Musical Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving! What a great holiday, even if it isn’t part of the liturgical year! If you look in most hymnals’ seasonal or topical index of hymns, you’ll find dozens of hymns and songs related to Thanksgiving and giving thanks.

But what do our hymns actually say about giving thanks? Here are a few lines from The United Methodist Hymnal and The Faith We Sing:

- Give thanks for the harvest (UMH 86)
- Give thanks for the past, present, future (UMH 87)
- Come before God’s presence with thanksgiving (UMH 91)
- Give thanks for the fruits of creation, the harvests of the Spirit, God’s wonder, truth, love (UMH 97)
- Rejoice, give thanks, and sing (UMH 161)
- Give thanks never ceasing (UMH 181)
- Thank God who causes hope to spring up from the ground (UMH 313)
- We give honor to Christ with thanksgiving (UMH 664)
- Give thanks for the gospel’s joyful sound (UMH 671)
- Let all things now living raise a song of thanksgiving (TFWS 2008)
- Give thanks with a grateful heart (TFWS 2036)
- Give thanks because God’s given Jesus Christ (TFWS 2036)
- With thanksgiving I’ll be a living sanctuary (TFWS 2164)
- We come with simple words of heartfelt thanks (TFWS 2207)
- It is right to give our thanks and praise (TFWS 2257)

By Dean McIntyre (dmcintyre@gbod.org), Director of Music Resources for The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 God, thank you for your peace that surpasses all understanding and guards our hearts and minds. Philippians 4:7</td>
<td>2 God, I give you thanks for the many blessings I receive every day. Ephesians 5:20</td>
<td>4 God, thank you for the right to vote in elections. We pray for each person who is elected today. Mark 10:43</td>
<td>5 God, thank you for your unending love and mercy. 1 Chronicles 16:34</td>
<td>6 God, teach me to effectively express my heartfelt thanks to you and to others. Psalm 30:12</td>
<td>7 God, thank you for being near and comforting me when I pray to you. Deuteronomy 4:7</td>
<td>8 God, thank you for offering hope in what seem like hopeless situations. 1 Peter 1:3</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.ngumc.org">www.ngumc.org</a></td>
<td>3 God, thank you for being the lamp unto my feet and the light unto my path. Psalm 119:105</td>
<td>10 God, thank you for forgiving my sins. Help me to be forgiving of others. John 13:15</td>
<td>11 God, give me a thankful heart and a willing spirit. Teach me to give thanks in all circumstances. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18</td>
<td>12 God, I am thankful for my place in your world, and for the gifts and talents you have given me. Psalm 24:1</td>
<td>13 God, thank you for being our refuge and our strength, an everpresent help in times of trouble. Psalm 46:1</td>
<td>14 God, we give you thanks that nothing can ever separate us from the love of Christ. Romans 8:35</td>
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<td>9 God, thank you for the gift of the Sabbath. Teach me to honor it and honor you. 1 Chronicles 29:13</td>
<td>11 God, give me a thankful heart and a willing spirit. Teach me to give thanks in all circumstances. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18</td>
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<td>15 God, thank you for the diversity of your creation. Inspire us to learn from the world around us. 1 Corinthians 12:7</td>
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<td>16 God, thank you for all those who answer your call to ordained ministry. Guide their way as they serve you. 1 Samuel 3:10</td>
<td>17 God, thank you for renewing me, transforming me and giving me peace. Psalm 119:18</td>
<td>18 God, thank you for the abundant life and joy we experience in Jesus Christ. John 10:10</td>
<td>19 God, thank you for blessing us with friends family and even strangers who love, encourage and comfort us. Luke 1:58</td>
<td>20 God, thank you for being our companion in times of loneliness. Psalm 23:4</td>
<td>21 God, thank you for the blessing of children. Mark 10:15-16</td>
<td>22 God, thank you for the volunteers, missionaries and service workers who perform what are often thankless tasks. 1 John 2:14</td>
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<td>23 God, thank you for offering us the joy of your salvation. Forgive me for taking this gift for granted. Psalm 51:12</td>
<td>24 God, thank you for offering us new life. Enable me to recognize opportunities to be renewed. Psalm 71:20</td>
<td>25 God, thank you for giving us your word and thank you for speaking through the scriptures today. 2 Timothy 3:16</td>
<td>26 God, thank you for my abundant life. Help me be engaged and enthusiastic. John 10:10</td>
<td>27 God, we give you thanks, for you are good; your love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34</td>
<td>28 God, thank you for the help and support of others. Show me opportunities to give support to someone who needs it. Luke 11:9-10</td>
<td>29 God, thank you for making me a living sanctuary for you. John 4:13-14</td>
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