

Worship Resources

Whole-life stewardship

*Healthy stewardship attitudes and practices start with gratitude.
Following are some thanks-giving resources for your worship services.*

... And cultivate thankfulness.
Let the Word of Christ - the Message - have the run of the house.
Give it plenty of room in your lives...
And sing, sing your hearts out to God!
Let every detail of your lives
(words, actions, whatever)
be done in the name of Jesus,
thanking God every step of the way.
Col. 3:15b -17 (The Message)

A “building prayer,” to be lined out by the leader, with the congregation repeating each line (indicated in *italics*, below). Dynamics are important, as those repeating the lines tend to imitate the leader. A decrescendo to a reverent whisper at the end is meaningful.

Oh God,

Thank you. (*Thank you.*)
Thank you for creating. (*Thank you for creating*)
Thank you for creating each day. (*Thank you for creating each day.*)
Thank you for creating each day anew. (*Thank you for creating each day anew.*)

Oh God,

Thank you. (*Thank you.*)
Thank you for loving. (*Thank you for loving.*)
Thank you for loving us. (*Thank you for loving us.*)
Thank you for loving us always. (*Thank you for loving us always.*)

Oh God,

Thank you. (*Thank you.*)
Thank you for being. (*Thank you for being.*)
Thank you for being here. (*Thank you for being here.*)
Thank you for being here with, and in, us. (*Thank you for being here with, and in, us.*)

Thank you. (*Thank you.*)
Thank you. (*Thank you.*)
Thank you. (*Thank you.*)

Carol Bowman, Stewardship Development Counselor,
Church of the Brethren General Board

"Quotable Quotes"

*Since Jesus was delivered to you as Christ and Lord,
Live your lives in union with him.*

Be rooted in him;

be built in him;

be consolidated in the faith you were taught;

Let your hearts overflow with thankfulness.

Col. 2:6-7 NEB

Gratitude takes nothing for granted,
is never unresponsive,
is constantly awakening
to new wonder,
and to praise of the goodness of God.
Thomas Merton

Gratitude ... is a response to grace.

The compassionate life is a grateful life,
and actions born out of gratefulness
are not compulsive but free,
not somber but joyful,
not fanatical but liberating.

When gratitude is the source of our actions,
our giving becomes receiving ~
and those to whom we minister become our ministers.

Henri Nouwen

“Thank you, Thank You”

A litany of Thanksgiving using the song “*Thank you, Thank You*” by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh. Spoken text written by Ola Irene “Cricket” Harrison in “*The Gifts We Bring*, Vol. 2, p.14. Used by permission, Church Finance Council, Disciples of Christ.

Choir or praise band: Stanza 1 (“... everything I can see...”)

People: Gracious God, you have given us the gift of sight and you have created all the beauty of the world for our enjoyment. You filled the vastness of the universe with wonder and have given light and life to all people. For these blessings, God, we give you thanks!

Choir or band: Stanza 2 (“... everything I can hear...”)

People: For the gifts of sound, we thank you, God. Open our ears that we might hear the cries of those who need us. Open our hearts that we might hear your still small voice urging us to act in love. For these blessings, God, we give you thanks!

Choir or band: Stanza 3 (“...everything I can do ...”)

People: The gifts of movement and growth come from you, O God: strength of body, curiosity that helps us learn, times that we can give of ourselves to others, sharing your love in all we do and say. For these blessings, God, we give you thanks!

Choir or band: Stanza 4 (“... everything I can be...”)

People: We thank you, God, for the gift of your vision that sees beyond what the world is, and reaches out, restlessly, for that global family of justice and wholeness that we can become. We thank you for the gifts of service, the opportunities for giving, the moments we have to make a difference in Christ’s name. For all your many blessings to us, God, we give you thanks!

Choir or band: Stanza 5 (“... everything that we are ...”)

A Prayer of Confession (From “*The Gifts We Bring*,” Vol. 6 Used by permission.)

Creator God,

Looking upon creation, You proclaimed it good.

We look upon creation and wonder if it is enough.

Your abundance is a fresh breeze moving through our lives.

Our fear is like the stifling humid air of a summer’s day.

Gracious God, help us put away the words of scarcity which proclaim we do not have enough time, money, information, members, leaders ... Open our eyes to see. Lift our hearts to trust. Move our hands to act. Bless us with words to proclaim the abundance of your grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.