

CELEBRATION



**of
THANKSGIVING**

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In order to meet the need for a variety of
resources for services of thanksgiving,
this booklet was compiled by the United
Thank Offering Committee from the offerings
of many diocesan UTO Chairmen and individuals.

We hope it will be a valuable tool for all
who are responsible for leading others in a
corporate expression of their gratitude to
God for all that life offers them.

1977-1979 United Thank Offering Committee:

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...on the occasion of the
90th Anniversary of the
United Thank Offering.

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What we give, we keep—for it is
in giving that we are enriched.
What we keep, we lose—for in keeping
we are limited to ourselves.
And when we die—all that we are is
what we have given.

REJOICE GIVE THANKS AND SING

UNITED THANK OFFERING LITANY

Father, we thank you that we are united in the faith that you are our Father who loves us; that you have shown us that love in Jesus Christ our Lord; and that your Holy Spirit is with us to guide and comfort us.

We thank you, Lord, that we are UNITED.

In our faith that nothing can separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord;

We thank you, Lord, that we are UNITED.

In our confidence that the Christian Way of life is the key to victory over sin, sorrow, suffering and death;

We thank you, Lord, that we are UNITED.

In our willingness to trust our lives to you, and our boldness to make you more fully known to others;

We thank you, Lord, that we are UNITED.

Father, we thank you for the fact that you are unchangeable, the one secure foundation in an insecure world;

Father, we THANK you.

For the artists, musicians, writers, scientists and doctors who have served to unlock for us the secrets of beauty, health, wisdom and justice;

Father, we THANK you.

For the knowledge that we are not alone; that we have a Divine Companion who has walked the road before us, and though unseen, walks beside us;

Father, we THANK you.

Father, we cannot pay for your blessings, nor do we ask what it will cost before we pray to you. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for the fact that we can pray and you will answer:

When we are freed of fear and worry;
Accept our OFFERING, O loving Father.

When our children return home safely;
Accept our OFFERING, O loving Father.

When a new baby is born in our family;
Accept our OFFERING, O loving Father.

When we receive your gifts of food, clothing and shelter;
Accept our OFFERING, O loving Father.

When we have enjoyed good fellowship with friends;
Accept our OFFERING, O loving Father.

When we see your creative hand in the beauty of nature and the wonders of science;
Accept our OFFERING, O loving Father.

When the sick and suffering are healed;
Accept our OFFERING, O loving Father.

When the right solution comes to some serious problem;
Accept our OFFERING, O loving Father.

When we find the peace of God in pain and sorrow;
Accept our OFFERING, O loving Father.

When we discover through faith that death is a gateway into eternal life in Christ;
Accept our OFFERING, O loving Father.

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PRAYERS

GIVING AND RECEIVING

Lord of the Church, who has given to your servants a diversity of gifts, that they may share them with their brothers: Grant us the generous heart to give, the humble heart to receive; that we, with all who love you, may know the fulness of your Grace; that your love may be perfected in us; to the glory of your name. AMEN.



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Dear God in Heaven, we unite in caring and sharing. We give thanks to you for making it possible. Our offering is for others' needs so they may give thanks.

Keep it always in our vision, Lord, that all things come from you. We enter into this world with nothing and will go out with nothing.

But with grateful hearts, while we are here, let us respond. AMEN.

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O God, as we thank you for all our blessings, remind us that they come to us through your Grace, not through our endeavors. We do not earn that Grace, but we can be constantly aware of it and grateful for it. These coins are symbols of our gratitude. Bless them as they become part of an ever-renewing stream nourishing the needs of people far and near. Grant us the generous heart to give, the humble heart to receive; that we, with all who love you, may know the fulness of your Grace. AMEN.

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There are ten who cry "God be merciful" for one who sings "God be praised." There were ten lepers who possessed sufficient faith to cry for healing; there was only one who returned to engage in the ministry of praise. When a man has got his whole heart busy in praising God, he will have some marvelous things to show. If will and intellect and emotion are all engaged in worship, there will be no difficulty in discovering the wonderful works of God.

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRAYER

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.

"It's the aged in Alaska,
It's the homeless up in Maine,
It's a seaman who is far from home,
It's a child who's torn with pain.

"It's the helpful hand of friendship
From Liberia to Brazil
It's a car, a sled, a donkey,
To make a mountain just a hill.

"It's a penny in a small blue box,
It's a prayer that's said each day.
It is people helping people,
and it's love that is the pay."

The habit of happiness—can it be?

Of course.

Drop a small symbolic coin in your own Blue Box,
Thank God for blessings great and small—
Health, family, friends, food, shelter, love,
A sunny day, a rainy day—whatever comes to mind.

The coins are symbols, yes, but manna too.
One by one, from you and me
They form an ever-flowing stream
To nourish people and their needs;
And they, in turn, give joyful thanks,
As round the world the message goes:
Rejoice! Thanks be to God!

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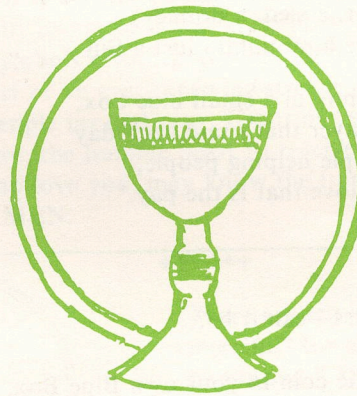
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LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS OF THANKSGIVING



Any worship service may provide a setting for a United Thank Offering Ingathering. While many groups have composed a special liturgy to mark this occasion in parish or diocese, our Prayer Book services are full of joyful expressions of thanksgiving. The Eucharist (from the Greek *eucharistia*, meaning “thanksgiving”), in any form, is a particularly appropriate setting for the Ingathering.

Since the United Thank Offering is a discipline for all the people of the Church, it is important to schedule Ingatherings when all the people can be present to take part—the main Sunday Service of a parish; the main worship service of a diocesan convention, modeled after the General Convention Eucharist.

This section includes possible outlines for Ingathering Eucharists, using Rites from the Proposed Book of Common Prayer (PBCP). The Propers for the Eucharist might be chosen from one of the following suggestions:

1. Thanksgiving Day
Collect, Traditional—PBCP pg. 194
Collect, Contemporary—PBCP pg. 246
Deuteronomy 8:1-3, 6-10 (17-20)
James 1:17-18, 21-27
Matthew 6:25-33
Psalm 65
2. Lectionary A, Proper 23, PBCP pg. 899
Collect, Traditional—PBCP pg. 183
Collect, Contemporary—PBCP pg. 234
Isaiah 25:1-9
Philippians 4:4-13
Matthew 22:1-14
Psalm 23
3. Lectionary C, Proper 12, PBCP pg. 919
Collect, Traditional—PBCP pg. 180
Collect, Contemporary—PBCP pg. 231
Genesis 18:20-33
Colossians 2:6-15
Luke 11:1-13
Psalm 138

GIVE REJOICE THANKS AND SING

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE ONE

(Outline)

Entrance Hymn: *Come, ye thankful people, come*

Hymn 137

THE WORD OF GOD

PBCP 325

The Collect of the Day

The Lessons:

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm

New Testament Lesson

Gradual: *We gather together*

Hymn 315

Gospel

The Sermon

A homily by the celebrant, or someone designated from the congregation.

A devotional reading, possibly from one of the selections in this booklet.

The Nicene Creed

PBCP 328

The Prayers of the People, Form 1

PBCP 385

Concluding Collect #1

PBCP 396

Confession of Sin (optional)

PBCP 332

(There is a short form of confession in the Prayers of the People. However, an additional confession may be said at this time.)

The Peace

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Offertory Sentence: "Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the most high."

Offertory Hymn: *Now thank we all our God*

Hymn 276

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer II

The Lord's Prayer

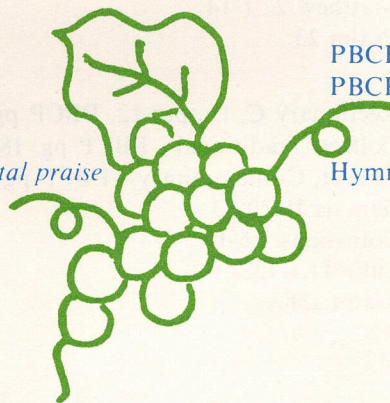
The Breaking of the Bread

PBCP 342

PBCP 338

Closing Hymn: *Praise to God, immortal praise*

Hymn 140



THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO
(Outline)

Entrance Hymn: *God is working his purpose out*

Hymn 538

THE WORD OF GOD

PBCP 357

The Collect of the Day

The Lessons

Old Testament lesson

Psalm

New Testament lesson

Gradual: *In Christ there is no East or West (Second Tune)*

Hymn 263

Gospel

The Sermon

A homily by the celebrant or someone designated from the congregation.

A devotional reading, possibly from one of the selections in this booklet.

The Nicene Creed

PBCP 360

The Prayers of the People, Form II

PBCP 387

(include special thanksgivings from the congregation)

Concluding Collect #3

PBCP 396

Confession of Sin (Optional)

(There is a short form of Confession in the Prayers of the People. However, an additional Confession may be said at this time.)

The Peace

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Offertory Sentence: "I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of god, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

Offertory hymn: *We thank you, Lord of Heaven*

Hymn 313

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

PBCP 371

The Lord's Prayer

PBCP 366

The Breaking of the Bread

Closing Hymn: *Rejoice, ye pure in heart*

Hymn 579

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AN ORDER FOR CELEBRATING THE HOLY EUCHARIST

As the people gather, each one is given a card on which he is invited to write something for which he is thankful. If the congregation is large, these may be gathered before the Service begins; three or four people can work with them to divide them into categories and prepare to alternate reading them at the time of intercession. If the congregation is small, these offerings may be collected and read by two or three people at the time of the offertory.

AN OFFERING OF THANKS

Gather in the Lord's Name

Priest: Our Father in heaven, blessed be your name.

All: We come before you, gracious Father...
In penitence for our failures and imperfections,
In hope that we may be made strong for your service,
With thanksgiving for our many blessings,
With joy in the knowledge of the presence of your Spirit.
PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST!

Hymn: *Jesus shall reign where'er the sun*

Hymn 542

Priest: Almighty God, Creator and Redeemer of the world, in whom we live and from whom all good things come: We praise you for the countless blessings which you have bestowed on us and all your people. Give us humble and obedient hearts to receive your bountiful mercies with thanksgiving. And, finally, by your Grace, bring us to the glorious fulfillment of your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

All: AMEN.

Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God

The proclamation and response may include readings, song, dance, talk, instrumental music, other art forms, silence. A reading from the Gospel is always included. (PBCP, pg. 402.)

Pray for the World and the Church

Leader: Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us:

For the beauty of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: For the brave and courageous who are patient in suffering, and faithful in adversity,

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: For all the valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

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Leader: And especially for all who, by their daily remembrance of your gifts and their giving to the United Thank Offering, work for the spread of your kingdom,

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: In particular, we thank you for _____ (Here the special thanksgivings of the congregation are invited or may be read)

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: Above all, let us give thanks for the great promises and mercies given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord:

All: *To him be praise and glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. AMEN.*

Exchange the Peace

Prepare the Table

Make Eucharist

Offertory

Offertory Sentence: "Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord."

Offertory Hymn: *Holy offerings rich and rare*

Hymn 480

DOXOLOGY (Special thanksgivings of the congregation may be read at this time.)

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.



GIVE THANKS AND SING

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Priest: Bread is the basic physical need of all people. It is set on tables where families gather, and on lonely lunchroom counters. It is carried in brown paper bags on the main streets of little towns. It is placed on festive tables among delicacies, and eaten alone against starvation.

People: All people are alike in their need for bread.

Priest: Where bread may be bought people come and where it may be given people gather. Bread brings people together in dependence.

People: For we know that we are brothers and sisters in the needing and sharing of bread.

Priest: Likewise, wine is the symbol of celebration.

People: It is the result of the hard labor of grape treaders.

Priest: It is the refreshing drink of warmth and laughter.

People: And it is red, symbolic of the blood which unites us all in a common humanity.

All: Therefore let us eat our bread and drink our wine in a common meal together celebrating the beginning of a new, open and growing community.

Priest: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by Him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night He was betrayed, He took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to His friends and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, He took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all mankind for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."



People: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we show forth your death, Lord Christ, until you come in glory.

Priest: Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in His name.

People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Priest: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, your church gives honor, glory, and worship from generation to generation.

All: AMEN.

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, calling us to remembrance that we are children of God and brothers and sisters to one another, we now pray:

All: Our Father...

Break the Bread

Priest: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Eat and Drink Together

The People communicate one another, with these words:

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. *Amen.*

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. *Amen.*

Post Communion Prayer

Priest: Lord of the Church, you have given your servants a diversity of gifts that they may share them with others; Grant us generous hearts to give and humble hearts to receive; that we, with all who love you, may know the fulness of your grace; and that your love may be made perfect in us, to the glory of your Name.

All: AMEN.

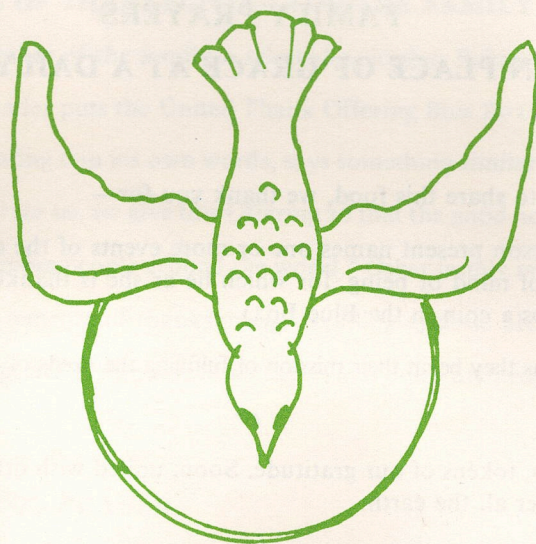
Closing Hymn: *For the beauty of the earth*

Hymn 296



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MEDITATIONS AND FAMILY PRAYERS

FAMILY PRAYERS

TO BE USED IN PLACE OF GRACE AT A DAILY FAMILY MEAL

Lord, we thank you.

As we come together to share this food, we thank you for—

(each person present names one or more events of the day
or state of mind or being, for which he or she is thankful
and drops a coin in the Blue Box)

Lord, bless these coins as they begin their mission of fulfilling the needs of others at home and abroad.

or

Lord, bless these coins, tokens of our gratitude. Soon, united with others, they will begin to fill
needs over all the earth.

Bless this food to our use and us to your loving service.



Giver of all good things, we thank thee:
for health and vigour; for the air that gives the
breath of life, the sun that warms us, and the
good food that makes us strong; for happy
homes and for the friends we love; for all that
makes it good to live. Make us thankful, and
eager to repay, by cheerfulness and
kindliness, and by a readiness to help others.
Freely we have received; let us freely give, in
the name of him who gave his life for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

GRACE for mealtime:

While we enjoy Thy gifts, may we never forget, O Lord, the
needy, nor allow those who want to be forsaken. May our table be an
altar of lovingkindness, and our home a temple in which thy spirit of
goodness dwells. We praise Thee, O Lord, who in kindness cares for
the world. *Amen.*

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE FAMILY

One member of the family is selected as leader. Before or after the family dinner, the leader puts the United Thank Offering Blue Box in the center of the table, and, stating it in his own words, says something similar to: "The Lord has done so much for us, we give this Offering so that the good news of his love may be carried to more people around the world." Other family members then make their own statements of thanksgiving, recalling specific blessings of the day. These blessings are then put into a prayer, and coins are dropped into the Blue Box.

A THANK-YOU PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, thank you,
Thank you for all the gifts you have given us these days.
Thank you for all we have seen, heard, received.

Thank you for the light that wakes us up, the soap that smells so good,
the toothpaste that refreshes.

Thank you for the clothes that protect us, for their color and
their cut.

Thank you for the food that sustains, for the glass of cheer
that revives us.

Thank you for the planes and cars that take us places, for the wind that bites our
faces and the sun that shines upon us.

Thank you for the morning greetings we receive and for the friendly smiles.

Thank you for the people here gathered.

Thank you for our work, our tools, our efforts; thank you for pens in our hands,
for the thoughts flowing through them, for the listening and deciding.

Thank you for the time you have given us.

Thank you for life.

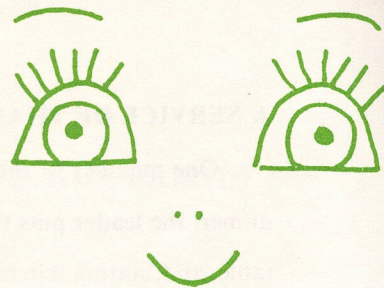
Thank you for grace.

Thank you for being here, Lord.

Thank you, Lord, thank you.



CHILDREN'S PRAYER



Help us to be glad today, Lord—

...for our parents,
brothers and sisters,
grandparents,
aunts, uncles and cousins,

and we ask your blessing on each one we love.

...for our homes,
food,
clothes,
books, toys, pets,

and pray that we will remember those who are in need.

...for giggles and tears,
for friends who share them with us;

keep us loving of others and of ourselves.

...for trees and twigs,
sun and rain,
moon and stars and the dark,
buildings and bricks,
streets and walks,
land and grass and swimming pools,

thank you, heavenly Father, for all things
we can see, touch and hear.

...for teachers and classes,
our Church and our Priest_____

and may the Love of God protect us and keep
us and all for whom we pray. AMEN.

REFLECTIONS

Even though I clutch my blankets and groan when the alarm rings each morning, thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are those who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank you, Lord, that I can see. There are those who are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed, and put off the physical effort of rising, thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise. There are those who are bedfast.

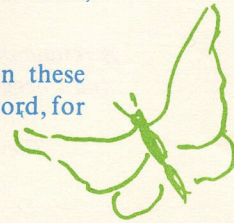
Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our table never looks like the pictures in ladies magazines, and the menu is at times unbalanced, thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous, thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no work.

Even though I grumble and gripe and bemoan my fate from day to day, and wish my modest circumstances were not quite so modest, thank you, Lord, for the gift of life.

Even though I sometimes forget to ask for your help in these circumstances, I know you are always present. Thank you, Lord, for there are those who have not heard the Good News.



O Thou Creator of all things that are, I lift up my heart in gratitude to Thee for this day's happiness:

For the mere joy of living;
For all the sights and sounds around me;
For the sweet peace of the country and the pleasant bustle of the town;
For friendship and good company;
For work to perform and the skill and strength to perform it;
For a time to play when the day's work was done, and for health and a glad heart to enjoy it.

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A UNITED THANK OFFERING DIARY

MONDAY

*At morn I saw the sun aglow, rising out of dawn's pearly haze;
And I thanked my god for this glimpse of Him, in the beauty of nature's ways.
Then my thoughts turned to those for whom beauty is rare,
And I dropped a Thank Offering in my Little Blue Box.*

TUESDAY

*A letter came to me today, from a friend I'd not seen in a year;
And I thanked my God for this glimpse of Him, in the joy of a friend I hold dear.
Then my thoughts turned to those who are friendless and lone,
And I dropped a Thank Offering in my Little Blue Box.*

WEDNESDAY

*I toured a modern hospital, to watch medical wonders performed;
And I thanked my God for this glimpse of Him, in great research for sick and deformed.
Then my thoughts turned to lands without medical skill,
And I dropped a Thank Offering in my Little Blue Box.*

THURSDAY

*I saw school children studying from our library books new and old;
And I thankd God for this glimpse of Him in the knowledge of library shelves hold.
Then my thoughts turned to lands where great books are so few,
And I dropped a Thank Offering in my Little Blue Box.*

FRIDAY

*A restaurant where I went to lunch had a menu of viandes galore;
And I begged my God for a glimpse of Him in this affluent life on our shore.
And my thoughts turned to lands filled with hungry and poor,
Then I dropped a Thank Offering in my Little Blue box.*

SATURDAY

*A child gave me a loving kiss: "I do like you a lot," said she;
And I thanked my God for this glimpse of Him in the love of a child for me.
Then my thoughts turned to children abused and unloved,
And I dropped a Thank Offering in my Little Blue Box.*

SUNDAY

*I knelt before the chancel rail, there to worship, commune with the Lord;
And I thanked my God for this glimpse of Him in the silence at His holy board.
Then my thoughts turned to lands where Christ's name is not heard,
And I dropped a Thank Offering in my Little Blue Box.*

INGATHERINGS

Christ, you never promised us life peaceful as a summer day;
Nor did you build us Christian walls to keep all pain away.
Those early Christian women who wept beneath your cross
Did even in your presence suffer grief and anguished loss.

The promise that you made was to strengthen
not to spare...
To be a constant blessed presence in our lives;
To guide us to fair decisions,
To turn us away from revenge,
To help us to forgive those who fail us,
To accept us with all our weakness and excuses,
To speak through us to others in great need.

Now, we grateful Christians in these sweet fresh days of Spring
Remember your supporting strength and bring our offering.
Here are our Blue Boxes, Lord, take and use them all we pray,
To spread the Christ worldwide and deep through troubled lands today.

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In this time of Autumn
When fruits are gathered,
Let me do this Christ-like thing.
I will make from the harvest of my blessings
An offering to other souls in God's wide world.

In my Blue Box are the tokens of my blessings,
The loveliness that touched my life,
The darkness I was spared.

Now pass along these coins of my remembrance
To reshape the hands of a leper in India,
To shelter homeless boys in Puerto Rico,
To comfort a lonely priest in Africa.

MY BLUE BOX is a link in a great chain of blessings received, made
into offerings which again turn into Blessings. Lord, receive the
contents of this Blue Box as a testimonial to your supporting love.

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MEDITATION

The young mother laughed: "My Blue box is full of IOU's; I always need change for the children's lunch money!"

She has said something more profound than she knows. Everything I put into this Blue Box is an IOU in the fullest, richest meaning. I owe you, dear Jesus, for so many things I cannot name them all.

When I was cold in loneliness, you guided me to where I was needed; and I grew warm again.

When I twisted in anger at wrongs I could not right, you granted me patience to wait for your justice in your good time.

When I was weighed down with the sadness of loss, you comforted me that one day I would cross the infinite bridge and join the beloved.

When I felt I could not forgive, you strengthened me to bow my head and set aside a hurt while it still hurt.

And while I went up and down the ladder of faith, doubting, forgetting, ignoring, you waited lovingly to take me back again.

DEAR JESUS, I OWE YOU EVERYTHING. Now please accept the contents of my Blue Box in token of my remembrance. Use it as you have done in the past for others around the overburdened world.

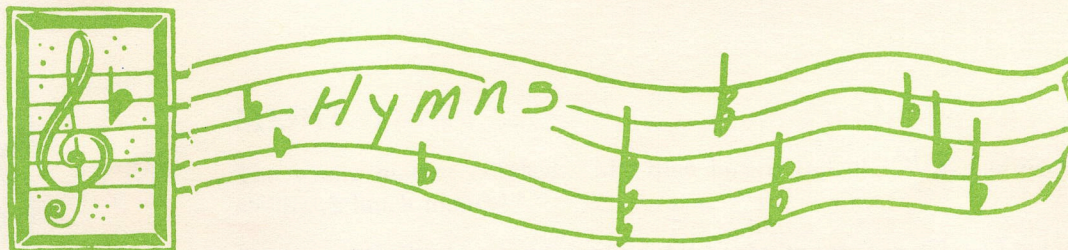
"IOU" the young mother said. She spoke for us all, Lord, she spoke for us all!



RESOURCES FOR LITURGY

A N D S I N G





ENTRANCE HYMNS

- 137 Come, ye thankful people, come
- 140 Praise to God, immortal praise
- 279 Praise to the Lord
- 427 Alleluia, sing to Jesus (second tune)
- 477 God Himself is with us
- 479 Love divine all loves excelling
- 538 God is working His purpose out
- 542 Jesus shall reign
- 543 Christ is the King

GRADUALS and/or OFFERTORY HYMNS

- 257 Hasten the time appointed
- 260 How wondrous and great thy works (second tune)
- 263 In Christ there is no East or West (second tune)
- 272 Thou, whose almighty word
- 276 Now thank we all our God
- 278 All people that on earth do dwell
- 313 We thank you, Lord of Heaven
- 315 We gather together
- 375 Breathe on me Breath of God (second tune)
- 495 Blest be the tie that binds
- 480 Holy Offerings rich and rare
- 537 Christ for the world we sing

COMMUNION HYMNS

- 195 Father we thank thee
- 196 Bread of the world
- 197 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
- 198 Oh God, unseen yet ever near
- 208 Here, Oh my Lord

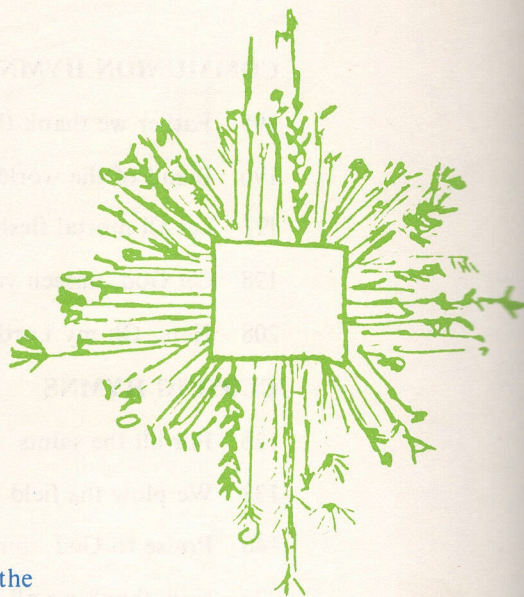
CLOSING HYMNS

- 126 For all the saints
- 138 We plow the field and scatter
- 140 Praise to God, immortal praise
- 276 Now thank we all our God
- 282 Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven
- 296 For the beauty of the earth
- 301 Immortal, invisible, God only wise
- 311 All things bright and beautiful
- 408 Take my life and let it be
- 438 I need thee every hour
- 568 On our way rejoicing
- 579 Rejoice, ye pure in heart
- 599 Ye watchers and ye holy ones



BIBLICAL REFERENCES

- I Chr 29:13 David: And now, we give thee thanks, our God; and praise thy glorious name.
- Ps 50:14 Offer to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving...
- Ps 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name.
- Ps 107:1 It is good to give thanks to the Lord for his love endures for ever...
- Ps 107:21-22 Let them thank the Lord for his enduring love and for the marvelous things he has done for men. Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and recite his deeds with shouts of joy.
- Mark 8:6 ...he took the seven loaves and having given thanks, he broke them...
- Luke 22:19 ...he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them...
- John 11:41 Father, I thank thee that thou has heard me (after the raising of Lazarus).
- Matt 26:27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them...
- Rom 14:6 ...he also who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; while he who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.
- I Cor 4 I give thanks to God always for you...
- I Cor 15:56-57 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



- 2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.
- 2 Cor 8:16 But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus.
- 2 Cor 9:15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift.
- Phil 4:6 Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 1 Thess 2:13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.
- 1 Thess 3:9 For what thanksgiving can we render to God for you, for all the joy which we feel for your sake before our God.
- 1 Tim 1:12 I thank him who has given me strength for this, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful by appointing me to his service...
- 1 Tim 2:1 ...I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all men...
- 1 Tim 4:4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving; for then it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.
- Eph 5:4 Let there be no filthiness, nor silly talk, nor levity, which are not fitting; but instead let there be thanksgiving.
- Eph 5:20 ...always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.



Thanksgiving vital to a truly Christian life

What does being thankful have to do with the United Thank Offering? In spite of all the good accomplished by the Grants, the essence of the Offering lies in thanksgiving—lies in the mysterious and powerful effect of genuine prayers of thanksgiving. As a person develops the habit of thinking on these things for which he is truly thankful, changes begin to take place in that person. Our thanksgivings should become more intuitive the longer we practice them; but in the earlier stages they need to be cultivated, as indeed the seeds which grow the flowers.

There are many types of prayer. Thanksgiving is one of the most important. Coupled with adoration, it sets the tone of a truly Christian life. As Christians we believe that God is continually giving us the opportunity to draw nearer to him. He confronts us with daily experiences which make

us mindful of his presence if we are receptive.

One of the primary aims of the Christian life is to transfer the center of our lives from ourselves to God. Of course, this is a lifetime task! God gives. We receive. God loves us, not for what we can do for him, but simply for ourselves. When we give free consent to God's action in us, we become different persons.

Adoration becomes a stable mood. Thankfulness is a natural outcome of adoration. The more we give of ourselves to God, the deeper is our gratitude.

Being thankful is a universal experience, certainly not confined to Christians alone. Gratitude for a healthy child, a life saved, recovery from illness, all these things are part of the feelings of all mankind, not a Christian experience.

Christian thankfulness is different. It is more than counting one's blessings. It is all of those

responses—plus. A Christian gives thanks even during adversities. We do not give thanks for our adversities but for God's presence, and the strength and calmness which his presence brings, and which helps us face our human problems. Afterwards we can look back and see God has never abandoned us.

We can also give thanks for the lessons derived from experiences of temptation and the deeper understanding of ourselves which follows those experiences. This is not delusion. Life substantiates prayer of this kind. Thankfulness can become the steadfast mood of our whole life.

Participating in the United Thank Offering is one of the ways we may grow in our comprehension of God's presence. The Church of Jesus Christ, wherever it may be, is a body of persons knit together by thankfulness.

—By Mrs. Emil C. Polich

Look now at the Blue Box, taken down from its accustomed place...

Hold it in your hand...it is heavy with tokens of remembrance...

Its contents are symbols of the stream of blessings, great and small, that have poured through your life;

It holds witness to the constant support of Christ's love.

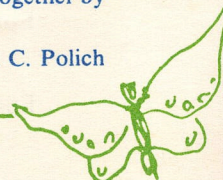
* * *

O LORD, whose sustaining love has never failed me,

Accept the contents of my Blue Box, which I offer up to help others.

Use it, Lord, for the orphaned, sick, homeless, unenlightened, widowed, uneducated, for the uncomforted in this great world,

For they are me and I am them. AMEN.



BASIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR UNITED THANK OFFERING CHAIRMEN

You Are a Communicator

Communicate often with parish/mission chairmen, telling them of dates for mailing Ingathering Offerings to you; dates of diocesan Ingatherings, workshops, meetings; information on obtaining supplies. Keep an accurate list of parish/mission UTO Chairmen in your diocese.

Communicate with clergy in your diocese through special mailings and at meetings. Offer to tell *briefly* the United Thank offering story at clergy conferences, orientation sessions for new clergy, deacons' training sessions.

Submit short, concise, interesting stories about UTO to your diocesan newspaper, clergy newsletters, any other publication that is distributed in your diocese. Include short paragraphs for church bulletin inserts in your mailings to clergy.

You Are a Coordinator

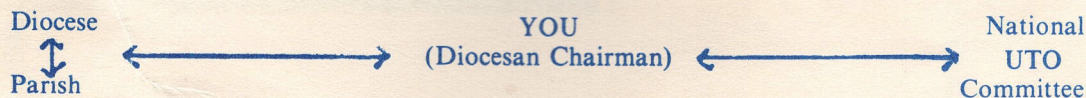
Ask for an appointment with your Bishop. Briefly, succinctly describe your duties as United Thank Offering Chairman, and your plans and dreams for carrying out this job. Solicit his suggestions and help. Ask to receive copies of Grant Requests submitted from your diocese, and suggest that the churchwomen's diocesan board (or its equivalent) be a part of prioritizing these requests each year.

Try to generate interest in a diocesan UTO Ingathering, preferably at the time of the diocesan annual convention. It could be modeled after the Ingathering at General Convention.

Request opportunities to speak to diocesan groups such as meetings of Episcopal Churchmen, youth conventions, etc.

You Are a Link

You are a link, joining into one focused effort the work of your Provincial Representative and the United Thank Offering Committee, your own diocesan program, and the efforts of your parish chairmen.



You can expect from the National UTO Committee, through the UTO Coordinator (Miss Judith Gillespie), several letters with detailed instructions and dates. Attend carefully and promptly to these mailings.



UNITED we

THANK God for his presence in our daily
lives, for blessings great and small,

OFFERING prayers and coins which are

UNITED with those of thousands of other
grateful people and sent on to
undergird the worldwide mission of
the church, giving still others cause to

THANK God and respond by

OFFERING their own prayers and coins in
thanksgiving.

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