

# A Korean Thanksgiving 추석 Liturgy

## An Intergenerational Bilingual Worship Service for Korean Diasporas in Canada

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Korean Thanksgiving, August 15 by the lunar calendar, usually falls in late September.

This liturgy is designed for those who have a Korean cultural background, but it can be adapted for use by any congregation or for Asian Heritage Month, which falls in May annually.

**The Worship Setting:** A table is set up beside the communion table, covered with a cloth representing the appropriate liturgical colour. On top is the Korean 색동 (*SaekDong*) cloth and a turquoise pine-scented candle. Have available two rocks from different locations—including, if possible, one from Korea and one from Canada. These will be placed side by side on the worship table as a symbolic action of Korean Canadians' life as diaspora, living in between two homes.

**Prelude:** "O-So-So" (VU 34), with Korean traditional musical instruments playing

### Gather in God's Name

#### **Welcome and Greeting**

**Lighting the Candle** by a Korean-speaking adult

**Placing the Two Rocks on the Table** by an English-speaking youth

**Call to Worship** led by the two people above in two languages:

One: 이 돌하루방을 창조하시고 각자 이름으로 우리를 불러 주신 하나님, (*Korean*)  
(God, who created this *Dolharubang*, calls us each by name)

All: 당신께서 저희 한 사람 이름을 부르시면서 저희를 이 예배에 초대하셨습니다.  
(*Korean*) (**We hear our names being called to join in worship.**)

One: God, who created this kettle point rock,  
gathers us together in the unity of Jesus Christ. (*English*)

All: **Let us worship together!** (*English*)

One: 하나님이 여러분과 함께 하시길 빕니다. (*Korean*)  
(God be with you.)

All: 또한 당신께도 함께 하시길 빕니다. (*Korean*)  
(**And also with you.**)

One: Let us lift our hearts and give thanks. (*English*)

All: **We lift them up to God and praise God.** (*English*)

**Opening Hymn:** "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" (VU 272, vs. 1 in English)

한영 VU (vs. 2 in Korean)

## Engage in God's Word

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 6:1–12

(recorded in English and played, congregation encouraged to only listen)

**Hymn:** 우리찬송가 153 “Yahweh! Our God” (from the hymnbook of the Women Church in Korea)

**Gospel:** Luke 10:27 (read by a Korean-speaking child)

**Choir anthem**

**Embodying the Word** (dramatic presentation and/or preacher's)

**Hymn:** “O Christian, Love” (VU 594)

## Give Thanks to God

*Communion*

(The Korean rice cake, SongPyun, is served instead of typical Western bread: it is shared in the Korean thanksgiving celebration, and the pine tree, known as a symbol of Korea, is an ingredient of this cake. By tasting it, people not only experience the presence of God but also recall their memories of home).

The Body of Christ given for you.

**Taste and see that God is good!**

The cup of God's covenant poured out for you.

**Drink and renew God's covenant!**

*Offering*

**Offertory song:** “I've Got the Joy Down in My Heart,” led by young people

**Minute for Mission:** Reading from the United Church's *Minutes for Mission* booklet

**Prayers of the People**

## Go Out in God's Name

**Blessing:** (the Deuteronomy passage can be modified to become a bilingual blessing to one another)

You shall love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might and peace be with you always.

날마다 지극정성으로 하나님을 섬기면 만사형통하리라 믿습니다.

**Benediction:** (The whole congregation gets up and makes a circle by holding hands to dance the 강강수월래, a Korean communal dance, often celebrated on 추석 thanksgiving day, with a benedictory phrase led by the minister.)

*Postlude*