

UNITED THANK OFFERING

Prayers



VOLUME IV

INTRODUCTION

Prayer can take so many different forms. We pray for guidance, for courage, for understanding, for strength. We give thanks, praise, adoration. Prayer can be formal and familiar. It can be a poem, a song, a few words, or many. Whatever the reason and whatever the form, it is our opportunity to speak to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It gives us an obligation to be quiet, if only for a second, and listen for God's answer, which may even be a "no" or a "not at this time" or it may be an enlightenment that spurs us to action.

There are a variety of prayers; prayers of thanksgiving; morning prayers; nighttime prayers; prayers for those in pain or suffering illness. There are prayers for and about children. There are table graces. There are even some light-hearted yet poignant prayers. They are all prayers that may give a different message with every reading.

All prayers were printed as received. The United Thank Offering Board offers this collection of prayers for you to use in your prayer life.

CAROL FELLER GOTTARD
United Thank Offering Board
Communications Committee

Gracious and holy God, we give you thanks
for all the blessings of this life —
air for breathing and flying,
food for eating and celebrating,
drink for the table and the trail,
for work to do and the will and skill to do it.
Above all, we bless you for your abundant love
of your creation, the gift of your son,
and the presence of your spirit;
in Christ's name we pray.

Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori

I am not sure what is around the next corner of your life, but I will walk that way with you if you like. I will keep you company in prayer until we both see what life has in store for us. And as we walk I will remind you that we are both veterans of many twists and turns. We have the experience to face change, the wisdom to think it through, the courage to do what must be done, the faith to know there is love on the other side. We may not know what is coming, but we do know that we are not alone. We can walk together. We can walk with God by our side.

The Right Reverend Steven Charleston
“Hope as Old as Fire”
Interim Dean - St. Paul’s Cathedral
Diocese of Oklahoma, Province VII

O God of Grace and Glory, in the midst of the complexities of life help us to find space for small acts of thanksgiving, quiet words of encouragement and simple prayers, for in them we are, even in our weakness, witnesses to the fullness of your Word, Mercy and Justice known in Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

The Reverend Canon Mark Harris, Chair
INC055 Special Task Force - Ad Hoc Committee
Diocese of Delaware



Gracious One

Coax us out of our comfort zone.
Lead us to live a life borne on the wind of the Holy Spirit.
Protect us from the snares of human constructs that separate us from you.
Wrap us in the cloak of your enduring love.
We pray, make us brave to do your will.

Amen.

BONNIE ANDERSON, President
The House of Deputies

Gracious and Holy One, we give you thanks for all the blessings of this life; for freedoms, caring friends, generous hearts, and embodiments of your goodness; for the smile of strangers and the wondrous joy of creation. Help us not to take these and other gifts for granted. Help us to breathe your joy as we strive to be agents of your hope, your grace and your peace in healing a wounded world. Help us today, Holy God. Amen.

THE RIGHT REVEREND PRINCE SINGH
Bishop, Diocese of Rochester



“Dear Lord of all the beauty and magnificence that surrounds my life, you have blessed me with so much for which to give you thanks. I just ask for the continuing strength to do your will and your work, especially in this new challenge as UTO Chair of the Diocese.”

‘O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.’ (Shakespeare)

JOANNA HENRICHS
Diocese of California

A Mantra for Everyday

Happy moments,
Praise God.

Difficult moments,
Seek God.

Quiet moments,
Worship God.

Painful moments,
Trust God.

Every moment,
Thank God.

MARIA MANIACI
Diocese of North Michigan



Lord God, thank you for your patience, your guidance, forgiveness and your love. Lead us Lord to be in our own lives more patient, understanding, loving and forgiving. Amen.

BETSY HETZLER
Diocese of Pittsburgh

For this food that nourishes us, for the hands that have brought this food to us and prepared it for us, for the people sharing this meal, for the people in our neighborhood and around the world who don't have enough to eat, for people who are working to share food with all who are hungry, for opportunities to love and serve you and our neighbors before this day is done, and for your presence in every area of this wonderful and struggling world, we thank you Holy Trinity one God. Amen.

THE RIGHT REVEREND GORDON P. SCRUTON
Bishop, Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Dear God

We tend to pay attention to you in two circumstances. When we want something from you, like: "God, please help me through this difficult situation; God, protect me from this danger; God, give me courage, give me strength; give me health, prosperity."

Or when we want to thank you for your blessings. We have so many blessings, everything, is from you.

Help us always try to say "thanks" more often than we say "give me."

THE REV. DR. DAVID G. HENRITZY
The Bible and Common Prayer Book Society



Dear Lord,
When the things of daily life sometimes seem so
overwhelming,
Please help me to see the daily blessings you pour upon me.
Then,
Give Thanks,
Breathe Deeply, and
Continue Refreshed,
Renewed!

GAIL DONOVAN
Diocese of Western Michigan

AN ADORATION PRAYER

Lord God Almighty, you are awesome, amazing, astounding, remarkable, incredible and wonderful! In your magnificence you created us in your image, numbered the hairs on our heads, and cared so much for us that you have given us free-will and sent your only Son to offer salvation as a gift of grace and mercy. Thank you for your mercy; thank you for your grace; thank you for your forgiveness; thank you for the salvation, which you so freely give through Jesus Christ. Amen.

MATTHEW P. PAYNE

Lay Canon for Administration and Diocesan Archivist, OR

Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing us safely through the night.

Thank you for this glorious day, keep us safe and may we remember those less fortunate than ourselves, trying to help others as you have shown us to do.

Thank you for our daily blessings, reminding us to give you praise for the ability to experience your presence in the day, as you have shown us how to do.

Thank you for showing us the way and guiding us to make choices that will bring us closer to you and the heavenly place.

May we be thankful for the men and women who protect our lives, our families and our friends and those who cannot protect themselves.

We, Lord, are your servants, guide us to bring others toward you so they may have peace, learning that life can be beautiful and bountiful.

THE REV. DEACON TEENA MAKI
UTO Diocesan Coordinator
Diocese of Northern Michigan

IN PRAISE OF YARD SALES

Dear God, thank you for the Town Wide Yard Sale, for the creative minds who planned the event, and for the community space at our church. Thank you for the fellowship we shared as we chatted with each other, with browsers and buyers alike. What fun it was to discover what one person called "closet clutter" was "dearly desired" by someone else. What shrieks of delight when someone found a collection of Star Trek books, and other found a stack of very old vinyl records. Thank you for the small dog who nosed around in a box of children's toys, picking out something, trotting around to show off the treasure, putting it back and finding another. Finally, thank you for my Blue Box that received a tithe of my earning, so that the thanksgiving for all my many blessings can continue to spread your love in places far and near. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

MARGE BURKE

INC055 Special Task Force - Ad Hoc Committee
Province I



Gracious, giving God who offers love in abundance, so fill our hearts and minds with awareness and thanksgiving for our many blessings that we overflow with your love and pour out your grace and goodness in this broken world.

KATHERINE HARPER

Diocese of Lexington, Province IV

Jesus, open our eyes to help us see your presence at work in our lives right now. You are the author of our life-story and of the story of this planet. You have been active in ways we can never recognize to bless and guide our lives. We need your forgiveness because we have not always used the gifts and opportunities you have given us to be a blessing to others. And yet, you never give up on us. Thank you for inviting us right now to be more aware of your guidance, more responsive to your call and more grateful for the privilege of being alive with your Holy Spirit at work in and through us, moment by moment. Amen.

THE RT. REV. GORDON P. SCRUTON
Bishop of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts



Lord, in my time of trial and suffering you spoke to me gently and let me know that we are never alone. Give me the strength to know and do your will that we may recognize a need and to work to fill it, to see you in all whom we meet, to be grateful for all our gifts, and thankful for your presence.

MARION DUNN
CPC Province I Representative

Dear Lord, as sisters in ministry in your church, please show us the needs that you want us to address. There is so much to be done yet we all have limited resources. Give us the wisdom as we work to be your eyes, ears and hands in the world. Help us always to see the big picture and to thank you from where all grace comes. Amen.

URSULA BAXLEY, President
National Church Periodical Club
Diocese of Virginia



Through this journey in life,
We thank you God,
for the gift you have given us,
through Christ our Lord,
Amen

SHIRLEY GREIMAN
Province I Representative
National Episcopal Church Women's Board

Dear God,

My body feels ravaged, torn, and full of pain. Please help me through this journey of healing and the patience of time. Please enrich my life with the hope of the Son, the comfort of the Father, and the strength of the Spirit. In God's holy name I pray. Amen.

CHARLENE WATSON
St. John's Episcopal Church - Lafayette, IN
Province V



Dear Lord,

You have set me on a different path this last year and there have been many valleys to pass through. You have been my constant companion and have at times carried me. As I go forward to the high places may your peace be always with me and the light of your presence guide me. Give me grace to do all that you would have me do. In your precious name I pray. Amen

CORDELIA BURT
VP for Program, National ECW
Diocese of Hawaii

A Prayer of Thanks

Praise to you, O God, the Creator of all being.

For the colors we see from blue skies and waters, to green grass and leaves, to orange flowers
and the sun—we give thanks.

For the smells of fragrant flowers, to baby's talcum, to foods cooking—we give you thanks.

For sounds we hear from water flowing, to our pets "talking"
to friends knocking at our door—
we give you thanks.

For feelings of compassion and love that prompt us to care
for our families, to smile at strangers,
to reach out to those in need—we give you thanks.

For all your blessings known and unknown—we give you
thanks. Amen

BARBARA OWENS
Province IV Representative
Episcopal Church Women National Board

Thankful in Adversity

Lord, it is so easy to be thankful for the joys that are in my life, but how do I say thank you in adversity? You remind me that "Lo, I am with you always."

When a job is lost, pause and be thankful for a time of reflection and finding new dreams,
for You are with me.

When discouraged, pause and be thankful for being able to try again,
for You are with me.

When frightened, pause and be thankful for prayer to calm,
for You are with me.

When ill, pause and be thankful for those given skills to help,
for You are with me.

When death separates us, pause and be thankful for the resurrection,
for You are with me.

Thank you, Lord for being my refuge and shelter in the storms of life. Amen and Alleluia.

MARYFRAN CRIST
Health Ministry
Province V

CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Dear Lord, I'm so frightened, please help...
It's not a cracked rib, it's a tumor in my lung -
You have lung cancer, they say.
Lord, I'm so frightened, and back come the words:
"Do not be frightened, I am always with you."

Tests and more tests, dreaded needles,
enough rays for me glow in the night.
It's already on the move and needs to be stopped.
Lord, I'm so frightened, but I hear it again:
"Do not be frightened, I am always with you."

Family and friends all offering love.
Prayers flying round and raising me up.
You can fight this they say and I know that it's true.
How can I be frightened when I know
Dear Lord, you will always be with me. Thank you!

I thank you for my family and friends,
I thank you for the tower of strength my husband has
become,
I thank you for my community of faith,
For my colleagues of all denominations, all reaching out
But mostly I thank you, Dear Lord, because I know
You will always be with me, however this ends.

JOANNA M. GESICKI, President
Province V Episcopal Church Women

Morning Prayer

We thank you, Lord, for this new morn,
For flowers and birds and earth reborn,
For quenching rain and shining sun,
For quiet rest when work is done,
For those we love who love us too,
For everything that comes from you.
Please bless the food we'll eat today -
With grateful hearts to you we pray.

Amen.

PAMELA STEWART
Vice President, UTO Board
Diocese of Long Island, Province II



Dear Lord, you have blessed us with Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whom we put all our trust. May we be ever thankful for all of life's blessings which originate with you. May we continue to be ever mindful of the needs of others and open our hearts to comfort those in need. May we always be aware of Your Good Works and with Your Grace, strive to be a protector of your creation. In Jesus Christ's name we pray, Amen.

JAN RIDLE
President, Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of Oklahoma, Province VII

Thank you, Lord,
for my eyes to see
This beautiful world
You made for me.
Thank you, Lord,
For my ears to hear
The Glorious sounds
Far and near.
Thank you, Lord,
for my arms to feel
The hugs and kisses
for my soul to heal.
Thank you, Lord,
For my nose to smell
The wonderful scents
We know so well.
Thank you, Lord,
for my mouth to taste
For your bountiful food
We shall not waste.

Amen

SUSAN MCKINNEY

Heavenly Father,

I prayed for sleep to heal the hurt,
I prayed for help to face the day,
I prayed my hands could do the work,
And hear your gentle voice.

I prayed my eyes would see the good,
I prayed my voice would speak the truth,
I prayed to have an open heart,
And felt your gentle touch.

Each day will bring a new reward,
Each day will bring a frown,
But You are there for me to praise,
To glorify and love.

MARILYN RISHKOFSKI

Vice President of Information and Communication
Episcopal Church Women National Board
Diocese of New Hampshire

For those in darkness prisoned
Tangled in their fears,
Lost in a maze,
Unknowing,
Let Christ Light shine
Take love and kindness,
Christ-love beacons
Piercing blackest
Night of soul,
Wrap compassion
Like a mantle
Soft and warm
Around their frozen bodies
Lead them to the light
That is God's Son.

Amen

C.C. JOHNSON
CPC Representative, Diocese of Lexington

Dear Father and Comforter of mankind, renew our spirit this day, and give us the strength and courage to deal with whatever is ahead of us. Lord protect and bless our family, friends and acquaintances today and the days to come. Amen.

CLEOPATRA HALL-LEADER
Diocese of Long Island



Prayer for all families everywhere, those of the same blood and those who choose to be family.

May any brokenness be healed.

May misunderstanding be righted.

May hard-heartedness be softened.

May real and imagined sins be overlooked and forgiven.

May self-righteousness and self-pity be forsaken.

May we not forget the great gift we have in each other.

Peace . . . peace . . . peace . . .

Amen.

LELANDA LEE
Executive Council - Province VI

O Gracious God,

How I can I begin to thank you for all your blessings, known and unknown?

Each morning You wake me up to your glorious sunrise, feeling well and aware of my surroundings.

You bless me with a loving family and wonderful Christian friends.

You have blessed me with a fulfilling career, a most satisfying retirement and resources more than enough.

You have given me gifts that I can share with others. What more can I ask?

Help me Lord to thank you by sharing the love that you have showered on me with those that I meet each day.

BARBARA TAYLOR
Diocese of Long Island, Province II

Porque hoy me pude levantar de mi cama y ver la luz del sol

Porque pude tomar un desayuno y porque puedo ver oír y
hablar

Porque puedo leer el periódico y ver la televisión

Porque puedo caminar y salir de mi hogar

Por todo esto por mucho más, hoy te doy gracias Señor.

Porque mis hijas van al colegio y mi esposo y yo vamos a
trabajar todas las mañanas

Porque tengo un hogar donde vivir y una familia con quien
compartirlo

Por la vida de mis esposo, mis hijas, mis padres y hermanos

Por todo esto por mucho más, hoy te doy gracias Señor.

Porque en mi país somos más los buenos que los malos

Porque en las situaciones difíciles siempre sobresale la
solidaridad

Porque cuando tocamos fondo Tu nos das la mano para salir
del pozo

Por todo esto por mucho más, hoy te doy gracias Señor.

Por mis deudas pues muestran que en el momento en que lo
necesite alguien me ayudo

Por mis dificultades, que me hacen reconocer que necesito de
tu ayuda

Porque en todos los momentos de nuestras vidas siempre
vemos reflejada tu misericordia

Por todo esto por mucho más, hoy te doy gracias Señor.

DIANA M. GARCÍA
UTO Diocesan Coordinator
Diocese of Columbia



“Loving God, we humbly pray that we may ever
acknowledge your presence as we journey through this
transitory life and continually express gratitude for your
guidance. In Christ’s name we pray.”

MARY BOGGS
St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, Indianapolis

O God of all creation, source of all goodness and loving kindness, we give you thanks for the many blessings you bestow on us and all humankind. With each awareness of how we have been blessed, may we recognize with compassion the needs of the world and work with zeal to reach out to all those in need. We know your love for the last, the lost and the least; give us love in our hearts for these, your especially beloved, and inspire us not to sit idly by, but instead to risk ourselves and our treasure for their good. Make us so confident of the security we find only in You and so sure that we have enough, that our hearts are full of compassion and our lives are filled with action on behalf of those in need. All this we ask through Jesus Christ your Son, who gave his life for us and for all. Amen.

THE RIGHT REVEREND V. GENE ROBINSON
Bishop, Diocese of New Hampshire

Good and gracious God, we give you thanks for all your many blessings in our lives.

We give you thanks for our families, friends and loved ones.

We give you thanks for all the opportunities and challenges in our lives that have us rely on your grace and mercy.

Help us to see your hand at work in all the places and all the people we encounter in our lives.

Encourage our witness to you as we journey more and more into the reality of our call to be the church.

Allow our gratitude to shine forth as a thank offering in mission.

Use us, each in our own place and time, to be missionaries of your marvelous and self-giving love which colors the world.

We pray this all in the name of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

MRS. VIOLET I de KAGARDE
Bishop's Executive Assistant
Diocese of Long Island, Province II

Gracious, giving God, who offers love
In abundance, so fill our hearts and
Minds with awareness and thanksgiving
For our many blessings that
We overflow with your love and pour out
Your grace and goodness in this broken world. Amen

KATHERINE HARPER
Diocese of Lexington
Province IV



ORACION A DIOS

“Amantísimo Padre de toda misericordia, te alabamos por tu amor inmenso manifestado a todas las razas humana y criaturas de la tierra. Reconocemos nuestra imposibilidad de salvamos por si mismo. Danos siempre corazones agradecidos, por los múltiples dones derramados a tu iglesia. Que sepamos en todo momento reconocer tu presencia; aún en las cosas y seres más pequeños que has creado”. Amén

OLGA AREVALO M
PAZ Y AMOR
Guayaquil, Ecuador
Diocese of Litoral

Eternal God, O King of Peace, we humbly pray that you lead our brothers and sisters in the Sudan through the rough places and inspire them with the love and power that you alone can provide. Jesus, Savior, let your presence be their light and guide. Grant them wisdom, courage and strength; and cleanse their hearts of pride and greed so that they will be led to the place of peace. Fill your children with patience and zeal to face life's challenges and give them thy sustaining grace that they may endure and dwell secure as friends, not foes. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

MARGARET A. CASH
Province II Representative
Episcopal Church Women's National Board



Lord, I thank you for your loving acceptance found in your People as we meet on our journeys. For your love that heals, redeems and joins us for your service. Amen.

MARILYN BRAATEN
Diocese of Wyoming

Good and gracious God, we give you thanks for all your many blessings in our lives.

We give you thanks for our families, friends and loved ones. We give you thanks for all the opportunities and challenges in our lives that have us rely on your grace and mercy.

Help us to see your hand at work in all the places and all the people we encounter in our lives.

Encourage our witness to you as we journey more and more into the reality of our call to be the church.

Allow our gratitude to shine forth as a thank offering in mission.

Use us, each in our own place and time, to be missionaries of your marvelous and self-giving love which colors the world.

We pray this all in the name of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RIGHT REVEREND LAWRENCE C. PROVENZANO
Bishop, Diocese of Long Island - Province II



Lord, in the morning stillness I
Give you thanks for all the blessings
Of this life. I rejoice in the service
I can give to others this day. Amen.

BETH FITZPATRICK
Diocese of Delaware

Jesus walked gently upon this earth, praising God's munificence all in the image of God who asks only for birthright integrity, for actions that reveal the particular endowments of creative LOVE.

Rejoicing in your gifts, we beg the grace to live out of hearts sensitive to your promptings, and courageous in seeking and living the Truth which you inspire. Open our hearts and our minds to the life-giving "presence that disturbs" ... the Spirit that prays in us "that all may be one"; the Spirit that enlightens our understanding of the peace promised by Jesus, and the peace that abides deeply in faithful hearts underneath the layers of seeming chaos; the Spirit that forms "Amen" in our hearts to the call of Jesus to feed, clothe, shelter, embrace; the Spirit that invites us to "renew the face of the earth" as we journey with the heart of Jesus, rejoicing in Beauty, committed to Unity and to the justice that flows from the Truth of your creation.

Amen

"Anonymous," edited by Finley

POUR LES AFFAIRES SOCIALES

1 - Pour La Nation

Seigneur Jésus Christ notre Sauveur
Vous conduisez le monde dans le fait inconnu
Veuillez accorder notre prière pour notre pays , et tenez que
notre
Président de la République soit sage, et les peuples respectent
le fait que l'humanité
Grace à ces divers stades : l'unité , la verité et la paix regnent
Au nom de Notre Seigneur Jésus Christ

2 - Pour les Rois , les Leaders Politique , de la République

Notre Seigneur Jésus Christ
C'est par votre volonté la designation d'être chef ici sur la
terre
Faites notre Président de la République conscientise que tous
autorités viennent du ciel , et cela lui amène être serviteur du
monde malagasy et applique avec Dieu la paix tout au tour de
la nation
Craint le Seigneur Jésus notre Dieu
Et assure la securirité publique
Au nom de notre Seigneur Jésus Christ

3 - Etre un pays developpé

Dieu notre père céleste
Vous aviez organisé les tribus et les nations s'unissent à un
seul pére
Et vous voulez que tous s'unissent avec vous

Versez les l'amour eternel et donnez eux le courage
d'educuer et
passer en avant les voisins, l'abondance des biens que vous
aviez
partagé à tous les individus surgissent l'être homme et
abolissent
les désaccords mais revetent l'egalité et la verité dans la
société

Au nom de notre Seigneur Jésus Christ

4 - LA PAIX

Notre Dieu le Père
Vous n'êtes pas devant les gens qui se tournent le dos et vous
ne
restez jamais en face
d'un esprit sanguinaire, et tous ceux qui unissent resister aux
choix
des biens et des bons, et les malfaiteurs pardonnent leurs
pèches
et oublient les mals.

Au nom de notre Seigneur Jésus Christ

5 - La Guerre et Les troubles

Dieu du pardon et tout puissant
Vous faites **disparaitre** laguerre et abaisse les hautains
Venez Seigneur , et éloignez nous les forces qui nous
souffrent et les larmes sont dues a
la tristesse en fin que le monde entier puisse être rendu digne
de votre fils

Au nom de notre Seigneur Jésus Christ

6 - La vie avec Jésus Christ

Seigneur Jesus , Vousêtes la source de la vie , et Dieu de la paix

Et ce lui qui aime occupe votre service sera puisé de l'eau du ciel

Gardez tous ceux qui vous appellent en force de nos adversaires et n'avez pas peur les ennemis se menussent des armes car vous nous protegez à votre aile

Au nom de notre Seigneur Jésus Christ

7 - POUR TERMINER

Dieu notre Père et le Seigneur Jésus Christ notre Sauveur
Accordez votre grace , la joie et la paix pour toutes bienfaitrices et benefaiteurs qui se penchent pour l'avenir de notre eglise et de la nation : les enfants , les abandonnés, les eleves, les jeunes et les femmes celibataires

PRIERE COLLECTIVE DE NOTRE PAROISSE

Mananjary le 27 juillet 2011

REVEREND CANON RANDRIAMBELOITSOA JUSTIN

Pretre Anglican

MADAGASCAR East Africa

Everyday is A Gift From God

Dear God, we know not the day that cometh, but we trust in you unconditionally. We trust that even on a cloudy, overcast day, you will provide a ray of sunshine and put joy in our hearts.

Amazingly, your peace Dear God continues to flow freely as we journey from day to day. Knowing that you will hold us in the palm of your hands, gives us courage and determination to receive the gift of another day.

Amen,

JULIA CONGLETON BRYANT
Secretary of Devotional Life
Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of North Carolina



Dear Lord, thank you for the stamina to care for my grandchildren, Madison, Mason and Porter for these past two weeks. Amen.

VALERIE HOFFMAN-HATCHER
Province V Representative
Episcopal Church Women's National Board
Diocese of Chicago

[I thought about a couple of “thanksgiving” prayers I made up more than 30 years ago for my children and have now taught to my grandchildren.

They’ve been repeating this prayer since they made their First Communion. After communion this is the prayer I taught them to say:]

Thank you for feeding me with Holy Food. Amen

[After church this is the prayer I taught them to say as soon as they were old enough to speak:]

Thank you for my mommy and daddy.

Thank you for my brother and sister.

Thank you for my church.

Thank you for loving me. Amen.

[I give them the prayer, one line at a time and they repeat after me until they have learned it by heart]

KAREN D. POWERS

Trinity, Oshkosh, WI

Church Periodical Club Coordinator - Province V

For all things great and small
for children and then grandchildren
for towering white clouds on a summer's day and tiny purple
crocuses poking their heads out after a late winter's snowfall
for knowing that weeping may last the night but joy will
come in the morning
for being able to move beyond the tears because something is
over to smiling because it happened
for realizing that by living in the past or anticipating the
future we miss the very things right before our eyes
for faith and family and friends

for all blessing great and small

Good Lord I give you thanks. Amen.

MARJORIE REEVES-BRIDEN, President
Province I Episcopal Church Women

I Give You Thanks

For waking me up this morning
For helping me to start a new day
For giving me shelter, food and clothes to wear
I give you thanks.

For giving me a heart to care and to share
For giving me eyes to see the suffering of those in need
For giving me ears to hear the cries of those in pain
I give you thanks.

For giving me hands to serve and feet to stand firm
I give you thanks.

Loving and gracious God I rejoice in all your creation
Remind me to continue to serve you with gladness.

Amen.

MARJORIE BOYDEN-EDMONDS

Province II



“Dear God, thank you for the privilege of serving you by giving to others our gifts and offerings.”

JOYCE MELLOR

St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis

Dear Lord,

It is important to thank you for your good works:

- restoring health to those who have been ill or recovering from surgery;
- procuring jobs for the unemployed;
- providing food to those who are hungry;
- finding adequate housing for the homeless;
- giving us the ability to learn;
- and, for all the other things, too numerous to mention,

With your help, Lord, we still need to work on the negative parts of our lives by setting aside our differences be they ones of skin color, religion, family, neighborhood or worldly disputes,

Please Lord, let us turn to positive actions - as the saying goes "let your glass be half full rather than half empty".

In the name of the Lord, peace be with you.

Amen

ANNE L. COLE
UTO Coordinator
Diocese of Ohio

Dear Creator God,

Thank you for the array of blessings you bestow upon us every day that we sometimes fail to see or acknowledge; the brief shower this morning that brought nourishment to the greenery. The beauty of that wild flower growing in the backyard, seemingly for the enjoyment of my eyes alone. The amazing complexity of every blossom I study from this window. The dexterity of that young squirrel darting carefully across the neighbor's fence. The alertness of the blue jay as he searches for breakfast. The spectrum of color that reflects in the raindrops on the red bud tree leaves. In this microcosm I witness the elements of all Creation. It is inspiring and humbling. Who indeed are we that you are mindful of us! Grant us wisdom to respect and care for your earth and that same wisdom to respect and care for one another. Holy smokes! Our cat almost pounced on that little squirrel! He escaped! Your Creation, O God, is high drama. Amen.

ANN BALL
Diocesan ECW Board
Diocese of Louisiana

Thank you, Lord, for this time at the theater with my granddaughter.

Please abide in me when she looks me over carefully during intermission.

Please catch my breath when she says, "You have very big ears, Nana."

Please take my pulse when she continues, "But not big like an elephant."

Please massage my heart when she concludes, "And not gray like an elephant."

All this I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLAUDIA CONNER
Diocese of New York
Province II



Dear Lord help us to remember daily through the United Thank Offering our gratitude and thankfulness for all the gifts you have given us. Help us to use these resources to further your work and serve as a reminder to others of your enduring love and grace.

In his name,
Amen.

LINDA KENNEDY
UTO Alabama

A MORNING CONVERSATION WITH GOD

Good morning God. I'm looking out the window and it appears to be a really nice day, weather wise. By the way, I want to thank you for all the help you gave me yesterday. I was really stressed out; but knowing that your strength was there for me if I just acknowledged it, is what got me through that difficult situation.

What's that you're asking—will I need any extra help today? Well, let me think a minute. No, no I think I will be ok. BUT life can sometimes throw a surprising challenge at us and should that happen, you can be sure I will be in contact.

Guess I need to get moving, have many things to do. Just want to repeat how grateful I am for your help yesterday.

Me

ROSEMARY BAGIN
United Thank Offering Diocesan Coordinator
Diocese of Missouri
Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith, Bishop
Transfiguration Episcopal Church, Lake St. Louis, MO.

Cheyenne Prayer

Esenehane Jesus, esenehane Jesus/Our friend Jesus, our
friend Jesus

Neonomaene, neonoomaene/He invites us, he invites us
Nehmoheehne! Nehmoheehne!/Come together! Come
together!

Jeuss A neonoomaene, nenaase!/Jesus calls us, come!

THE REVEREND JIM KEE-REES
Diocese of Oklahoma
Province VII



Dear Lord, refocus my mind that my ideas of praise would be
consistent with your word.

Let my life be a daily testimony to Your greatness.

Let my words overflow and my actions be the real statement
of praise to Your glory.

Gently point me in the direction of Your will that I might be
a bright light in your Kingdom.

LALENE JACKSON
ECW St. Francis of Assisi
Lake Placid, Central Florida

With praise and thanks for all that has come before,
We offer this day to you, Lord God.

Make us aware today of
the beauty in our world,
the kindness of strangers,
the opportunities for service,
and of Your love surrounding us.
Thank you for each of these

(We lift up those who are hurting and those who have asked
our prayers,
especially _____,
to be bathed in your light, love, and healing,
that they may feel Your presence in their lives.
Thank you for those who pray for us.)

Help us to take time today to just BE with you
so we may hear the voice of Your Spirit,
feel Your gentle nudges,
and follow your direction.
Thank you for Your love which gives us strength.

We pray this in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen

MARIAN RANDALL

The Psalmist says,

“Praise the Lord, O my soul,

And forget not all his benefits.”

O Lord, as I place this coin in the UTO box,

Let me not only be thankful for this one blessing

from your hand, but help me to ever praise your

holy name and forget not all your benefits.

AMEN

DIANE STOVER
Diocese of Indianapolis



I am so thankful, dear Lord, for the Episcopal Church providing opportunities to expand my circle of thanks through new friendships with Episcopal Churchwomen, special offerings through the United Thank Offering, and blessings by seeing the results of UTO gifts. Thank you for giving each of us grateful hearts as we serve our Lord. Amen.

MARCIE CHÉRAU
Diocese of Georgia
Province IV

Our Heavenly Father, it is amazing how you so lovingly and gently open our eyes to the blessings that surround us in ordinary things. You brought me to a place where people seem to be so unlike me in their wealth, education and material belongings and yet are so content and happy. You also surround me with people who are like me, wanting to be your hands and feet in a world that is isolated and hurting. Thank you Jesus for giving me the courage to step away from my world filled with busyness and desires that take my focus off of you. The ordinary, the real saints of God, both in those who were different and those who are much like me, touched me in a way that I saw what you see...smiles, laughter, genuine thankfulness for the simple life, appreciation, gratitude and above all total reliance on you. How can I say Thank you enough for your creation, for your love for me, for the ordinary yet extraordinary things surrounding me that are indeed blessings that have changed and will continue to change my life. Amen and Amen!

DEBBIE BUTCHER
UTO Diocesan Coordinator
Diocese of Oklahoma
Province VII

Dear God,

As we begin each day, may we be ever thankful for our many blessings; for the gift of life itself, for the many opportunities to be of service to you, to our families and the world. May we be thankful for the food that sustains us and for the rest that renews us.

As we live each day, may we embrace the challenges and problems knowing that all difficulties are easier to bear because you, dear God, help us carry and solve them.

And as we end each day help us to rejoice in the certain knowledge of your love and salvation.

Thank you, Lord, for this and every day!

Amen.

BETH FITZPATRICK
Diocese of Delaware
Province III



Thank you Lord for the opportunity to serve you through U.T.O. Give me the strength to carry out your works. Help me get the most donations. Give me the wisdom to distribute the U.T.O. grants to the most needy. I ask all this in your name. Amen.

FAY R. ATKINSON
Diocese of Louisiana

Prayer for Insight

Father,

May the Holy Spirit reside in this my mortal temple; ever shining with spiritual direction. Allow my soul's ears to hear this Divine Guidance.

Amen.

Prayer for Awareness

Allow the sun to shine on me, warming my skin and reminding me of Your Presence in this world. At night, under the moon's cool glow, allow me to hear Your Whisper at the days end.

Amen.

Blessing at a Meal

Abba,

Bless this food, this gathering of like-minded children of Yours that we may grow strong in body and never willful in mind. Teach us that through fellowship, we are members of Your Holy church, carrying out the work You started, centuries ago.

We ask for this blessing in Lord Jesus name.

Amen.

Nighttime Prayer

Abba,

As I begin my journey into the world of dreams, I lay my failings, my hopes, my desires and daily toil at Your feet. Cradle me in the wings of Your angels. Allow me to be infused by the Holy Spirit with guidance and passion for the day break. Let no evil or temptation set within me, while I lay in this twilight sleep. Stand Guard over me, Lord Jesus that I may wake to fulfill the destiny laid out for me at my birth.

Amen.

PAM BEUTLER-SAENZ
Diocese of Indianapolis



“Almighty God, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, guide me in this time of worldly communication, to pass through the noises of the world, and to focus on your mercy, so that we may live in harmony and love that Thy Will Be Done on earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

JANE S. STUTZMAN
St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis

Father

- For the blessing of a new day,
Thank you
- For friends and for fellowship in your name,
Thank you
- For blessing us so that we can bless others
Thank you
- For your Grace that surpass all understanding, in Jesus
Name
Lord, we Thank you.

Amen.

JACKIE STEWART
Province IV
Central Florida



UTO Prayer . . .

We are thankful for the joy and blessings we receive and challenges we face as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to be generous in our giving, thankful for our blessings, prayerful in our daily living and cognitive to the needs of others.

MARCIE CHÉRAU
UTO Coordinator
Dioceses of Georgia
Province IV

O God of love and light, Giver of blessings,
Who commands us to love one another as you love us,
Strengthen our hearts to do your will.

We give thanks, O God, for your many blessings.
We thank you for the opportunity to pass our blessings on to
others
Through the United Thank Offering.

We ask for your mercy and comfort on those who suffer and
who have unmet needs,

Guide us to have generous hearts toward those who need our
support.

Guide us in all that we plan; guide us in all that we do; keep
us in your service. Amen.

CINDY HELTON
Diocese of Virginia



Dear Lord,

Bless this food to our use and us to thou service and make us
ever mindful of the needs of others.

Amen.

LANA MAGGART
Diocese of Missouri ECW Board Secretary

Gracious and merciful Father, keep us mindful, the past is where we have come from; our future is where we are headed; and the present is where we reside. May we preserve the legacy of our past; accept today's gifts given by your grace and look to the future with hope.

SARITA J. REDD, President
United Thank Offering
Diocese of Oklahoma



“Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord to Thee”

BARBI TINDER
Province I Representative
UTO Board
Communication Committee Convener

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

Episcopal Church USA

815 Second Avenue

New York, NY 10017-4594

1-800-334-7626

www.episcopalchurch.org/uto