



United Thank Offering (UTO) Prayers Through the Years

The United Thank Offering was founded to deepen spiritual disciplines of gratitude while utilizing the thank offering to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church. Since our founding, UTO has utilized a variety of prayers on Blue Boxes, in promotional materials and for special events. The following are a list of the historical prayers written and prayed by participants in UTO. If you know of other prayers which are not listed here, please let us know so we can add them to the list.

According to a UTO brochure from the 1970s, the following prayer was used until 1919:

O Lord, without whom our labour is but loss, and with whom Thy little ones go forth as the mighty; We humbly beseech Thee to prosper all works in Thy Church undertaken according to Thy holy will, especially the work of the Woman's Auxiliary and its United Offering; and grant to Thy labourers a pure intention, patient faith, sufficient success upon earth, and the blessedness of serving Thee in Heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In 1919 the word *Thank* was added to the name of the offering. It was necessary to change the box design and a new prayer replaced the old one:

Oh Lord, our heavenly Father, we pray thee to send forth more labourers into thy harvest, and to grant them thy special grace for every need. Guard and guide the workers in the field, and draw us into closer fellowship with them. Dispose the hearts of all women everywhere to give gladly as thou hast given to them. Accept from grateful hearts our United Thank Offering of prayer and gifts and joyful service; and bless it to the coming of thy Kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following prayer was printed on the first mass produced Blue Boxes (1928):

All Thy works praise Thee, O Lord and Thy saints give thanks to Thee; That Thy power; Thy glory, and mightiness of Thy kingdom might be known unto men. Amen.

In 1967 the Triennial Meeting voted to again change the box design because many people were asking if only women could take part in the offering. New prayers again were written.

O God, who art the hope of all peoples everywhere, we thank thee for the outpourings of love and generosity which have enabled us to respond to some of the world's needs in places far and near; guide us as we face changing times and new frontiers; keep our hearts thankful and our vision clear as we seek to fulfill our vocation and ministry as members of the body of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord of the Church, who hast given to thy servants a diversity of gifts, that they may share them with their brethren: Grant us the generous heart to give, the humble heart to receive; that we, with all who love thee, may know the fullness of thy grace; that thy love may be perfected in us; to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

In the early 2000s, a new prayer was written to support giving to UTO and there were two variations in circulation:

Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy: accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering; and keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way; through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Variation:

Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy: accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all Jesus Christ. Amen.

In 2017, The UTO Board created a new prayer for the Blue Box, intentionally making it easy to remember and easy enough for our youngest members to stay and remember:

*Almighty God, I give You praise
for blessing me in many ways.
Create in me a grateful heart
And with this gift, a blessing start. Amen.*

Additionally, the following prayers were created:

Prayer for the Memorial Trust Fund

Everliving God, by your gracious hand we are created in your image and have our being. Accept our prayers of thanksgiving for the good works of your faithful servants who are honored through gifts to the United Thank Offering Memorial Gift & Trust Fund. Grant that we may be encouraged by their good examples of living and serving you with joy and thanksgiving; and bless your servants who, with thankful hearts, lift up to you those dear to them with an offering in their name. Amen.

Prayer for the 100th Anniversary

We give you thanks, o Lord. We thank you for the growth of the United Thank Offering these past one hundred years. We thank you for all those, living and dead, who have given with thanks to you so that your love may be known everywhere-at home and abroad. We thank you for all of those through the years who have voluntarily worked in support of the United Thank Offering. We thank you for helping us begin another one hundred years, that all people may learn, always and everywhere to give you thanks. Above all, we thank you for your love and for showing us how to live and to love others through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory throughout the world. Amen.