

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

By Rev. Tom Tickner

(from closing worship POAMN/ARMSS Conference, October 14, 2016)

Your mouth was filled with laughter, God of our every moment,
as you sang creation into being.
You showered the earth with your peace and kindness,
filling our lives with light.
We grew impatient in the garden,
grumbling that there was nothing for us,
and hearing the cries of seduction,
offered our lives to their deadly songs.
You sent prophets to us,
so we might be drawn to you,
but like disobedient children we closed our ears to their words.
Hearing the silent cries of our deepest hearts,
you sent Jesus to us, to lift us to your presence.
The heavens rang with shouts of joy.
So with wilderness wanderers and ungracious grumblers,
with those who have been offered life,
with those who offered gratitude for simple gifts and all who seek to follow your Son,
we join our voices in praising your name.

All: #552 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

L: Holy are you, Restorer of broken lives,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, Light and Life of all.
Knowing how we choose the shadows,
he became the Light to illumine the way back to you.
Hearing our hearts breaking in grief,
he became the Love which would defeat sin's evil.
Seeing you weep over your poisoned creation,
he became the Compassion which would save the world,
including your children.

As we remember his life, his ministry, his death;
as we follow him through Good Friday into Easter,
as we shout with joy for his resurrection,
we speak of that mystery we call faith:

All: #553 *Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen*

L: Pour out your Spirit.
Silence our foolish grumbling,

so we might hear you calling us to the Table,
where the simple gifts of the bread and of the cup
are filled with your Spirit.
As you heal us with the brokenness of Jesus,
send us to bring hope to the world.
As you satisfy us with the joyous taste of grace,
may we go forth to offer mercy and peace to everyone we meet.

And when our pilgrimage has ended,
when we join our sisters and brothers
of every time and place around your Feast,
the redeemed of the Lord will lift their voices
forever singing of your steadfast love,
God in Community, Holy in One.

Hymns from *Glory to God*

Rev. Tom Tickner is Minister of Spiritual Life at Grace Presbyterian Village in Dallas. Rev. Tickner served a Presbyterian Congregation in Oklahoma for 19 years before moving to his current position. At Grace Presbyterian Village, Tom provides opportunities for the community of Grace to continue to grow in faith, to be nurtured in spirit, and to receive God's care during difficult transitions of life. Tom has served as pastor at Grace for 13 years. Tom has been a part of POAMN since 2003 and has served on the Executive Committee. He is also active in Grace Presbytery, serving on the Committee on Ministry of that presbytery. Tom is married to Susan, who is Director of Music at Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church in Dallas. They have two married boys, one in New York City and one in Austin, Texas and two very smart and beautiful granddaughters.