

Contemporary Order of Worship
March 3, 2024
Worship Series: Watch and Pray
Message: *It Is Right To Give Our Thanks And Praise*

Gathering *Open Up the Heavens*

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Moment

Pastor: On this Communion Sunday, we focus on the prayer of Great Thanksgiving — the table prayer. Praying this prayer, as we recite the salvation history, we become part of the Story--from creation to Jesus' ministry to the great banquet to come! We find our place at the table with all those who were invited by Jesus to dine with him — and often the guest list was surprising. We'll celebrate the radical message of love, grace, and justice inherent in this ritual prayer at the heart of our Christian faith.

*Centering Song *O Come to the Altar*

*Prayer Pastor Melissa

Pastor: Let us pray

**People: Holy God, we give You thanks
that You have claimed us as Your own
and nourish us in this meal
as members of Christ's body.
By the work of Your Spirit,
give us the grace to glorify You
as one, living body in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

Special Music *He's My Best Friend* Franconia Players Puppet Ministry

Prayer Song *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (sung twice)*
*Lord, listen to Your children praying,
Lord, send Your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

Prayers of People Sarah Chambers

Offering Song *Indescribable*

Prayer of Thanksgiving Pastor Melissa

Message *It Is Right To Give Our Thanks And Praise* Pastor Melissa

Invitation to Communion Sarah Chambers

Invitation: We have been invited into conversation with God.

We have been invited to the table of fellowship

where we open ourselves to the love of Christ and neighbor.

Let us cast away all things that keep us from this sacred conversation in silent confession.

Silent Confession

Assurance and Pardon

Leader: Know that your place awaits and the table is set.

Grace is here, already and always.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God. AMEN.

The Great Thanksgiving UMH 13 Pastor Melissa

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing . . .

And so, we Your people on earth

and with all the company of heaven

praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

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.**

Holy are You . . . And so, in remembrance
of these Your might acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory. Forever. AMEN.**

Breaking of the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

Music During Communion *Come to the Table*

Prayer Following Communion
**Eternal God,
we give You thanks for this holy mystery
in which You have given Yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of Your Spirit,
to give ourselves to others
in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

*Closing Song *Lay Me Down*

*Benediction

Pastor Melissa

Postlude

Open Up the Heavens (Reprise)