

**THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH SERVICE BOOK**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING from the First Order for Holy Communion**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We offer you thanks, Creator, Saviour, Giver of Life.  
From the beginning you have made yourself known:  
the heavens proclaim your glory and the earth sings your praise. In wisdom  
you made all that is  
and you bless us with earth's fruitfulness.  
You are merciful and gracious, and abounding in love.  
Yet from our first days we have disobeyed your will.  
Long ago you called to yourself a people  
to shine as light to guide all nations to your presence.  
You led them to freedom;  
you revealed to them your Law  
and taught them through your prophets.  
Finally you sent your promised Son, Jesus Christ,  
who shared our human nature and understood our weakness. Born of Mary,  
he showed forth your love by word and sign.

Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth we sing the triumphant  
hymn of your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

He sought the unloved and the lost  
and welcomed all who came to him;  
he taught us lessons of forgiveness  
he brought us healing for our sickness,  
and showed us how to live according to your will. For this he was rejected,

for this he endured grief and sorrow,  
for this he gave himself up to death upon the Cross.  
But you broke the power of sin and death  
and raised him to the heights,  
that through the blood of his Cross  
and by the gift of the Holy Spirit  
everything in earth and heaven might be reconciled to you.

[The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed  
took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my  
body which is broken for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'  
In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying: 'This cup is the new  
covenant in my blood.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'  
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,  
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.]

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. or**

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Lord Jesus,  
come in glory.**

Come, Creator God: renew the face of the earth;  
come, eternal Saviour: remake us in your likeness;  
come, Holy Spirit, transform these gifts:  
that Christ may be known to us in the breaking of the bread and that we may  
be strengthened to serve him in the world. May we on earth be one with all  
Christ's people, and, when all things are complete, be raised up to be with  
him,  
[with ... *the saints; those who have died*]  
and with all your faithful servants in the heavenly places, the homeland which  
we seek by faith,  
and where he reigns in glory,  
with you, Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever. Amen

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** from the Second Order of Communion

God is with us!

**God is with us!**

We give thanks and praise to God!  
**We give thanks and praise to God!**

Loving God,  
the world you made is beautiful  
and full of wonder.  
You made us, with all your creatures,  
and you love all that you have made.  
You gave us the words of your prophets,  
the stories of your people through the generations, and the gathered wisdom  
of many years.  
You gave us Jesus, your Son,  
to be born and to grow up  
in difficult times when there was little peace.  
He embraced people with your love  
and told stories to change us all.  
He healed those in pain  
and brought to life those who had lost hope.  
He made friends with anyone who would listen  
and loved even his enemies.  
For these things, he suffered.  
For these things, he died.  
And he was raised from death and lives with you forever. You give us your Holy  
Spirit,  
to teach and to strengthen us,  
to remind us of Jesus Christ,  
and to make us one in him.

For all these gifts we thank you, and we join with all your people on earth and  
in heaven,  
in joyful praise:

Hosanna!  
**Hosanna!**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Hosanna in the highest heaven!  
**Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

We praise you that we are here today, around the table of Jesus.  
We have heard the good news of your love; the cross is the sign of your arms

stretched out in love for us  
and the empty tomb declares your love stronger than death.

Christ has died!  
**Christ has died!**

Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen!**

Christ will come again!  
**Christ will come again!**

Send your Holy Spirit  
upon this bread and wine,  
and upon your people,  
that Christ may be with us,  
and we may be made ready to live for you and to do what you ask of us,  
today, and every day to come.

We make this prayer  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
in the love of the Creator,  
one God,  
to whom be glory and praise forever,

**Amen.**