the heart of the church so the world might experience through us the living presence of
Christ.

Spirit of the Living God, Spirit of the Only God
heal the United Methodist Church,
use our theological struggles as a tool of Your grace,
turn our hearts of stone into hearts made alive with Your transforming love.

We pray in the name of the One who is Love,
in the name of the One who is the perfect expression of that Love,
and in the power of that Love shed abroad in our hearts at this very moment.

(Musical Setting C UMH)
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.