

Great Thanksgiving
(*Reconciliation*)

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 want to say thank you, Lord.

We want to praise your holy name.

But you ask us to pause.

You want us to search our hearts.

Because your greatest desire is for reconciliation.

It is our heart felt apologies for our wrongs to others
that you count as our greatest thanksgivings.

It is our restitution for the wrongs others believe we have caused that is our sweetest praise.

For there is no price too high

for you to pay to reconcile the whole world to yourself.

You would share the life of your most precious son
to reconcile the whole world to yourself.

The only testimony of praise you want to hear
is how much we love one another.

And so, with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

We are reconciled in Christ.

Christ is our restitution.

With Christ's blood you paid our penalty in full.

With Jesus' life you redeemed our lives from slavery to sin and death.

You paid the price for our emancipation.

With Christ alone you have set us free.

Jesus who knew no sin became sin for us.

Jesus who lived in highest heaven went to the lowest levels of hell for us.

Jesus who could have dwelt in the glories of heaven,

did not hold on to it,

but gave it all up,

so we might become reconciled to God.

Jesus over looked our sins.
Every denial.
Every betrayal.
He did not care how many times we ran away in fear.
Instead he humbled himself before us
washed us clean.
This is the reconciliation
Jesus invites us to share with each other.

Jesus over looked our sins.
He took the bread of the oppressed and abused
with heartfelt thanksgiving,
and broke it to share saying:
“Take and eat, This is my body given for you.”
This is the reconciliation
Jesus invites us to share with each other.

Jesus over looked our sins.
He took the cup filled with the consequences of sin
with heartfelt thanksgiving, and shared the cup saying:
“Drink with me, all of you,
for this is my blood testifying to the truth
of God’s eternal covenant of reconciliation
with you and the whole world.”
This is the reconciliation
Jesus invites us to share with each other.
And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Reconciler, Sanctifyer,
reveal in these gifts of bread and wine
Your incarnation, the Body and Blood of Christ
Your gift to sinners.

Reconciler, Sanctifyer,
reveal in the gift of our lives: body, soul, and spirit

Your incarnation, the church, the body and bride of Christ
Your gift to sinners.

Reconciler, Sanctifier,
Bless this United Methodist Church,
reconcile them with their neighbors,
reconcile their families,
use this gift of Jesus Christ to heal all our relationships.
Use the power of the Holy Spirit to heal all our relationships
Use the power of our imaginative Creative God
to heal all our relationships, so that,
All honor and glory is yours now and for ever.

Amen.

Now as those reconciled with Christ let us pray:

Our Father who art in heaven

Prayer after Communion:

In this holy mystery we have experienced the depth of your reconciliation with us, now sent us out into the world to bring your reconciliation to others, that all may join in our rejoicing. Amen.