

UNITED THANK OFFERING
1889-2015: A PRAYER FOR EVERY YEAR

125th

ANNIVERSARY PRAYER BOOK



INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the United Thank Offering, we are offering over 125 original prayers on the theme of gratitude and thankfulness. These prayers come from all orders in the church, our dioceses as well as Episcopal Church staff. These are truly a reflection of the breadth and depth of gratefulness in our church and in our relationships. We give thanks for everyone who contributed a prayer and for all the ways their prayers will enrich the lives of those who pray along with them.

This little book can be carried in your purse or pocket and we challenge you to use it each day. Have it handy to share these prayers with others in need, at a meeting, or just for your meditation as you sit by the ocean, or in your garden, or gazing at the mountain peaks, or in your place of solitude.

The Lord is our strength, and these prayers are here for your strength as you go through the day.

**Our richest Blessings,
The 2012-2015
Board of the United Thank Offering**

LITANY IN CELEBRATION OF 125TH ANNIVERSARY

For the ministry of UTO for 125 years.

Lord, we give you thanks.

For the women of vision who saw a need and solved it.

Lord, we give you thanks.

For the men, women and children who have faithfully fed their Blue Boxes

with coins of thanksgiving for 125 years.

Lord, we give you thanks.

For the grants those coins have funded for compelling human needs.

Lord, we give you thanks.

For a gracious God who gives us an abundance of reason to drop those coins in our Blue Boxes.

Lord, we give you thanks.

For hearts full of gratitude that are motivated to give generously.

Lord, we give you thanks.

For all who seek to serve Christ through generous service to the UTO.

Lord, we give you thanks.

Dena Lee
Province III
United Thank Offering Representative

Almighty Father, we give you thanks for the gracious gifts you bestow upon us every day of our lives. As we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the United Thank Offering, we especially give thanks for the life of Julia Emery, who because of her wisdom enabled your people to provide outreach to those less fortunate through the United Offering. May we always be aware of your daily blessings, with a prayer of thanksgiving and an offering in our Blue Box. We pray that the United Thank Offering may continue to grow, so that others may know of your love. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

Jane Ames
St. Margaret's, Plainview, NY
Diocese of Long Island

Mothering God, thank you for the gift of children. Thank you for their unrestrained smiles and laughter. Thank you for the ways in which they speak truth when we get mired in our minds and ways. Thank you for the ways that they challenge our patience and push us to see our selves more clearly. Through our children we get a glimpse of the unconditional, steadfast love that you have for each of us. Through our children we learn how to be passionate lovers of your Son. Through our children we learn how to be children of God. Help us to see that by trusting them to lead us we are learning to trust you to lead us too. In the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly
Rector, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
Plainview, NY

Gracious and loving God, thank you for the gift of my body. Though I incessantly pour over its flaws, you see only beauty and goodness. Though I covet a perfection defined by someone else, you know how wonderfully and uniquely I am made. Though I am easily frustrated by its weakness, you celebrate its many strengths. Help me to love my body as it is. Help me to care for my body as if I loved it as much as you do. Help me to marvel at the gift of its complexity and magnificence so that when others see the love I have for my body, they might see a glimpse of the love you have for each of our bodies. In the name of your beautifully incarnate Son we pray. Amen.

The Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly
Rector, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
Plainview, NY

O God, giver of life, we thank you for the many blessings given to us by the United Thank Offering. We are thankful for the many prayers and offerings that are given to support the ministry and mission of the Episcopal Church. Bless those who serve and carry out the work of the UTO here in the Diocese of Northern Michigan and throughout the Church. We are enriched by their service as they bear good fruit throughout the Church. In Jesus name, we pray.

Rev. Daniel Appleyard
Rector, Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Webster Groves, MO, Province V

Lord God,
Thank you for 125 years of your faithful people giving thanks and sharing with those in need. Keep us mindful of all our abundant blessings. Help us to be generous in giving through the United Thank Offering. Thank you for this opportunity to spread your love both near and far. Amen

Marilyn Atkins
United Thank Offering Diocesan Coordinator
Diocese of Alabama

We thank you, Father almighty, who did prepare for us the holy church as a haven, a temple of holiness, where the Holy Trinity is glorified. Alleluia.

We thank you, Christ the king, who did grant us life through your life-giving and holy Body and Blood: grant us forgiveness and your great mercy. Alleluia. We thank you, Spirit of Truth, who have renewed the holy church. Keep her without blemish through the faith in the Trinity, henceforth and forever. Alleluia. We thank you, Christ our God, who have granted us this tasting of your goodness for holiness of life. Keep us thereby holy and unblemished, dwelling in us and about us by your divine Providence.

Be our Shepherd in the field of your holy and benevolent will. Make us worthy to hear your voice and to follow you. Let us receive from you the place prepared for us in the kingdom of heaven-our God, Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Vicken Aykazian
Archbishop of the
Armenian Church of America

A PRAYER FOR LITTLE PLACES

Loving and living God,
You chose to be born in a small town.
You never failed to visit little communities.
You made it your joy to serve the least.

We pray now for our small churches in remote places.
May they offer worship that gives life and hope where
resources are scarce;
May they provide nurture that gives sustenance and
comfort where people
are hungry and broken hearted;
May they live out God's mission in a fashion that
provides light and joy to the communities in which
they are planted.

Help us to know that in your creation, there is no body
so tiny as to be counted unworthy of your love.
Help us to know that by your measure, the small are
great and the humble are powerful.
Help us to know that in your economy, the last are
counted first, and the holy
is found in common things.
Help us to know that in your Kingdom, there is no
outpost so remote as to be
removed from your grace and real presence.

We pray now for the little places, our God.
May they know your joy. May you bring them life.

Amen.

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker
Bishop of the Diocese of Nebraska

A thanksgiving for forebears, inspired by a picture of a
young couple of the early 20th century (Adapted from
Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1844–1889):

Glory to God for sepia tones —
For ancient skies warm as an agouti cat,
In photographs above the sea in which they swim;
Fresh-face happy; love's delight;
They see a future —brave, hopeful, and bright,
With no limit, their years and beauty and faith.
All things possible, original, daring, strange;
Whatever is to come, fearless (who knows how?)
Whether swift, slow; sweet, sour; ablaze, dim;
They onward whose life is past change:
Praise God.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Barlowe
Executive Officer of
the General Convention

Almighty God, we give thanks for the resurrection
of your Son, and in that resurrection our chance to
become members of the body of Christ;
Give us eyes to see his risen body in the people whom
we often fail to see including the poor, the hungry, the
unemployed, the stranger.
May we be such good stewards of the many gifts we
have been given,
That in serving these people, they discover their new
life as members of this same body; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield
Bishop of the Diocese of Arkansas

O Merciful God, we live in the midst of a people who seek happiness as the ultimate goal of life and yet who are so often profoundly unhappy, especially those who have many outward signs of success and material plenty. Help us to learn the practice of gratitude to You in all things, for it is in our gratitude for even the smallest blessing that we find happiness, not as a goal to attain, but as a result of our thankfulness for your many mercies, and above all for your greatest act of mercy in Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Scott Anson Benhase
Bishop of Diocese of Georgia

Thanksgiving and praise for those unafraid to walk in the light of God's prophetic justice; men and women who have seen the Promised Land, and have not been paralyzed by fear and trepidation. Thanksgiving for their witness, for their vision, for their LOVE, and for their belief that with God, all things are possible. Thanksgiving for those who believe that justice will come, even to the most abhorrent of places, and circumstances; and thanksgiving for Jesus, who inspires and guides this vision. May we the Church be inspired to believe, that we are the salt of the earth, the light of the world, and follow in their footsteps. Amen.

Glory and praise to God, in thanksgiving for God's faith, in God's children. Even when we go about with our divisions, our resistance to love, and our refusal to see God in the face of our neighbors, God's steadfast faith in us remains unwavering. Blessings and praise to God, for the generous and undeserved gift of faith in God's children. Blessings, and thanksgiving to God, for God's Kingdom will be realized through each and every single one of us. Someday, someday, we will reach the Promised Land! Amen.

The Rev. Wilfredo Benitez
Rector, Saint George's Church
Flushing, NY

A PRAYER OF THANKS AND BLESSING FOR THOSE WHO OFFER THEIR CRAFT TO GOD

Holy God, your glory is manifested in the works of your servants, and that which we create can become a visible sign of your love toward us all. We give thanks for the hands and hearts and creativity of those who put their gifts to your use and purpose. Grant that their work may proclaim your love and bring joy to all who behold them. We ask this in the name your son Jesus Christ, who transforms the common into the holy, and empowers us to do the same through the working of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Robert Berra
Incarnation Campus Ministry
Arizona State University Polytechnic
Diocese of Arizona**

Gracious and loving God, I'm thankful for the richness and diversity of the Anglican Communion; for the millions of voices that sing Your praise in so many beautiful languages. I'm grateful that You bring us together and walk with us as we grow into our relationships. I give thanks for the gift of meeting brothers and sisters from around the world; for encountering Your Spirit in them; and for hearing their stories of how You are present and at work throughout all of Creation. Give me the grace and compassion to truly listen; the vulnerability to share authentically; and the joy that comes from seeing and meeting You in all those around me. Amen.

**Elizabeth Boe
Officer, Global Networking
The Domestic and Foreign
Missionary Society**

Lord Jesus, we are surrounded with so much suffering in our homes, our communities, and around the world. Guide us to where you would have us be your hands and feet to bring your hope and healing love. Thank you for your faithfulness.

**Marilyn Braaten
United Thank Offering Diocesan Coordinator
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Thermopolis, WY**

Dear Father in heaven, everyday you bestow upon us your tender love and mercy. Your step in the middle of our confusion and renew hope in your Son who showed us how sufficient your grace is for all humankind. You fill us with the freshness of the morning and guide us through the torrents of the day. You put us to sleep at night and renew our strength to face the Joys and sorrows of the next day. Help us never to be so consumed with self that we fail to acknowledge your loving kindness towards us. Keep us keenly aware of the needs of our fellow men and women that we will more and more follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**The Rev. Christopher Brathwaite
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Haines City, Florida
Diocese of Central Florida**

Gracious and loving Creator:

We give you thanks for the many ways in which you bless us every day, but that we may not notice in the busy-ness of our lives. May we unite our thanks to you with action in the world on behalf of those who so desperately need your love, in the Name of our brother and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Rev. Debbie Brewin-Wilson
St. Thomas' Parish
Upper Marlboro, MD
Diocese of Washington

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for guiding us through the storms of our lives. We thank you for granting us with friends and family that help us navigate our way, and we ask for the wisdom and patience to trust in your will—even when we do not know what your will is.

God of grace and truth, thank you for those luminous moments when your presence has been so close. I also give thanks for...

- those times of preoccupation where you kept watch even when I forgot you;
- the moments of doubt in which you taught me faith;
- times of trial that deepened my trust in you;
- the sleepless nights when you wrestled with me until morning;
- the sins from which you rescued me and showed me grace;
- the scars of life which gave me a glimpse of your crucified self;
- sickness that reminded me that ultimately this is not our home.

Thank you for the church, for...

- forgiveness spoken in the absolution,
- peace shared with neighbors,
- inspiration from sermons,
- joy in singing hymns in community,
- your presence made tangible in the physical elements of water, bread and wine,
- the unity of Christians and the communion of saints in prayer,
- the powerful witness of the martyrs.

Will Bryant
Young Adult Service Corps
Currently serving in Rome
Diocese of Western North Carolina

Thank you for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for the saving grace of your Son Jesus Christ, and for your constant presence along the journey.
Stay with me, Lord, and bring me safely home. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Mitzi J. Budde
Head Librarian & Professor
Virginia Theological Seminary
Alexandria, Virginia

Resurrection is a painful event.
The building of something new
Out of the sinews and fibers of
What was seemingly destroyed.

The rending and reconnecting of
Cells, relationships, our very selves
Is embodied in our daily discipleship
As we lose everything and gain so much more.

Out of brokenness we are reformed and made whole.
In darkness we can still see the light
And instead of contempt and pain
We learn to birth gratitude and blessing.

The Rev. Sarah Carver
United Thank Offering Board Member
Diocese of North Carolina

Here is my prayer of thanks, dear God, the best of the words I can find to tell you how grateful I am for what you have given me. They are simple words because it is your simple gifts that have meant so much: the love I see in my family, the life I see in children, the hope I see in elder faces. So many gifts of sunsets and first snows, of quiet walks and talks with old friends. Thank you for giving me time to embrace them all. Thank you for letting me be part of the wonder that is your world.

The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston
Bishop Retired of Alaska

PRAYER FOR MORNING

Thank you Dear Father for the endless bountiful blessings that you continue to flow over us, your children. Thank you for knowing us and knowing each of our needs down to the miniscule ones that even we don't realize. Your goodness is limitless and if we would but reach out to you and ask, our every need would be met. We know our impatient timing is not always your timing, but love is patient and kind.

Help us to be more like You—patient and kind to those we meet and to those who are our family and friends. Help us to be patient when our prayers are not immediately answered or our prayers are answered differently than our expectations. Help us to be kinder to one another because it is in our kindness to others that we see and feel the face and grace of God.

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Dear Lord,

In this day filled with many strides, concerns, sorrows, and suffering of all kinds I ask you to help us to be kinder to each other. We don't know the trials and tribulations our fellow brothers and sisters are confronted with. We don't know if they have just been given news of a fatal illness, the death of a loved one, or if they are in need of food, clothing or shelter. They may have snapped at me because they were engulfed in their own pain or in a place that they felt hopeless or a point of no return. Help me to be more patient and kinder to those I meet on the street as well as my own loved ones.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Marcie Cherau
Province IV
United Thank Offering Board Representative
All Saints' Episcopal Church
Tybee Island, GA

Holy God, rescue us from ourselves. Save us from our need to do more tasks, to improve ourselves, and all the other ways we try to fix and deny our own sin. We know that you loved us all the way to the cross. And so we pray that we can rest in that hopeful knowledge that your Grace is sufficient. We pray all these things in the name of the name of Jesus Christ, the great Rescuer in our midst.

Rev Sarah Condon
Assistant Priest for Pastoral Care
St. Martin's Church
Houston, TX

Thank you God for Life!
The gift of life that you have given is indeed a treasure. Help me to use the gift for the benefits of others and at the same time take care of myself. All this is asked in your name. Amen

Peg Cooper
Province V Representative
United Thank Offering Board
Diocese of Missouri

Gracious God,

I am thankful for all the missionaries of the world.

I am thankful for those who take the opportunity to share their journey with God and to listen to the journeys of others so that we all grow in our understanding of God boundless love.

I am thankful for those who are willing to share their time with others; whether in nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, or in chance encounters during their daily lives.

I am thankful for those who share their time in service; in soup kitchens, in service projects, in reading camps, and all those local and international opportunities to share our time and talents with others

I am thankful for those who are willing to cross cultural boundaries, to live in uncertainty, to travel away from friends and family to share their love of God.

I am thankful for all who graciously receive missionary guests from other parts of the Body of Christ in the World.

And I am most thankful that no matter where we are or who we are sharing our journey with that Christ is also there to listen to our stories.

The Rev. David Copley
Global Partnerships Team Leader
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

Dear God,
Thank you for the wonderful world that you have created for us. Thank you for all the plants and creatures that live on it. I rejoice in all the beauty around me and give thanks to you for giving it to us. Thank you for my family, friends and loved ones and I pray that you will help us to do your will and walk in your ways. Keep us in the palm of your hands. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Dr. Rosalie Cumbee
Abingdon Episcopal Church
Gloucester Point, VA
Diocese of Virginia

Dear God,
You are my Holy Father, and I need to ask you about a few things: Just how bad was the world when you sent the Flood? Was evil more rampant than it is now? That would be hard to imagine.

Each morning when I awake, I thank you for the new day that you have given me, and ask that you allow me—that you help me—to “rejoice and be glad in it.” But then I turn on the news and hear that thousands of our neighbors in Africa are dying of a virus that they are ill-equipped to fight because they are not privileged to live in a place that has adequate sanitation, or modern hospitals, or well-trained doctors. What do you expect me to do about it?

I read that young girls are kidnapped and raped and sold as merchandise; that innocent children are cast out and left to starve because their mothers have AIDS; that a thirst for vengeance or power provokes

bloodshed among brothers, neighbors, friends; that in too many places the color of one's skin or the origin of one's ancestors can determine how some interpret the Golden Rule. How do you mean for me to respond?

I learn that just a few blocks from my home, a young single-mother who is working two jobs to care for her children is killed during a robbery because someone wants money to buy drugs. What can I do to make it stop, Lord?

Please, Holy Father, help me to listen for your answers. I know that you love your children so much that you allowed your only Son to perish at the hands of those who never understood the power of that love, so that we may be saved. Help me to be ever mindful of and grateful for that sacrifice, and to turn my gratitude into action, whether that action be prayer, a donation of time or money, participation in a mission trip, or answering your call to use my “gifts” in other ways.

Precious Lord, as I give you thanks for the beaming smiles of my grandchildren, for the lovely mourning dove nesting outside my window, for the colorful flowers that brighten my yard and for all the wonders of your creation, help me to turn gratitude into action by going out into the world and spreading the Good News, making disciples of all people, just as you commissioned us to do.

In the name of your Son—Amen.

Angela M. Daniel
St. John's Episcopal Church
Columbia, SC
Diocese of Upper South Carolina

God, there is nothing to see, smell, hear, touch or know absent Your gift of Life in the world of your creation—our follies can prevent us from living in thankfulness—our actions can fail your faith in us, but your love for us means our lives are lived in gratitude for your unmerited mercies and infinite gifts even when we are blind to them: despite the sacrifice of your son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Duo Dickinson
Trinity Church on the Green
New Haven, CT

EMPOWER OUR MINISTRY

Almighty God the source of all good gifts, we thank you for the opportunities you have given us over the past 125 years to serve those in need in your name. Grant us now and in the future to continue in that service as we reach out to those whom you set before us, knowing that in responding to their needs we are also serving you. Give us open hearts to love your people, open minds to envision what we are called to be and do, and open hands to work, give and share your love for all who come within the reach of your saving embrace. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan, II
Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

A COLLECT FOR REFUGEES

O Holy One of Bethlehem, from your earliest days you knew the threat of death, the terror of flight, and the pain of exile. Today we know that so many – millions upon millions – flee for their own lives and for their children. The numbers seem so vast, the problem so great. It is easy to feel helpless. It is easy to forget. It is easy to ignore. Shake us from complacency and from resignation. Fill our hearts and minds with understanding and compassion for your children who are forced by persecution and fear to flee their homes. Remind us that each number is a name, each statistic a person – your child, your beloved. Strengthen our resolve; stir in us a spirit of agency and of action. For you have blessed each of us with gifts to be shared in love for all you have created, gifts that may be used to welcome, to comfort, to befriend. Grant that we would listen for your call. In Your Holy Name we pray, Amen.

Allison Duvall
Manager for Church Relations & Engagement
Episcopal Migration Ministries
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

FIVE PRAYERS

ORACIÓN DE GRATITUD

Si olvidas tus problemas y piensas en cosas positivas,
Harás que tu vida vibre de felicidad.
Dios es intensamente justo, bueno, amoroso
E inteligente; jamás nos dejara de brindar su mano.

ORACIÓN DE AGRADECIMIENTO

Gracias Dios, por este nuevo día....
Gracias Dios, porque al pensar en TI
haces que mi corazón Sonría...
Sé que me acompañas en mis penas
y en mis alegrías...
Sé que eres mi constante Amigo,
mi Padre y mi compañía...
Gracias, Dios, por este nuevo día,
te entrego mi día...
mi corazón en TI confía ...

ORACIÓN DE AGRADECIMIENTO

Doy gracias a Dios Todopoderoso
Por darme la vida, y al mismo tiempo
Por permitirme tener una familia que llena
Mi corazón de alegría, y amor.
Gracias Dios mío por todo el amor
Y nunca olvides de poner las bendiciones
En la cajita azul.

ORACIÓN DE AGRADECIMIENTO

Si olvidas tus problemas y piensas
En cosas positivas, harás que tu
Vida vibre de felicidad.
Siempre piensa en agradecer a Dios mediante la
Contribución de la cajita azul. Dios esta
Feliz de tu buen corazón.

ORACIÓN DE AGRADECIMIENTO

Enséñame, Señor a decir: ¡Gracias!
Gracias en distintos idiomas,
Gracias a las distintas personas
Pero, sobre todo, Señor,
Gracias porque... ¡existes!
Demos Gracias por tu Eucaristía,
Demos gracias ayudando a los demás,
Gracias por las contribuciones que hagas
En la cajita azul para así ayudar a los demás.
Deseo desde ahora que mis palabras
Sean simple y sencillamente éstas:
¡Gracias! ¡A todos! ¡A Ti, Señor!

Collective work of the members of the Diocese
Ecuador Litoral

Thank you, Lord,
for adversity and troubles
that make me more able to
understand the pain of others.
Thank you, too, for joy in both
small and great things.
Your gifts to me have made me more aware
that each breath I take
brings in the Holy Spirit
and sends me down
ever-changing pathways
for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.
Thank you.
Amen.

Carol Feller Gottard
St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
Diocese of Fond du Lac

Dear heavenly Father who has guided us during the
past 125 years in all that we do.
In these tumultuous times that we now live, we ask for
your continued blessing and
guidance in this powerful Outreach ministry. As our
faith is being challenged daily
in different parts of the world where this ministry is so
important, be with those who
will not forsake you. We know that with you all things
are possible so we humbly ask
you to be with them that you will bless and keep this
ministry intact. We ask this in
your name. Amen

Phyllis Fibleuil
Organist, Episcopal Church Women President
St. David's Episcopal Church
Cambria Heights, NY

Thank You Living God for all creation that gives
us abundant life.
Thank You for Moses who set an oppressed
people free.
Thank You for Isaiah and all the prophets who
bring good news to the poor.
Thank You for Jesus, Your Son and our Lord,
who had "compassion for the
crowd and healed their sick."
Thank You for sending us witnesses to your love,
who remind us that it is in
giving that we receive and that your Spirit,
working in us, can do infinitely
more than we can ask or imagine.
Thank You for continuing that witness and that
tradition of hope in the United Thank Offering.
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Doug Fisher
Bishop of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Beloved God
You who embrace us,
Who are the very ground that upholds us all
You, who are love:

I do not understand
I cannot know
The experience of those who know the color
of their skin,
The cadence of their speech
The manner of their dress
Is dangerous
Is Life-threatening.

Even so, even more
I give thanks for their courage
In the name of Life

I give thanks for their rage against injustice
In the cause of Love

I give thanks
For the crowbar that shatters my complacency
In the face of what is True

For it is the same courage of Jesus
It is the rage of Jesus
It is the Truth of Jesus that shatters.

Break me open. Break us open.
For the heart that beats in the Other
Is the same heart that beats in me, in all.

May this thanksgiving for their courage
Be the heartbeat of transforming action.
AMEN

The Rev. Rise Thew Forrester
Ministry Developer
Diocese of Northern Michigan

Dearest Lord,

We give you thanks for the lives and ministries of so many women through UTO over the past 125 years, by thanksgiving offerings and diligent work, reaching out in love and service in your Holy Name, and we ask your blessing on all of us as we continue this holy work into the future, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Rev. Joan Grimm Fraser
Rector, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Hicksville, NY
Diocese of Long Island

A CHRISTIAN TAI CHI

I am a child of God; I stand on His holy word. I breathe the Holy Spirit. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I push out negative thoughts; I take in positive thoughts. I push out sickness; I take in good health. I push out poverty; I take in prosperity. I push out hatred; I take in love. I push out despair; I take in hope. I push out sadness; I take in joy. I push out darkness; I take in light. And now, I will share the Good News to my family, to my friends, to my neighbors, here and all over the world. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Fred Vergara
Missioner for Asiamerica Ministries
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

A PRAYER FOR ONE WHO IS ILL

God of our healing, lover of bodies and souls, be with your precious child N. in her illness. Let your healing grace flow through her as the blood flows through her veins. When she is weak, be her strength; when she is afraid, be her hope; when she is in pain, be her comfort. Lift her up when she is down and hold her close to your very heart. Be also with the doctors, nurses, technicians and all who are part of her care. Give them skill and wisdom so that their hands may be instruments of your healing work. For we trust, O God, that your will for your people is the fullness of life, not only in the life to come, but even right here and right now. We pray in that trust through Christ the Healer. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR TRUE SELF AWARENESS

Teach me, O God, to know myself.
Help me to confess the brokenness in myself,
no matter how frightening.
Help me to celebrate the goodness in myself,
no matter how wonderful.
Help me to know You in my own mysterious depths
and through knowing You there
to know and love others as you love them.
Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff
Bishop Suffragan
Diocese of Virginia

MY PRAYER OF THANKS:

Dear God,

I thank you for the evidence of your existence. Not only does that evidence confirm that you are the creator—it adds life and beauty to my world.

I am thankful for:

The rain that feeds the flowing waters that quench my thirst

The song of the birds near my window; it adds melody to the noise of the city

The fragrance of the blooms of spring that decorate our gardens

The harvest I select from at my local market that graces my table

The warm sun that blankets my skin in the summer

The frosty breeze of winter that causes the land to rest—and yes, Lord, even the snow

Thank you, God. These things help me to see you.

Sheila Golden

Administrative Assistant to the Treasurer
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

Gracious Lord,

You know our hearts and minds.

You know our strengths and weaknesses.

You know our prayers that we bring to You.

Continue to guide us in our daily lives,

With the presence of the Holy Spirit,

That we may bring joy to You and others

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Delores Goodwin

Episcopal Church Women President
Diocese of Upper SC

Dear Lord,

Every breath I take is a reminder of the gift of life You have given me. Let each inward breath renew me, each exhalation release me deeper into the joy of Your love. Thank you for the gift of breath. Thank you for the warm kernel of Your love that is always within me. If today is hard, I can reach inward and know I am cherished by my Creator. Thank you, Lord, for your faith in me. Let me lean on Your love in hard times and let it guide me through my day. Breathe with me, O God, every step of my day. Thank you, Lord, for those around me. Let me look for You in each interaction I have. Thank you for the Spirit's voice calling me to listen before I act. Let me share the grace of being alive through my words and actions. Breathe through me, O Spirit, to share Your joy.

Helen Gordon

Church of the Messiah
Woods Hole, MA
Diocese of Massachusetts

Ever-present God, I give you grateful thanks for the gift of communications. In a world where change comes quickly, life is fast paced, jobs change and families move and grow, the ability to stay connected with those whom we love keeps us whole and the ability to interact with those whom we do not know reminds us of the interconnectedness of all those in your creation. From cave art to smoke signals, through pigeon and post, telephone and text message, we thank you, the Word who came to earth to communicate your steadfast love to us.

Alicia (Allie) Graham
Christ Church
New Brunswick, NJ
Diocese of New Jersey

Gracious Lord, you so freely shower us with blessings beyond our hopes and imaginations. Grant us a discerning and thankful heart that we might see you ever present in both the joys and sorrows of our lives. Give us an appreciation of your love that fills our lives and overflows into the world, keeping us ever mindful that you give, not as we deserve, but in the abundance of your extravagant compassion. All this we ask in the name of our crucified Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray III, DD
Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi

UNITED THANK OFFERING PRAYER: FOR FRIENDSHIP

Almighty God, from whom cometh all things: we offer grateful thanks to thee for the strength of those friendships that weather the trials of life. As we endure economic hardship, physical pain, and emotional turmoil, we rejoice that we find, in the faces of those who do not leave us or forsake us, a tangible example of thy loving kindness in our time of need. May we likewise, following their example, offer such succor to others, and thereby show forth thy glory in our lives; through thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who together with thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, world without end. Amen.

T. Eric Gregory
Christ Church
Greenwich, CT

Oh God—Dios mio,
Gracias for the opportunity to serve you and the church,
Gracias for an incredible community of committed colleagues at DFMS,
Gracias for partners across the church who want to see the church grow,
Gracias for creative, dedicated bilingual lay leaders and clergy who do wonders with so little,
Gracias for touching hearts and changing lives,
Gracias for all the Latinos who are responding to the invitation and making our church their home,
Gracias,
Oh God—Dios mio.

God,
As I sit in silence this evening, and listen to the sounds outside my window,
I am aware of cars in the distance and at moments silence.
I am also aware of the calm in my room and in my heart,
Aware of my breath and the rhythm of my breathing.
I am aware of your presence tonight; as I was this morning when I awoke rested.
Thank you for my life, my breath, my calm, my peace.

As I prepare to sleep I remember all that I was able to accomplish today,
And all the people that I interacted with
And the ways that I was blessed by the table servers as I ate,
The young man on the street who gave me directions
The persons that greeted me on the sidewalk
The hugs I received from co-workers,
And smiles all around:
Thank you for my life, my breath, my calm, my peace.

As I prepare for sleep I am thinking about the tasks for tomorrow.
I am confident—not afraid—but aware
That there is much to do
And that I can't do it all
And that it's not going to be perfect but it will be the best I can do
And that I will stay focused on you
As I begin another day of life and ministry and growth.
Thank you for my life, my breath, my calm, my peace.

The Rev. Canon Anthony Guillén
Missioner, Latino/Hispanic Ministries
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

O God, your blessings come to me abundantly, unexpectedly, delightfully. I thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. And you have surrounded me with family and friends who bless me every day with their words and actions. help me to remember that there are so many people who do not have these blessings. before me, is this little Blue Box filled with reminders of your abundance. May I never fail to remember how truly blessed I am. In Jesus name, Amen.

Elaine Hamilton
Church of St. Bernard de Clairvaux
North Miami Beach, FL
Diocese of SE Florida

With joyous hearts and great faithfulness we praise you, Lord God. Our thanksgiving is abundant and our humble hearts are touched by your continuing love and grace given so freely to us your servant people. We are thankful for the daily discipline the United Thank Offering teaches as it enables us to glimpse your resolve for us. Our thankfulness grows to touch the world's needs and we become bonded through Love. We pray for guidance as we move forward to share your Good News through our gifts of thankfulness. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen

Brenda Davis Hawkins
United Thank Offering Coordinator
Diocese of Mississippi

Thank you Lord for the privilege of being your ambassadors in the world. Thank you for allowing us to participate in your work in people and places near and far. Thank you for the Good News we have in Christ of reconciliation, unconditional love, total forgiveness, complete acceptance, membership into your family, peace, and hope.

Thank you for the mighty strength of your Holy Spirit that in our weakness you provide us courage to be heralds of your Gospel to all we meet. Thank you that with your help we can bring good news in word and deed to a hurting world.

Instill in us a deeper love for your people who do not know you and a sensitivity in how to reach them. Help us good Lord in how to be more intentional witnesses for you. Open the eyes of our hearts to see who you have strategically placed around us to share your Gospel.

We rejoice that blessed are the feet of those who bring good news. We give thanks for the joy of being your hands, feet, and mouthpieces. May we enter into the Master's joy as we stretch beyond ourselves for you and with you.

Carrie Boren Headington
Missioner for Evangelism
Diocese of Dallas

Lord, help me this day to remember the least of these:
those who are hungry while I have food to spare;
who shiver in winter's cold while I have warm coats;
who cry for their children's future while mine choose theirs;
who live the hopelessness of poverty while I live the world of excess.
Help me remember every day that I live, Lord, my good fortune.
Help me remember, Lord, the least of these who are my brothers and my sisters,
my mothers and my fathers
Help me remember, Lord. Help me to care. Help me to share.

Grace E. Henderson
Province VII
United Thank Offering Representative

O God of all wisdom and hope, the One whose ancient name contains the promise of your abiding and generous presence with us, you see your Church undergoing tremendous and even precipitous change. We do not know what the future will hold, and we struggle to let go of habits and things that no longer lead us to trust solely in you. We are reminded how the Church is most alive when it is a mission, a movement, a web of connections beyond our human-made borders. In the midst of this time of mysterious transformation, we give you thanks for the ministry of the United Thank Offering over the past one hundred twenty-five years and for the powerful ways it has empowered the Church to be the mission of Jesus Christ, both close and far away. Open many hearts and hands to give joyfully and abundantly to the UTO, that all may see that you are renewing, reforming, and revitalizing the cause of Christ in ways that exceed all that we can imagine; through Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. AMEN.

The Rt. Rev. Rob Hirschfeld
Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire

A BLESSING FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

May God the Father,
who enriches us with the abundance of the harvest,
help you live lives of fervent gratitude.
Amen.

May God the Son,
who gives himself to us as heavenly food,
empower you for ministries of compassion.
Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who overflows our hearts with joy,
make you merry on this feast.
Amen.

And the blessing of our bounteous God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
rest upon you and those you love,
on this city and all the world,
both now and evermore.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT GRADUATION TIME

In Jesus Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom
and knowledge. Let us offer thanks to God through
Christ, as we say: For such great gifts we thank you,
Lord. Schools, colleges, and universities strive to be
lively centers for sound learning and new discovery.

For such great gifts

We thank you, Lord.

Teachers, administrators, and staff labor for
the welfare of students and the advancement of
knowledge. For such great gifts

We thank you, Lord.

Trustees, public officials, alumni, and society at large
advance the ideal of an educated nation. For such great
gifts

We thank you, Lord.

Parents and spouses, family members and friends
support our students and make sacrifices for them. For
such great gifts

We thank you, Lord.

And let everybody say Amen. Alleluia!

The Rev. Charles Hoffacker
Rector, St. Paul's Parish
Baden, MD

THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF SILENCE

Almighty and most Holy Father and Mother you have blessed us with gifts so we might know you, worship and follow. Thank you for the gift of silence that helps us to quietly reflect upon your Holy name and your presence in our lives. Help us to always keep our eyes on you and make our daily living a blessing to you and those whose paths we cross. Give us the grace and courage to meet you in places that we will not otherwise go and draw out our best selves to the glory of your name. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF MUSIC

O Holy Father and Mother of all the earth who has given all that we need to know and love you. We live in a fast moving world order with distractions that takes us further and further from you. Thank you for the gift of music that puts in mind of you and inspires us in ways that uplifts our spirit and take us above and through the challenges of life and to seek your will for us. All this we ask in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S ABUNDANCE

Heavenly Father and Mother who brought the world into being and sent your only Son to redeem the world. Thank you for the gift of the abundance of the earth, for all that you have given us and for all that we are. Be present, O Lord in everything that we do and say, touch our hearts and minds to care for those who are not partakers of your most precious gifts. Bless our lives so that we can make a way where there is no way for the least of these and bless their lives so that they may become partakers of your abundance. We give you thanks and praise your name for ever and ever. Amen.

The Rev. Canon Angela S. Ifill
Missioner, Black Ministries
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

Dear heavenly Father,

We thank and praise you for all the blessings in our lives. And we are humbled to be able to share our blessings with those who are in need in domestic or foreign missions.

God's peace,

Annie Jacobs
United Thank Offering Coordinator
Diocese of East Carolina

UNITED THANK OFFERING PRAYER

God of glorious and radiant abundance, we give you thanks for all that is—for stars in their nebulae, for wind in the trees, seed in the pod, food on our tables, and the grace of fellowship we enjoy in the banquet. We give thanks for your presence in our midst, as the Holy One, as the eternal spirit, and in the faces of each of your children. May your loving kindness follow us all the days of our lives, and into the eternal. We ask this on behalf of all creation, that we may in our turn strive to love as you do. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

A PRAYER IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF MUSIC

O God, whose enlivening spirit inspires us to joy and whose compassion brings us solace, we give you thanks for the gift of music, which is a means of your glory and your grace. We praise you that in times of celebration music gladdens our hearts, that in times of sorrow it embraces us with ineffable comfort and, when our hearts and minds are still, we can, with music as a guide, enter reflection, rest and peace. Grant that in all times of our lives, we may hear in the art of music your divine call to creativity, and know through the harmony of sound the beauty of the whole of your Creation. We pray that all music dedicated to worship of you will stir up in your people true devotion and lead us into the resolve of righteous living in the service of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose most holy name we pray. Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston
Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia

DESDE MI BALCÓN

Sentada en mi mecedora al despuntar el alba, mirando los hermosos colores que refleja el sol en el firmamento, esos hermosos colores! Se siente la presencia del creador justo en el momento en que algunas aves elevan su trino posados en los arboles de pino que bordean el área verde, elevando su canto de alabanza en acción de gracias por la llegada de la primavera ¡Cuán hermosa es tu obra Dios y Padre del universo y de toda creatura que en él habita! No me queda más que decir, gracias Señor por este maravilloso privilegio de presenciar y sentir en mi interior una parte de tu gloria. Hacer mis oraciones en este ambiente de quietud y en completa comunión contigo, me hace decir una vez más, gracias Señor Dios de los cielos y la tierra. Gracias por todo lo que nos permites disfrutar gratuitamente! Gracias Padre, por permitirme abrir mis ojos a un nuevo día y sentir tu presencia a través de la naturaleza. Gracias por proveerme de ojos para percibirte en en los colores y formas de las flores, en la belleza del sol que nos calienta y nos da vida, gracias por todo lo que creaste para deleite nuestro, Gracias Señor!

The Rev. Mercedes Julian
Missioner at La Iglesia de la Ascension and Transfiguration
Diocese of Rhode Island

PRAYER FOR PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE

(Based on a prayer by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, my words in italics)

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.
Yet it is the law of all progress that is made by passing through some stages of instability and that may take a very long time.

Good and gracious God, sustain us as we engage in ministries of reconciliation that arise from conflict, suspicion, and injustice. Help us to see You in our sisters and brothers, and to be open to the presence of the Holy Spirit. Give us the courage to remember that the ministry of reconciliation is unceasing, and that we will never truly be done.

And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually. Let them grow.
Let them shape themselves without undue haste.
Do not try to force them on

as though you could be today what time
—that is to say, grace—and circumstances
—acting on your own good will—
will make you tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new Spirit
gradually forming in you will be.

*Remind us to love one another enough to listen without
judgment or defensiveness. Give us the strength and
compassion to embrace one another's pain, shame, rage,
and grief. Help us to be healers of the rifts that have
grown between us.*

Give our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.
Above all, trust in the slow work of God,
our loving vine-dresser.

*Embrace your imperfect human family as we strive to do
Your will. Forgive us when we falter, encourage us as we
get up and try again. And above all, we will trust in the
slow work of God. AMEN.*

Heidi J. Kim
Missioner for Racial Reconciliation
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

Holy One, thank you that by the power of your Spirit
we are able to do things in community that would be
impossible for us to accomplish on our own. Send your
Spirit anew on the women of the Episcopal Church
that they might, by your stirrings in their hearts,
deepen their commitment to their witness to the
power of gratitude to change the circumstances of so
many in this world you have created and where you
remain present to your children as the Triune God.

The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Knisely
Bishop of the Diocese of Rhode Island

Let us raise our eyes to the heavens and our voices
to the Creator in thanksgiving for all that we have
received for our nurture and happiness every day of
our lives. Let us make a joyful noise of gratitude for
the grace we have received in each breath we breathe,
in each word we speak, in each deed we do. Let us
extend our hands to our fellow creatures to express
our thanksgiving by sharing what we have been given
through no merit of our own. It is through a daily
practice of thanksgiving that we enlarge our hearts
to embrace our sisters and brothers in any kind of
need, loneliness, despair, or sickness of heart and
mind. Humbly we receive your gifts, O Creator of
all. More humbly we thank you for these gifts. Most
inexpertly and awkwardly, with shallowness and self-
consciousness, we strive to share what you have given
us. We pray you, Creator, teach our hearts to love as
you have loved us, in all things. Amen.

Lelanda Lee
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Longmont, CO

Dear God of Mercy,

We pray for those needs in our society that seem beyond our attempts to solve. We pray for the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the destitute, and for all whom it is easy to forget. We pray that all may share in the riches of this land.

We pray for the neglected and the abused. We pray especially for the elderly and the children in our society who are at the mercy of abusive caretakers. Surround them with your protection.

We pray for the oppressed. Have pity on those who live with injustice, terror, disease and death as their constant companions. Give us grace, O Lord, to eliminate discrimination and hatred towards those who different from us.

We pray for prisoners and prisons. Lord Jesus, you were condemned as a criminal. Visit our jails and prisons and make known your loving presence. Remember all prisoners. Bring the guilty to repentance and bring those who are held unjustly to release. Help us to remember that what we do for those in prison, we do for you.

We pray for victims of addiction. We pray for those who have lost their health and freedom because of their addiction. Strengthen them in the work of their recovery and give their caretakers patient understanding and persevering love.

God of Wisdom, we ask for courage to confront these needs and wisdom in seeking solutions. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression so that all persons may know the hope that Jesus promises and live into the fullness of life that you desire for all people. God of Hope, hear our prayer.

Dena Lee
Province III Representative
United Thank Offering

Gracious God,
Thank you for the gift of this precious day, unlike any other. Help us to experience anew the gifts you have given to us, your children: senses to experience your glorious creation, minds to solve problems and conceive creative ideas, hands and feet to serve our neighbors in need, and hearts to fill with your compassion and mercy. We rejoice because you, O God, have breathed your breath of life in us once again, entrusting us with another opportunity to be your light and life in this world. Guide us today in the ways of your son, Jesus Christ, and give us strength for the journey. Amen.

Kathryn Lohre
Assistant to the Presiding Bishop
Executive, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Gracious and loving God,
Thank you for your innumerable gifts.
You are so generous to me.
Today I am especially thankful
for those who have touched and impacted my life
but are no longer here with me.
For mentors and teachers,
For friends playful and serious,
For those always willing to pitch in and help,
For those who have made me feel helpful
and kind and useful and valuable.
Thank you, God, for the gift of memory.

Marion Luckey
Diocese of Northern Michigan

Dear God, I give you thanks for the spirit of wonder you show me afresh day by day in the eyes of my daughters: for their delight in every twig and flower, cracker and noodle; for their deliberate and happy curiosity about the leaves and pebbles and bright pennies I ignore; for their excitement about light shining through stained glass and air pushing through organ pipes; for their growing knowledge of the good world around and within them; for every time they clap or sing along or join their voices with mine in prayer and song. Give me, please, their joy and happiness in the smallest and best things it is so easy to miss. Show me how to open my eyes each morning in a new spirit of discovery and openness. Teach me how to learn in their learning, and grow in their growth. Amen.

Richard J. Mammana, Jr.
Ecumenical and Interreligious Associate
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

AN EVENING PRAYER

Dear Lord, it is night.
I am weary from the distractions of the day;
distractions of the world that have diverted my focus
from You and the examples for living that You sent
your Son, Jesus, to teach us.
In the peace and quiet of the evening, I can reflect on
Your presence. Thank you for giving me the peace that
only comes from knowing You.
Thank you for the forgiveness that you give us when
we fail so miserably. Thank you for Your grace and for
the hope of salvation. When we come to the realization
of your Gifts, you will gently hold us in the palm of
your hand as we journey through this earthly life.
Your love and generosity for your children is always
there, ready for anyone who wants it. This is beyond
understanding.
Finally, thank you for the gift of your Son, who taught
us how to live. And I can go to sleep, knowing that I am
blessed; it is more than I deserve. And in the morning,
we will try again, to be better than we were today.
In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Rebecca Markert
National Church Periodical Club Board President
Church of the Holy Trinity
Nashville, TN
Diocese of Tennessee

Today I give thanks.

I am grateful for my whole family: my loving wife, Johanna, my son, Dhruv and for my parents, sister and extended family. I give thanks for all those individuals who are important to me and teach me about the incarnational God. I give thanks for those people, family and friends, in your life who are the face of God to you.

I am grateful for the ministry God has given me as an Officer for Global Relations and Networking for The Domestic and Foreign Mission Society. I give thanks for the chance to foster strong friendships and partnership between The Episcopal Church and Anglican provinces and dioceses of sub-Saharan Africa where God has used me as a bridge-builder and reconciler. I give thanks for the opportunity to truly live into my vocation and I only hope that this ministry gives glory to God. I give thanks for the vocation God has set before you. May God bless it and may your work each day give glory to God.

Today I give thanks, for the people in my life who are the heart and face of God and for the work which God sets before me each day. Today I give thanks, for being on the journey with you and with Christ. Today I give thanks.

The Rev. Ranjit K. Mathews
Officer For Global Relations and Networking
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for all the prayers you have answered—small prayers and big prayers, morning prayers and evening prayers, soft prayers and loud prayers, anxious prayers and peaceful prayers. May my prayers be shaped according to your faithfulness, becoming less selfish and frantic and more calm and trusting with each day that passes. AMEN!

Brenda Mayhall
Diocese of Alabama Episcopal Church Women President
Christ Episcopal Church
Albertville, AL

Most loving Creator of all that is, help us to pause often to honor our deepest soul who yearns to create in us a grateful heart. You are the potter and we are the clay and we thank you for your Diving patience a we seek to take on a shape that is filled with our own hubris, of the shape of one defeated and abused by life. Yet day by day you patiently shape us, repair us, rebuild us until we finally begin to resemble the one only you have called forth. Then, most holy One, our very soul will at last lead us to that grateful heart that offers deep thanksgiving for all you have created. Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Larry E. Maze
Bishop Retired of Arkansas

Lord, we thank You for every gift in its season;
For rain and sun; for darkness and light; for want and
plenty;

Dear Lord we give thanks.

We ask that you make us mindful

That we may constantly remember and celebrate
those gifts.

Build in us, through your Holy Spirit,

Such a deep and abiding sense of gratitude

That we shower blessings of compassion, forgiveness,
and healing

On every human soul we encounter this day.

Above all, we live in gratitude

Knowing that we are never alone,

Knowing that you abide with us

In rain and sun, in darkness and light, in want and
plenty..

For these gifts, and all others, generous and gracious
God,

We give thanks.

Rev. Carol Mead
Episcopal Priest and Author

A PRAYER FOR GOD'S CONSTANT GUIDANCE

Lead me, guide me along the way

God, please be my constant guide and companion.

For if You lead me I cannot stray

There are many roads to take but I believe that

you set my pathway before my birth.

Lord let me walk each day with Thee,

So that I may hear Your word and live by

Your example.

Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

I am lost if you take your hand from me

I know I am weak and often tempted

I am blind without Thy light to see

Sometimes I don't recognize the challenges until I
stumble.

Lord just always to me thy servant be,

But through your mercy and grace

Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

Lead me, guide me along the way

Thank You for your hand at my back.

For if you lead me I cannot stray

Thank you for the compass of Your word.

Lord let me walk each day with Thee.

Thank you for the provisions of each day, and the hope
in each tomorrow.

Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

At a recent retreat, we sang this old gospel hymn (Lead Me, Guide Me) and it has remained in my thoughts for the many days since. For me, it has become a constant prayer. That God lead me and guide me in all aspects of my life—personal and professional. I know that without his guidance my way is not clear. My words have become woven with the words of the song. I think of these words too as the Episcopal Church and associated entities take a long hard look at how they are organized, do business, and treat each other.

Jacquelyn (Jackie) Meeks
Province VII
Episcopal Church Women President 2011-2015

Joyful and surprising God, you sent your son to live among us, and you sent your spirit to support us. Help us to see the many and surprising ways that you are present to us in our daily lives, and when we don't see your presence, help us to trust that you are there. May we grow in awareness of your presence, and may your presence help us to grow in joy. Help us to grow in gratitude for the many ways that you are present to us in our lives, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Holy and gracious God, you bring the rains of spring and the snows of winter; the heat of summer and the crispness of fall. You prepare us for growth, and you call us to rest, all in due season. Help us to know what season we are in, and through that knowledge helps us to develop in Godly stature, that we may serve you ever more fully, for your son's sake. Amen.

The Rev. JK Melton, PhD student
Fordham University Department of Theology
Diocese of Colorado

Good and gracious God, I give thanks for all of the ways you showed up in my life today: from the kindness of a stranger to the gift of health and happiness of my loved ones. I'm grateful for your presence in the midst of the difficult things unfolding in my life & in the world around us. Thank you for your never failing love and for the blessings of this day. Amen.

The Rev. Heather Melton
Missioner, United Thank Offering
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

Mi Oración

Te doy gracias mi Señor, porque me has hecho libre, porque puedo pensar y amar, pero sobre todo abrazar. Me siento dichosa de ser tu hija, por los grandes detalles con que adornas mi vida. Hoy me rindo a tus pies en sincera adoración, mi corazón se llena de gozo y siento tu plenitud; todo está lleno de Ti mi Señor, los colores brillan, las luces resplandecen y las trompetas elevan sus voces para decirte, cuán grande eres mi Dios.

Ven Espíritu de Dios, llena todos los espacios, pinta el cielo de arcoíris, el sol de exaltación, y la luna de pasión, para colmar nuestras vidas de tu gracia en abundancia. Hoy quiero darte gracias y expresarte con detalles mi deseo de servirte, mi alegría y mi paz, todo te lo debo a Ti. Agradecida y bendecida en tu Santo Nombre. Amen

The Rev. Marivel Milien
Iglesia Santísima Trinidad
Miami, FL

Lord, how can we say thanks to you for giving us a visionary as Ms. Emery to carry out your mission here on earth which is known as the United Thank Offering. Her vision and foresight have enabled women, through the years, to continue this mission. That UTO has existed for 125 years speaks volumes for the organization. We give thanks to you, Almighty God, with the assurance that this wonderful organization will continue for centuries to come. Amen.

Robinette W. Miller
United Thank Offering Coordinator
St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Richmond, VA

PRAYER 1

I thank you, Creator, for what you have created in me:
a voice to praise you, a mind to seek you, a heart to
love you a son that gives me joy, a family to relate with,
friends to have fun with words to encourage , smiles to
give, work ethic to share

Te agradezco, Creador, por lo que creaste en mí:
una voz para adorarte, una mente para buscarte,
un corazón para amarte un hijo para gozarme, una
familia para relacionarme, amigos para divertirme
palabras para animar, sonrisa para transmitir, ética
laboral para compartir

PRAYER 2

For all I can see, alleluia
family, friends, smiles, tulips, movies, words
For all I can hear, alleluia
cumbia, guitar, laughter, song, bassoon, talk
For all I can smell, alleluia
flowers, lemon, babies, fruit, puppies, incense
For all I can taste, alleluia
family's cooking, chocolate, crawfish, papaya, diet
coke, water
For all I can touch, alleluia
my son, hands, keyboard, screen, keys, bed
For all I can feel, alleluia
love, joy, peace, Jesus, pain, life

I see You in all the music I hear, and all the scents I
smell remind me that I taste
your daily Bread as I touch lives when I feel your
embrace

Por todo lo que puedo ver, aleluya
familia, amigos, sonrisas, tulipanes, películas,
palabras
Por todo lo que puedo escuchar, aleluya
cumbia, guitarra, risas, cantos, fagot, plásticas
Por todo lo que puedo oler, aleluya
flores, limón, bebés, fruta, perritos, incienso
Por todo lo que puedo probar, aleluya
la sazón de mi familia, chocolate, langostitas, papaya,
coca lite, agua
Por todo lo que puedo tocar, aleluya
mi hijo, manos, teclado, pantalla, llaves, cama
Por todo lo que puedo sentir, aleluya
amor, gozo, paz, Jesús, dolor, vida

Te veo en toda la música que escucho, y todos los
aromas me recuerdan que
pruebo tu diario Pan mientras toco vidas cuando
siento tu abrazo

Sandra T. Montes, M.Ed.
Iglesia Episcopal San Mateo
Diocese of Texas

A THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, in whose image and after whose likeness all persons are made, we thank you for humanity's glorious diversity. Thank you, in particular, for neighbors, acquaintances, friends, and family members who strive toward truth and beauty, motivated by religious commitments different from our own. We are grateful that, in their faithfulness to their own path and their questions about ours, they encourage us to give a clear account of where we stand—what we believe, and why; how we worship and why; grateful that, in their occasional provocation of holy envy in us, they inspire us to explore afresh the depth and breadth of our own tradition; grateful for the many ways they encourage us to recall the generosity of your love. Make us ever mindful of that generosity, O Lover/Beloved/Love-Between. Amen.

Gracious God, in whose image and after whose likeness all persons are made, I thank you for humanity's glorious diversity. Thank you, in particular, for neighbors, acquaintances, friends, and family members who strive toward truth and beauty, motivated by religious commitments different from my own. I am grateful that, in their faithfulness to their own path and their questions about ours, they encourage us to give a clear account of where I stand—what I believe, and why; how I worship and why; grateful that, in their occasional provocation of holy envy in me, they inspire me to explore afresh the depth and breadth of my own tradition; grateful for the many ways they encourage me to recall the generosity of your love. Make me ever mindful of that generosity, O Lover/Beloved/Love-Between. Amen.

Lucinda Mosher, Th.D.
St John's Episcopal Church
West Hartford, CT

I am thankful for my family, and I am thankful for email, cell phones, Facebook, texting, IMs and other electronic communications as they have allowed my family, which embraces four generations flung across three time zones in eight states, to stay connected. Because we range in age from 89 years old to six months, it is difficult to gather in one place at one time. Hence, we don't see each other as much as we would like. But electronic media has provided avenues for connecting. I always feel gratified to be able to connect with them in any format that we can. I am humbled from what I learn from each generation (even my own) through our contacts. I am thankful that we can remain, even though we are long-distance, a family united and a family loved.

Thank you, God and Great One, for the good earth. For the air that we breath and that supports the birds in the sky. For the water that we drink and that supports the fish and aquatic life under the shores. For the lands that we walk throughout with other animals, and that we tend and till and where we grow our food. Help us to preserve, protect and sustain the earth, your creation and all your creatures.

Neva Rae Fox
Public Affairs Officer
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty and gracious God, thank you for giving us the privilege to pray and to come into your presence whether we are joyful or in sadness. We thank you for the precious peace that we experience after we

have prayed, and the new hope that we are given every morning to move forward with our daily lives. As we acknowledge your plentiful gifts to us, help us to share with others. O Lord in your mercy, teach us to be lessons of compassion, serenity and understanding for all whose lives we touch through our words or actions. This we pray, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Joyce P. Nightingale-Holder
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
Brooklyn, NY
Diocese of Long Island

Help us O Lord to recognize your divine presence in ALL things.
When we are blinded because of our spiritual optical disillusion,
increase our faith that we may not be overcome by our fears.

Teach us to walk patiently with you, yea, even as we grope in our darkness. Enliven our hope that we may catch a mere glimpse of the horizon that beckons us to dawn of a new day and give us grateful hearts that we may show forth our prayers and thanksgivings even as we await your divine revelation. Amen.

The Very Rev. Dr. J. Mastine Nisbett
St. David's Episcopal Church
Cambria Heights, Queens
Diocese of Long Island

Sometimes I can see and claim gratitude in the moment. But other times, thankfulness is more elusive and comes to me slowly – requiring a little time to process, necessitating a shift in focus or perception to sink in and appreciate. Thank you, Loving God, for the gift of time and perspective, granting us the ability to see with new eyes, therefore making no experience wasted or squandered. Shift my heart, O God, so I can find the better even in the bitter. Break open my heart, Lord Jesus, to make room for joy where there was once only sorrow. Rend my heart, Lord Christ, until my will gives way to yours. Remind us, that it matters not when we find our gratitude, only that we make the journey and arrive there in due course.
Amen.

Noelle Ptomey
2015 Deputy to General Convention from Nebraska
Diocese of Nebraska

PRAYERS FOR THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

Gracious God, give us thankful hearts for all who minister to others in any way. Turn our gratitude into a willingness to share all that we have, that we may make room in our hearts and lives for anyone who has any need that we might supply. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Abundant and compassionate God, we give you thanks for all the gifts you have given us—in substance and in spirit. We ask you this day, to also give us the insight to listen carefully to the longings, hopes of fears of those around us, so that we may truly serve them in your name. Then, to grant us for your tender mercy’s sake the passion and the desire to offer up all you have given us, so that this world may be restored to the unity and wholeness you intended for it since the dawn of creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Rayford Ray
Bishop of Northern Michigan
Province V

PRAYERS VOLUME V (I PRAYER)

Most Loving God, we place on this altar of love these UTO boxes and other gifts given with a deep gratitude for all you have given us. They represent many things, our time, our gratefulness for this community of worship which we are blessed to share in, the very breath that animates us and gives us life. They represent our life together as a people committed to following you and sharing you with others. May our lives lived outside these walls reflect that vision. May our gifts, these and others, not be viewed as leverage with you, but rather as gifts of thankfulness for all that we have been given. We pray for the continuing mission of your Church, which is the entire reason for these gifts, that it may continue to be a place of comfort and guidance to all people and a place where all are welcome no matter who they are or where they are on their journey of faith. And now we ask your blessing on these gifts, may they remind us that our thankfulness for all you have given us calls us to work, pray, and give for the furtherance of the Kingdom you wish for us. In the name of our brother Jesus we pray. Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel
Bishop of Olympia
Seattle, WA

I arise today, summoned by the sun.
I give thanks for this particular new day.
I arise today, called by Christ,
to love as we have been loved.
I arise today, invited by Jesus,
to claim abundant, eternal life,
as promised.
Today.

The Rt. Rev. Bavi Edna (Nedi) Rivera
Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon

O Gracious God, you are with us in times of joy, enriching our lives in innumerable ways, and in times of darkness you are with us still, giving us strength for the journey: Grant that we may have grateful hearts for your presence and find ways this day to express our gratitude to you and to others whose lives intersect our own; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Rev. C.K. Robertson, Ph.D.
Canon to the Presiding Bishop
of The Episcopal Church

ORACIÓN DE ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS

Gracias te sean dadas oh Dios, Creador del universo, por la belleza que has plasmado en la creación, por el cielo cubierto de luminarias resplandecientes; por este hermoso planeta Tierra, de elevadas montañas, valles solitarios, ríos sonorosos y mares majestuosos; por las flores, arbustos y árboles frondosos; por los peces nadadores, las aves voladoras y los otros animales corredores; gracias, finalmente oh Dios, por el ser humano, hombre y mujer, niño y niña, adornado de gracia, inteligencia y amor. Abre nuestros ojos para que veamos más allá de la belleza creada, tu hermosura, el Bello Creador de todo. Amén.

Rev. Isaías A. Rodríguez
Senior Hispanic Missioner
Diocese of Atlanta

Creating God,

Thank you for the intrepid and spontaneous beauty of the daffodils. Just last week we wondered if the snow and harsh winter had kept them from blooming this year. Yet in the space of a day, their yellow blossoms are covering fields and gardens and flower stands. And their flowers are open wide, as if calling to us: “Here we are, beautiful gifts from God just for you winter worn folks!”. Thank you for the ever returning gift of the seasons and most especially today for these spring testaments to your presence. Amen.

Loving and Ever Present God,

Thank you for the multitude of ways you know us and for the ways you invite us to know you. Today I learned how Muslims pray shoulder to shoulder so that the voice of prayer among the people will be one voice. Last week I learned of the Jewish thanksgiving prayer said upon seeing the ocean for the first time in a while. And this morning at church, I was reminded yet again at the baptism of a child, that your desire for us is an inquiring and discerning heart and a spirit of joy and wonder in all your works. Keep our hearts open and joyful that we may be open to the breadth of your presence within and among us. Amen.

The Rev. Margaret R. Rose
Ecumenical and Interreligious Deputy
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

ORACIÓN PARA CELEBRAR 125 AÑOS DE UTO

Padre celestial, amoroso y bondadoso,
Padre infinitamente generoso y dador de toda vida,
elevamos a ti nuestra gratitud por tu gracia
y por los dones de amor y generosidad que nos has
otorgado para que ésta,
tu agencia de ayuda al prójimo siga llevando con amor
y humildad,
el alivio y el apoyo que para realizar tu misión,
lo necesitan nuestras comunidades y entre tus hijos e
hijas.
Que tu Santo Espíritu nos siga acompañando y
llenando de tu inspiración,
Que nos inspires a trabajar con amor y con humildad,
Que guíes nuestras mentes y nuestros corazones para
nuestro trabajo hasta ahora dedicado, responsable y
armonioso.
Que lleguemos a lograr las metas y llevar a cabo los
proyectos que elevamos a ti
para la gloria de tu nombre y al servicio de tu reino en
este mundo.
Te lo pedimos en nombre de tu hijo Jesucristo,
tu amor infinito en nosotros encarnado para la Gloria
eterna. Amén

TERCERA ORACIÓN

Dios de infinitas bondades, padre y madre de
toda tu creación, nosotras tus hijas te alabamos y
humildemente te ofrecemos nuestros deseos de ver
que UTO siga recibiendo de tus mercedes para que siga
adelante con sus programas que tanto fortalecen la
fe y los trabajos de amor de todas las personas que se
benefician de su ayuda generosa y hecha en nombre de
tu hijo Jesucristo, amén.

Rev. Ema Rosero-Nordalm
Misionera para Ministerios Latinos/Hispanos
Diócesis de Massachusetts

“A thankful heart has a continual feast.”—Proverbs

15:15

“Every breath of your life is a jewel.” —Attar

Sitting up easily, both
feet on the floor
Releasing all to this moment.

Chest opens,
Rises,
Lungs
fill with
air.

You are present

Heart beats in time
with breath.

Breath pours out
a soft fluid sound
The breeze
ruffling over the
water

I am present

Again the oh two meal
Savored by the cells
Jewel-red in their treasury

Again the release
of matter from a
moment ago

Every part of me
Nourished by you

Breathing in
your gift
Offering up
my own

Tuesday Rupp
Church of the Heavenly Rest
New York, NY

Here we are, God.
Take us.
Orient us.
Set us in the right direction.

These next several days, God, help us to pay attention to the reading and to the speaking; to Katharine, our Presiding Bishop, and to Gay, our President, to all our helpers; and to each other;
and above all to You in our inner voice.

Forgive us when we rise up to flee unto Tarshish. Grab us. Thow us up on dry land.. Turn us around.. Put us on the right road. Keep us in the right direction.

And above all, be patient with us.
We know you are not through with us yet.
Amen.

Here we are, God.
Thank you, God

We thank You for bringing us safely to Salt Lake City;
but above all we thank you for bringing us
the Way.

We thank You, God, for bringing us safely through last night and waking us this morning;
but above all we thank you for our creation.
and for bringing us the Life

We thank you for the intricate technology — the electricity, the plumbing, the air conditioning,, even the Virtual Binder and the jumbo screens,—which allow us to meet comfortably and to communicate efficiently these several days;
but above all we thank you for bring us the Truth.

We thank you for our loved ones who are able to join us here and those who are at home and whom we will miss. We thank you for our companions at this Convention—bishops and deputies. old acquaintances and new friends;
but above all we thank you for the commandment to love one another as You love us.

We are here, God.
We thank you, God.

Amen.

Byron Rushing
Vice President of the House of Deputies

Oh Dios, a menudo dejamos que los asuntos pequeños nos separen de ti, ayúdanos a ponerte en primer lugar y renueva nuestra dedicación a servirte. Recuérdanos lo que significa compartir unos a otros, perdona nuestras excusas y anímanos a decir que si a tu llamado. Ayúdanos a ver la respuesta de amor que debemos dar a nuestro prójimo que está en necesidad. Gracias por tu gracia, solo tú puedes dar el poder de amar y servir a otras personas. En el nombre de Jesús, Amen.

Coromoto Jimenez De Salazar
Diócesis de Venezuela
IX Provincia

God of all that is, you are the source of all we have and those love. You are the source of all gratitude and you are the source of the gratitude itself. You are the source and model of generosity. May our gratitude to you show forth in our generosity to others. Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Stacy F. Sauls
Chief Operating Officer
Office of the Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

THANK YOU FOR MY MANY BLESSINGS

Gracious Father,
Thank you for my daily life.
Thank you for my health.
Thank you for my family and my extended family.
Thank you for my friends at home and around the world.
Thank you for my home and the wonderful country I live in.
Thank you for the opportunity to help others in need.
Thank you for the opportunity to live and grow in your grace.
Guide me to do your will and walk in your path.
I ask this in your name
Amen

Barbara Schafer
United Thank Offering President

Merciful God, who experienced about human suffering, I know so many people who ill and, especially, so many who have cancer. I do not understand. Yet I thank you for the intellect and inspiration with which you have gifted so many hard-working and dedicated healers among us. Thank you for the brilliance of their minds that causes them to wonder about curing diseases, and I thank you for giving them the will to explore their intuitions to discover those cures and to reduce suffering. Thank you for the compassion that flows from their hearts to strengthen and comfort those who journey through illnesses. I give you my thanks through your son, Jesus Christ, in whom you have become one of us. Amen

God of love, I thank you for the gift of grandchildren. Through them, you show me the wonders in your world with new eyes, teach me to listen in new ways, show me new joys of both teaching and learning, and give me a glimpse of your kingdom. As my grandchildren grow and change, help me to guide them and to be guided by them so that I may learn your lessons well. I pray this in the name of your dearly beloved son, Jesus, who taught us that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who come to you with childlike wonder and joy. Amen

The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg
Editor/Reporter
Episcopal News Service
The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

Almighty God, we give thanks for all that we have and all that we are. In the mystery of your creation we come to find belonging and hope within the fellowship of your holy church. Thank you for the fellowship and family we celebrate within this body of believers. May it nurture us for your service and enable us to reach out to others so that they too may look to you with thankful and hopeful hearts. Amen.

Brian R. Seage
Bishop Coadjutor
Diocese of Mississippi

Dear God, please accept my prayer of forgiveness: happiness and joy washed over my soul, the burden I carried suddenly lifted; I rushed to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to share the Good News, but then suddenly remembered—I forgot to thank You.

Thank You.

Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Angela F. Shepherd
Cathedral of the Incarnation
Baltimore, MD
Diocese of Maryland

Thank you dear Lord for the treasure of photography.
Through this resource I am kept mindful of my loved
ones who now dwell with you forever.

I am given new feelings as I remember my children's
early smiles.

I wonder at generations that I never met whose lives
shaped mine before I was born.

I see my own childhood, my youth, early adulthood,
and now the face of a senior...all staring back at me
with understood identity and unknown, ongoing
formation.

Thank you Lord for the treasure of photography.
You use it to keep all of my relationships alive to my
past, present, future, and eternity with you.
Thank you for giving us the treasure of snapshots of
Grace!

Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith
Bishop of Southwest Florida

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dear and Gracious God,

I thank you for things that are simple in my life and
things that are complex. I thank you that I have
challenges and not too many problems to make keep
my brain alive and make me grateful for times when
it is smoother sailing. I thank you especially for the
people you have sent into my life—my family both near
and far, my friends and my church family. It is mostly
my adopted family who go with me to the opera, to
theatre and art museums, and allow me to organize
their social lives. I thank you for Daughters of the
King, and the people of the Great Plains who continue
to inspire me for their pioneer spirit and their
willingness to accept new challenges. In gratitude I
am going to drop some coins or maybe even a dollar
bill in my UTO box! In Jesus name, Amen.

Sandra Squires
St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church
Elkhorn, NE

A COLLECT FOR THOSE WHO JOURNEY

O God, Source of All Being, whose Son, Jesus Christ, journeyed into unknown lands as a child and later into the wilderness in order to walk with those who have lost their way: guide, comfort, and bless those who seek your Presence among all who long for Home; through the counsel and protection of the Holy Spirit, one with God and the Living Christ, now and forever.
Amen

Alyssa Stebbing
Outreach Ministry Director and Contemporary Music Director
Trinity Episcopal Church
The Woodlands, TX
Diocese of Texas

Dear God,

Help us share our stories that provide the structure of our history. We need to remember not just the rich and the famous, but also the everyday people. The long-retired teachers, the neighbors who shared their cookie recipes, the choir members and their funny jokes—these are among those who will never have their own website or books written about them. Let us give thanks for the threads they have provided in the fabric of our lives. And thank you, Lord, for bringing us together so that we can celebrate the most important story of all—that of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

Susan Stonesifer
Historiographer, St. Luke's
Bethesda, MD
Diocese of Washington

Hey God,

Thanks for those who I hold as part of my communities, those that challenge me every day to live a full and genuine life. Thank you for continuing to show up in the most unexpected places. Help me to be aware of the moments in which I need your love and support the most. You show up in my interactions with others, my conversations in tense times, and in my smiling friends—for all I am truly grateful and humbled. Continue to surprise me with your compassion and care. Help us to grow into the people we are meant to be.
Amen.

Sarah Stonesifer
Diocese of Washington

Gracious Mother/Father God:
I am tired; spent.
For so long I have tried to say “no” and let that be
enough.
I found courage to say to say it today.
“No.”
Some will be disappointed; shame is likely to rear its
head.
Yet,
You have said that I am worthy—worthy and loved as
I am.
Cradle and kiss me again
That I may know your joy in the morning
Grateful, bone-deep grateful to be your child.
Amen.

Rev. Cynthia Stravers
Associate Rector
Church of the Heavenly Rest
New York, NY

Dear Heavenly Father,

In the morning as I sit and watch the bright rays of the
sunrise over the mountains
and listen to the church bells announce that the day
has begun. I thank you for the
day to come. May it be a day where I do the work that
You have planned for me. May
I be a good friend and share in my friends’ lives, either
comforting them, laughing with
them or just spending time with them in fellowship.

At noon I see the sun high in the sky and listen to the
church bells announce midday;
time to take a break from the day’s work. I thank You
that I have a roof over my head,
food to eat, water to drink. I pray for those who do not.

In the evening I watch as the sun makes its way over to
the other mountain range,
casting the beautiful colors of the end of the day, and
listen to the church bells peal
that it’s time to come home and rest, the day is done. I
watch and listen and I thank
you Lord for the day that is gone and I pray that I have
done what You planned for
me today. If I have not, please forgive me and help me
tomorrow to be the person you
have planned for me to be.

In the Name of Your Son, Amen

Kristi Strzyzewski
United Thank Offering Coordinator for the
Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe
Geneva, Switzerland

Not for all of this beautiful creation,
Nor for the miracle of new life;
Not for the sun, the moon, and the stars
Nor the creatures of land, sea, and sky;
Not solely for the glorious resurrection
Nor the Church I hold so dear;
Though for all of these things I do give thanks
To you, great and gracious God;
But mostly, most days I give thanks to you
For the daily resurrections in my own life,
An oft-repeated pattern of dying and being born anew:
A job wrenched away, yet a better opportunity around
the corner;
A marriage ended, yet an even more bountiful one
come into view;
Deep valleys of depression, yet leading to spacious
places in which
to plant my feet;
Yes, even the death of my own son, yet finding new life
born of that unfathomable grief.
For these extraordinary acts of your life-gifting
From the mud and muck of my very mortal existence,
For these, most of all, I give you thanks,
O God who creates, redeems, and sustains me
Through every hour of every day.
Amen.

The Rev. Elaine Ellis Thomas
Associate Rector
St. Paul's Memorial Church
Charlottesville, VA

Dear Lord Christ,
Your many gifts have been more than I could imagine.
I wake each day and say a prayer that you will always
walk with me in my life journey. Thank you for Your
Son and his example of how to live. May I share the
Son with all in the world through my own words and
deeds. Amen.

Sharon Tucker
Episcopal Church Women Diocesan Board
Public Relations
Diocese of Long Island, New York

Father, we who are here gathered thank thee, united
before thee not by compromise for the sake of peace,
but by comprehension for the sake of truth; fit us for
thy mansions, that with faithful hearts and generous
spirits, we may offer unto thee ourselves, our souls
and bodies; and unto thy people a love that follows the
example of thy Son our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives
and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and for ever. Amen.

The Rev. Jordan Melissa Haynie Ware
All Saints' Episcopal Church
Fort Worth, TX

BEFORE A MEETING...

Here we are again, Lord... trying to be faithful, trying to do those things we know how to do and trying to discern what it is You would have us to be about. We want to show our love for you through our service to others and we want to honor your many gifts to us by modeling your love as we go about our daily tasks and assignments. Bless this work, and bless each opportunity we have to shine in your name. Amen

Gene Willard
Administrator, Province IV
Diocese of Western North Carolina
Morganton, NC

A seed—small, tough, and rough—sits in dirt and darkness. It is waiting for the rain, whose liquid balm will seep into the soil's depths, embrace the seed, and encourage it to grow, far beyond its small, rough shell and out into the sun.

We thank you, Oh God, that we are like seeds and that you are like the rain, coaxing us out of our little, gritty lives, helping us to extend, stretch, and grow. Bless us as we offer you our gratitude with our lips. And give us the courage to fully offer you our lives, so that you may nourish them with your loving, living will. Amen.

Sarah Woodford
Trinity Episcopal Church on the Green
New Haven, CT

A PRAYER ON PERSPECTIVE

Lord please grant me the humility, patience and insight to seek a better understanding of others' perspectives in the world, to see things as in their shoes, so that I may grow a deeper relationship with them. I pray that through this reflection, I may become more enlightened with ideas different from my own and learn to better work together with others.

I ask that you also grant me the courage and poise to share my own perspective, though it may somehow be limited or change over time, for it can be a great value to offer to the world. Help me know that through this vulnerability, I can also deepen my relationship with the world and help shape it into a better place.

I give thanks for the experiences and relationships that have led me to where I am right now. Thank you for the joy and the pain that have shaped and changed my perspective over time.

Finally, help me to always be mindful of the perspective and wisdom shown through the life of Jesus, and may I always be mindful of his model of understanding and courage.

Alan Yarborough
Young Adult Service Corps volunteer in Haiti
Dioceses of Upper South Carolina and
Western North Carolina

Gentle God,
I am grateful for the pain and sorrow in my life.
For childhood hurts and loneliness;
For sadness and fear.
I am thankful that you held me when I was
Alone.
Grateful that through people and prayer you
brought me
To new life.
I am grateful for the hope and joy
That comes from being powerless and defeated.
Thankful I can experience resurrection NOW.
I can laugh and love, knowing you never left me;
And never will. Amen.

The Rev. Linda M Young
Trinity Episcopal Church,
Diocese of Lexington
Covington, KY



THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

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