

Great Thanksgiving
(The Potter)
Jeremiah 18

Invitation:

Out of clay we were created, formed by the hand of God.
Come and feel the hand of the potter as your life is being shaped,
and reshaped by grace.
Come knowing that God is going to use this sacrament to change your life,
correct your life, even add some color to your life.
Come because everything the Potter creates is so very good.

Confession:

Forgive us for thinking we are in control. Forgive us for complaining about the design of our lives, or how you plan to use us. You are the Potter and we are but clay shaped by your hands according to your purpose. We have not always been pliable. We have not always yielded to your creative touch. We are yours. Do with us as you will. We are yours completely to do with as you wish. Allow us to show forth your glory to the world and win you only praise. Amen.

The potter will continue to work with us until completely satisfied.
All your flaws will be rubbed away, your rough places made smooth,
and all your unique qualities enhanced. Through divine grace you shall be perfect.

**The potter will not give up on you either.
Through divine grace you shall be made perfect.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Thanksgiving:

We are clay worked by the hand of God.
And to the clay we shall return.
Our form is exquisite.
We have been fearfully and wondrously made.
What God has done for us fills us with joy.
We have been designed to sing forth worship and praise.

No one can compare to you in imagination.
No one comes even close to your creativity.
All that you make is satisfying to your eye
and you see how good it truly is.
Our complaints are but foolishness.
Your plans for our use are perfect,
you have shaped our lives to fit for this time and this place.

You have not made even one of us the same.

Each of us is created with a task in mind,
for your use, and loving purpose.
You alone give our lives their meaning.

Joining with all creation we lift our hands in worship
dedicating them to your service.
Joining with all creation we rise to our feet to dance before you,
joyfully entering your ministry.
Joining with all of heaven our lives express your joy
and delight for all you have made.

Let's express our joy.
Let's serve with loving gladness.
Singing with great joy.

Know that Love is God.
Love made us and we belong.
We are Love's people.

We enter the gates;
Courts with thanksgiving and praise.
We give thanks and bless.

Indeed Love is good
Eternal merciful Love
Faithful forever. (Psalm 100)

Love has infused our clay giving us the breath of life.
Love has infused clay to become Immanuel, God with us.
Jesus' life was shaped by love and became Love dwelling with us.
Demonstrating a love for family;
a love for strangers;
a love for foreigners;
a love for the wealthy and the poor;
a love for demons and those they possessed.
We saw a love demonstrated for friends
and for those who did not even realize the evil they were doing.

Love was expressed through humble service.
By taking up the towel and basin to serve rather than to wait to be served;
kneeling down in love, to share the caress of love.
This is what Love has created us to do.

Love was expressed through humble service.
Jesus took the bread of refugees,
so love would never let us forget the on going plight found in the world.

Then with prayer, Jesus broke it and made it available to anyone.
Jesus said, "Take and eat, this is my body broken and given to you."
Do this often, because love does not want to forget.

Love was expressed through humble service.
Jesus took the final cup, filled with a hope for the future.
Then with prayer, Jesus lifted it, and make it available to anyone.
Jesus said, "Drink with me, this is the cup of my blood
a holy libation poured out to honor Love's eternal covenant of grace,
promising the hope of redemption to you and to all of the world."
Do this often, because love does not want to forget.

The Love that is mingled with our clay cries out to be expressed in humble service.
We are compelled by the desire to love the world like Jesus.
We seek to proclaim Christ's love through our lives,
a love we now proclaim with our lips in this sacred mystery:

**Christ died, but love did not.
Christ is risen and love shines bright.
Christ will come again, for love never ends.**

Mud Shaper, Love Creator
creatively touch these gifts of bread and wine
Reveal in them for us
the true body and blood of Christ,
divine love shared with all.

Mud Shaper, Love Creator
creatively touch the gift of our messy lives
Reveal in them for all the world, your church:
the true body and bride of Christ,
divine love shared with all.

Mud Shaper, Love Creator
creatively touch this gift of people gathered here.
Help us see beyond the clay pots God has joyfully made,
to the rich treasure that is found inside, the very presence of God.
Help those who feel dirty, too dirty,
feel your creative touch still shaping their lives with joy and imagination.
Help us understand that God is seeking our perfection
and is the only one who will decide when we are pleasing in Their sight.

**With the love of Jesus, in the love of Jesus, for the love of Jesus
by the loving gifts of the Holy Spirit, You are present in all the earth
Creator and maker of us all, may we always give you pleasure and joy,
may you always be able to declare as you review our lives**

**that we have been very finely made, glorifying your name.
Amen.**

Now let us pray after the form that Jesus has taught us:

**Potter with dirty hands, Creator of all life and Infusion of love,
we praise you for your gentle touch and your imaginative Spirit.
Continue to provide all that we need as we share our bounty with others.
Forgive the flaws you see in us,
and teach us how to forgive the flaws we see in others.
Keep us from giving up,
but teach us how see new possibilities and opportunities to start afresh.
For you are always tweaking, always imagining,
always ready to make all things new.
Amen.**

Prayer after communion:

We are grateful that you have allowed us to share in this holy mystery found in Jesus Christ. You have dusted us off. You have shined us up and made us presentable to the world as gifts of your love. So now send us out as emissaries of your love in Jesus. Use us to bring your love, joy and peace to others. Uses us as clay pots filled with your treasures, a gift to the world. Find joy in the love of Christ, you see shining from our lives, today and always. Amen.