LITANY

The Rev. Sarah Carver

We open our hands to you, O Lord,
   To extend our palms to you in thanksgiving.

We open our hands to you, O Lord,
   To receive the goodness and love
   you are pouring over the world.

We open our hands to you, O Lord,
   To reach for our brothers and sisters,
   known and estranged.

We open our hands to you, O Lord,
   To offer you the gift of ourselves,
   and all you have given us.

We open our hands to you, O Lord,
   To embrace your Spirit and know your will.

We open our hands to you, O Lord,
   To offer them up to be your hands in the world.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Marjorie A. Burke

Loving God, we offer our profound thanks
for the gifts of birth, resurrection.

For the joy that comes with the gift of new life,
   We thank you gracious God.

For the knowledge that you will walk with us in
moments of uncertainty, sighs, pain and struggle
as we nurture the new life you have given us,
   We thank you gracious God.

For quiet times, noisy times, busy times, and frantic times,
   We thank you gracious God.

For strength and guidance as we face the challenges of each day,
   We thank you gracious God.

For each stage of life; birth, growth, death, resurrection.
   We thank you gracious God.

To you our God, we raise our voices in heartfelt thanks.
   Thanks be to God.

Rubrics: The responses may be sung. Gestures may be added
to express our thanks, such as placing the hand over the heart,
or raising the arms upward with palms facing up.
LITANY FOR PREPARING THE MIND FOR MISSION

Anne Gordon Curran

As we go forth in the world, Lord God, to do your bidding, we must prepare ourselves to be open to all we meet and where we will go. We must open ourselves to others to be able to walk together into new ways.

Open our hearts and minds to you, oh Lord
As we journey within to see where we are most vulnerable, most basic and to find our true selves before meeting others.

Silence

Open our hearts and minds to you, oh Lord
To discover where you will take us in order to see more clearly that your love is in all people, even those where we least expect to find it.

Silence

Open our hearts and minds to you, oh Lord
As we use our hands for touching and healing knowing God is present in all people.

Silence

Open our hearts and minds to you, oh Lord
To see how others need us and we need them.

Silence

Open our hearts and minds, oh Lord
As we feed others with our impoverishment and in relationship we are nourished.

Silence

Open our hearts and minds, oh Lord
And open our hands to receive with grace other people in this world sharing all that we have and all we are.

Silence

Open our hearts and minds, oh Lord
In an attempt to give back life and restore dignity through the Holy Spirit which binds us together.

With you, Lord, by our side, we go into the world in peace and love to serve you and your people.

In all that we are and all that we undertake, help us build the church in the world through mission face to face, heart to heart and soul to soul as you have asked us to do in your name. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
LITANY

Anne Gordon Curran

Let us pray in thanksgiving for all living things in God’s creation remembering the natural cycle of birth and rebirth. In His wisdom, no living organism disappears forever. Everything continues to live in some form into everlasting life.

Thank you, Lord, for the air we breathe, the water to quench our thirsts, food to nourish our bodies, fire to keep us warm and your love to sustain us through all life.

We feel your presence in our daily lives and give thanks.

Silence

Thank you for light made available by the sun which brings warmth by day, the moon and stars which show us the way. The sun’s light brings warmth for living things to grow and flourish while nurturing sensitivities with the contrasting coolness of the night and cloudy days.

We see your presence in living things far greater than we and give thanks.

Silence

Your creation offers uniqueness for everything showing your loving consideration of all that you have given us—birds, bees, butterflies, snowflakes, insects and all that move in the air; planets, stars, galaxies, black holes and all that is beyond our vision; fish, crabs, whales, coral and all that live in the waters of the earth; rocks, trees, animals, people, blooming things and all that live upon the earth.

We touch with our senses with many blessings all that you give.

Silence

As humans you have given us abilities to share, reason, create, believe, trust and above all love as you have taught us through the life of your son Jesus Christ. We strive to grow in all that you have given, always reaching for new opportunities to understand, for new awareness, for rebirth.

For all this and more we give thanks daily.
LITANY

The Rev. Sarah Carver

We give thanks, O Lord, for the love you have shown us, the goodness in our lives and the many blessings you have poured over us. May we take this goodness we have known in you and share it with others as freely as you have shared it with us.

Lord, make our thanksgivings another’s blessings.

May we be instruments of your love, seeking to serve each other joyfully, carefully and mutually as we follow your Son, Jesus. Our Servant-King.

Lord, make our thanksgivings another’s blessings.

May the work we begin at the table of thanksgiving, be carried on from one to another throughout the world; brothers and sisters in Christ coming together to carry out God’s mission in the world.

Lord, make our thanksgivings another’s blessings.

May we see that the needs of others, are our needs as well, and may we never forget that those to whom we minister are also ministering to us.

Lord, make our thanksgivings another’s blessings.

Just as your Spirit moves through all creation, may we know ourselves to be linked with everything and everyone in a common bond forged through the reconciling love of your Son Jesus Christ.

And may our Eucharist be another’s berakah.*

*blessing

LITANY FOR MISSION WITH THE BLUE BOX

Marjorie A. Burke

Let us pray for the world that it may be transformed through our many individual prayers of thanksgivings and gifts of blessings.

Jesus was transfigured on the high mountain when a voice from heaven said, “This is my son, the Beloved, listen to him!” His face shone like the sun.

He gave us the great commission to heal the sick, feed the hungry, house the homeless, visit those in prison, welcome the stranger.

Help our faces to shine, God of transformation.

Mission is local, mission is global.

Empower us, God of love.

Mission is reaching out to those who are disenfranchised, those whose voices are silenced, those who live on the margins of society.

Guide us, God of justice.

Mission is communicating our faith to a hurting world, taking time to build a vision of a better world.

Shape us, God of patience.

Mission is reaching out to touch and be touched by others that we all become one.

Use us, God of mercy.

Mission is encountering differences of race, culture, class, age, and not being afraid of the differences but embracing them.

Draw us into community, God of compassion.

*Continued on next page.*
Mission is responding to natural disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, tornados, or to human disasters such as wars and school shootings, with more than shelter and food. It is mending broken hearts.

*Help us, God of grace.*

Mission is developing partnerships as we “seek and serve Christ in all persons.”

*Transform us, God of our hearts.*

We are your hands and feet in this world, the conduit through which mission happens. Keep our eyes heavenward, our minds focused on the tasks you have set before us. Refresh us when we are tired, renew us when we falter, reawaken us daily to hear the cries of your people.

*Hear our prayer, Triune God.*

*Rubrics: The responses may be sung. Silence may be included between the petitions. Gestures may be added to deepen the responses.*
ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

The INC-055 Special Task Force – Ad-Hoc Committee was authorized by INC-055, a resolution at the October 2008 Executive Council Meeting.

The charge of Executive Council to the Ad-Hoc Committee was “to undertake a serious and extensive study of the current and future of the United Thank Offering as to its roles, purposes, functions, operational procedures and vision for faithfulness to God’s mission in the 21st century. The Ad-Hoc Committee was to “begin this visioning exercise immediately and report to the 2012 General Convention with specific recommendations as to how the United Thank Offering can continue and expand its work in The Episcopal Church’s faithfulness to God’s mission…”

The United Thank Offering is committed to the larger vocation of The Episcopal Church in service to God’s mission, and by extension to that same mission expressed in the vocation of Anglican Churches throughout the world. As the mission minded church increasingly sees mission as God’s mission, the missio dei, United Thank Offering has asked itself where God, acting in the world to restore unity, is calling United Thank Offering to focus its efforts. The United Thank Offering Board establishes its guidelines in relation to its discernment of needs and its historical focus on ministry by and to women and its theology of thankfulness.

The Theology of Thankfulness Writing Group: Marge Burke and The Reverend Sarah Fossati Carver member of the INC055 Special Task Force – Ad Hoc Committee and Anne Gordon Curran, member of the 2009-2012 United Thank Offering Board.