

***We Give Praise (Thanks-Giving Theme)*** (2006)

SATB (or unison) chorus w/organ

Difficulty rating: 1+

Duration: 3'00"

Commissioned by the Thanks-Giving Foundation

Premiere: Choir of Temple Emanu-El, Dallas, TX, 01/07/07

*We Give Praise* was commissioned by the Thanksgiving Foundation to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Thanksgiving Together" event in Dallas, Texas, in 1907. It was a pioneering event at the time, a celebration of the values of thanks-giving and prayer for people of all faiths. The event was an inspiration for the founding of Thanks-Giving Square in 1964, a park and ecumenical sanctuary in the heart of Dallas, which continues to work for the promotion of these values.

The Foundation's Executive Director, Tatiana Androsov, and I searched far and wide for the right text, one which both would be appropriately ecumenical and also include much of the imagery associated with Thanks-giving Square. In the end we decided it would be most efficient and more on target if I wrote it myself. Today the Foundation uses the hymn as its theme song, which is heard upon arrival at its website home page, [www.thanksgiving.org](http://www.thanksgiving.org).

The hymn can be performed either with or without the organ prelude, and either fully unison or with the 4-part harmonization of the final stanza.

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We give praise with a single voice,  
Though it's sung to the words of many tongues,  
Clapping hands to the beats of many lands  
We give praise with a loud and joyful noise.

We give thanks for the earth we prize,  
For the wonderful radiance of sun  
And for all living creatures, great and small;  
We give thanks for this precious gift of life.

We are all children of one Creator  
Who gives us blessings pure and free,  
Who grants us all the joys of nature;  
We close the circle, singing in praise and harmony.

With thanks-giving we rise above  
And the boundaries between us tumble down,  
And we help others as we would ourselves;  
We give thanks and we share a greater love.

*--Jonathan David*