

Thanksgiving Worship Resources

Katherine Hawker
<http://liturgyoutside.net>

Call to Worship (2002)- Based on Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

**We want to sing our praise
but our voices squeak,
rusty and out of tune.**

Worship the Lord with gladness!

**We think of God each Sunday morning,
but during the week we trust in other powers;
jobs, families, money, social pressure.**

Come into God's presence with thanksgiving!

**We come as we are;
harried and hurried,
distracted and expectant.**

For the Lord is good.

**Here in this place,
just as we are,
God waits for us.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Thanksgiving Communion Prayer (1995)

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Holy God, we come to the table on the eve of Thanksgiving;
tempted to tell only our faith stories of triumph and victory,
tempted to move directly to the party with the table overflowing.

Hear us, Holy God, as we pray for remembrance.

Holy God, we come to the table scarred from the world;
bringing some vague awareness that all is not well,
bringing some distant memory that the costly cross looms in the distance.

Hear us, Holy God, as we pray for healing.

Holy God, we come to the table with a sense of defeat;
knowing that too many cupboards are empty even now,
knowing that too many secrets lie hidden under festive holiday table.

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Hear us, Holy God, as we pray for new beginnings.

Proclaiming God's continued presence in this broken world
we remember the night when Jesus was betrayed
when he 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 also he took the cup, after supper saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

We give thanks for the days Jesus walked this earth.
We give thanks for the love of Jesus even as he died.
We give thanks for Jesus' continued life even now.