

**PRAY.  
GIVE.  
ADVOCATE.**

# **FROM HOPE TO HARVEST**



A Worship Service for World Food Day

# PRAY. GIVE. ADVOCATE.

World Food Day (October 16th) was established in 1945 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to increase awareness of world hunger and food security. The harvest season also calls God's people to a time of thanksgiving. These resources are intended to help your faith community focus on God's provision of food for all, while at the same time remembering that not everyone enjoys access to the abundance the earth provides. There are three ways in which you are invited to respond:

**Pray** – prayers, readings, songs, a children's feature, and other resources.

**Give** – an opportunity to contribute to work that is increasing access to food for people around the world.

**Advocate** – suggestions for how to include messages about hunger with politicians and political candidates.

# PRAYERS & WORSHIP RESOURCES

## Suggested Scripture Readings

**Psalm 65** What mighty praise, O God, belongs to You....

**Deuteronomy 24:19-22** Leave some of the harvest for those in need

**Mark 12:41-44** The widow's generosity

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15** A harvest of generosity

## Call to Worship

We gather together  
to celebrate God's bounty and blessing,  
to proclaim God's goodness and love,  
to remember the many ways  
in which God has provided for our needs,  
and to offer ourselves in the work of God's kingdom.  
Praise the God of harvest and hope!  
Let's worship together.

## Opening Prayer (based on Psalm 65:1-13)

What mighty praise belongs to You, O God,  
for Your acts of love and faithfulness toward us!

# PRAY

In Your mercy, You hear our prayers,  
You forgive our sins,  
You provide for all our needs.

From one end of the earth to the other,  
You inspire worship and praise!  
Even nature celebrates Your goodness.

We, too, would offer our praise and thanksgiving  
for Your mercy and Your faithful love toward us.  
Receive our adoration,  
our confession,  
our thanksgiving.

Through the power of Your Holy Spirit  
make Your presence known among us  
that we may hear Your Word and do Your will.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

## Scripture Litany: Praise for the Gifts of God (Psalm 65:1, 5-13)

What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!  
You faithfully answer our prayers with awesome deeds;  
You are the hope of the whole wide world.  
You formed the mountains by Your power,  
and armed Yourself with mighty strength.  
You calmed the roaring seas with their pounding waves,  
and silenced the shouting of the nations.  
Even those who live at the far ends of the earth  
stand in awe of Your wonders.  
From where the sun rises to where it sets,  
You inspire shouts of joy!  
**What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!**

You take care of the earth and water it,  
making it rich and fertile.  
The rivers of God will not run dry;  
they provide a bountiful harvest of grain,  
for You have ordered it so.  
You drench the prepared ground with rain,  
breaking up its clods,  
softening it with showers,  
blessing its yield.

**What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!**

You crown the year with Your good gifts;  
the places where You have passed  
overflow with abundance:  
the wilderness becomes a lush pasture,  
the hillsides blossom with joy,  
the meadows are covered with flocks,  
and the valleys are clothed with wheat.  
They all shout and sing together for joy!

**What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!**

## **A Harvest Prayer: God of the Bountiful**

God, we thank you for your harvest  
which feeds us so many times each day  
**We are nourished with your forgiveness and hope  
we are sustained with your strength and patience  
we are filled with your grace and compassion**

God, we thank you for feeding us with a harvest of plenty  
**We are restored through your generosity and healing  
we are replenished with your abundance and joy  
we are reminded of your selfless abandon**

God, we thank you for feeding us with the bread of heaven  
**Your gift of Christ sustains our lives  
His presence restores the promise of your love  
His life fills our hearts with your everlasting light**

God, we thank you too for filling us with the water of life  
**May we drink deeply that our thirst may be quenched  
may your river continue to flow  
over us, in us, through us  
and out into the world you love. <sup>1</sup>**

# CHILDREN'S FEATURE: HELPING HANDS

## Objective:

To help children reflect on where food comes from and to pray for those who have helped it get to our tables.

## Materials:

Blank paper (1-2 sheets per child), pencils, scissors, crayons, glue\*, hole punch\*, string\*

\*If you wish to hang the crafts.

## Recommended time:

10-20 minutes

Recommended ages:

Preschool and school aged (ages 5-10). Younger children can be included, but will require additional assistance. This activity is ideal for a Sunday school class. It can easily be adapted into a children's feature during a service.

## Leader's Notes:

1. Explain to the children that today you are giving thanks for food. You will do an activity with the children to help the congregation visually see what the children are thankful for.

2. Ask the children to trace their two hands on paper. Have them cut out the hands (the younger children will require assistance).

3. Ask the children to name different foods that they eat (particularly around Thanksgiving or in the fall). A few that

they may name:

- Turkey
- Corn
- Potatoes
- Vegetables
- Fresh fruit
- Bread
- Pumpkin pie
- Cheese

5. Have the children take one of their paper hands. Have them write one food that they are particularly thankful for on each of the fingers, so that they name five foods in total. (Alternatively, you could have the children cut an image of a food item from a grocery store flyer, to paste on the hand. This may be easier for children who cannot write).

6. Ask the children to name all the people who help the food grow and get to their table. A few that they may name are:

- Farmers (who plant the seeds, who harvest the fields, who care for the animals)
- Butchers
- Processors (people who process the food)
- Transporters (people who transported the food)
- Grocery store clerks
- Bakers
- Caregivers who planted, canned or prepared the food

7. Have the children take the second paper hand. Have them write the names (or occupations) of five people who have

helped get the food to the table on each of the fingers. These are people that they would like to pray for.

8. The children can decorate their hands.

9. After the children have decorated their hands, the hands can be displayed for the whole congregation to see. This can be done a variety of ways, including:

A) Gluing the two hands together (writing facing outwards), as if the hands are together in prayer. Punch a hole in one side, and hang from a string.

B) Posting the hands on a bulletin board, in a circle (as if all the hands were joined in prayer).

## Version B Leader's Notes:

1. Explain to the children that today you are giving thanks for food.

2. Ask the children to name different foods that they like to eat (particularly around Thanksgiving or in the fall). A few that they may name:

- Turkey
- Corn
- Potatoes
- Vegetables
- Fresh fruit
- Bread
- Pumpkin pie
- Cheese
- 

3. Say "Using the fingers on one of your hands, name 5 foods that you are particularly thankful for."

4. Ask the children to name all the people who help grow the food and get it to their table. A few that they may name are:

- Farmers (who plant the seeds, who harvest the fields, who care for the animals)
- Butchers
- Processors (people who process the food)
- Transporters (people who transported the food)
- Grocery store clerks
- Bakers
- Caregivers who planted, canned or prepared the food

5. Say "Using the fingers on your other hand, name 5 people (or professions), who help food reach your table, that you are particularly thankful for."

6. Say "Put your two hands together (or in the air, or join with others—however you wish to demonstrate prayer) and tell the children that as you pray the following prayer you will particularly recall those five foods and five people."

7. (optional) Hand out photocopies of the traced hands for the children to take home.

Prayer suggestion: Dear God, thank you for the food we receive, and for the abundance of food on our tables. Thank you for all of the people, known and unknown, who have had a hand in growing food and getting it to our table. We ask you to bless those, in our country and in other countries, who do not have enough to eat. May you help us share with others so they do not go without.

## All-Age Prayer of Thanksgiving

For food, glorious food  
and those who provide it  
**let us praise God**

For potatoes and pasta  
crumbly cheese and juicy tomatoes  
**let us praise God**

For the smell of freshly baked bread  
for butter and honey, jam and cream  
**let us praise God**

For colourful carrots and bendy bananas  
for peppers and peanuts and perfect pears  
**let us praise God**

For sizzling sausages and bacon strips  
for crunchy apples and seedless grapes  
**let us praise God**

For milk and for juice  
for fish and for chips  
**let us praise God**

For chocolate and for biscuits  
for corn flakes and toast  
**let us praise God**

For food, glorious food  
and those who provide it  
**let us praise God**  
**Amen** <sup>2</sup>

## Readers' Theatre: Mark 10:17-22, 12:38-44, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

One: As Jesus started on his way,  
a man ran up to him  
and fell on his knees before him.

Two: Good teacher,  
what must I do to inherit eternal life?

Three: Why do you call me good?  
No one is good—except God alone.  
You know the commandments:  
‘You shall not murder,  
you shall not commit adultery,  
you shall not steal,  
you shall not give false testimony,  
you shall not defraud,  
honour your father and mother.’”

Two: Teacher,  
all these I have kept since I was a boy.

One: Jesus looked at him and loved him.

Three: One thing you lack.  
Go, sell everything you have  
and give to the poor,  
and you will have treasure in heaven.  
Then come, follow me.

One: At this the man's face fell.  
He went away sad,  
because he had great wealth.

Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple  
and watched as the crowds dropped in their money.  
Many rich people put in large amounts.  
Then a poor widow came  
and dropped in two small coins.  
Jesus called his disciples to him and said,

Three: I tell you the truth,  
this poor widow has given more  
than all the others who are making contributions.  
For they gave a tiny part of their surplus,  
but she, poor as she is,  
has given everything she had to live on.

Two: Remember this:  
Whoever sows sparingly  
will also reap sparingly,  
and whoever sows generously  
will also reap generously.

One: Each of you should give  
what you have decided in your heart to give,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.

Three: And God is able to bless you abundantly,  
so that in all things at all times,  
having all that you need,  
you will abound in every good work.

Two: Now he who supplies seed to the sower  
and bread for food  
will also supply and increase your store of seed  
and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.  
You will be enriched in every way  
so that you can be generous on every occasion,  
and through us your generosity will result  
in thanksgiving to God.

## Prayer of Confession

You asked for my hands  
that you might use them for your purposes.  
I gave them for a moment  
then withdrew them for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth  
to speak out against injustice.  
I gave you a whisper  
that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes  
to see the pain of poverty.  
I closed them  
for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life  
that you might work through me.  
I gave you a small part  
that I might not get “too involved.”

Lord, forgive me for calculated efforts to serve you  
only when it is convenient for me to do so,  
and only in those places where it is safe to do so,  
and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Lord, forgive me,  
renew me,  
send me out as a usable instrument,  
that I may take seriously  
the meaning of your cross. <sup>3</sup>

## Offering Prayer (inspired by Psalm 65)

We bless you,  
God of Seed and Harvest,  
and we bless each other,  
that the beauty of this world,  
and the love that created it,  
might be expressed through our lives,  
and be a blessing to others,  
now and always. **Amen.** <sup>4</sup>

## Opportunity for Response: Sharing the Harvest

See the “Give” section of this resource for information on how a donation can help provide food, and the means to obtain food for people who experience hunger in other parts of the world. A Canadian Foodgrains Bank offertory video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iy4uDB9-zc&feature=youtu.be>

## Prayer for Others

Merciful God of compassion and justice,  
have mercy on us as we confess our sin.  
We are not the stewards Christ calls us to be.  
Riches possess us while others go hungry.  
We mismanage creation with our pollution and strife  
to obtain ever more than we already have.  
We abuse your provision for us by our selfish desires.  
Help us hear again Christ’s call to be faithful,  
and through him forgive us  
as we repent of our sin and turn from it...  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God,  
with a handful of flour and a drop of oil  
the widow of Zarephath fed the prophet Elijah  
before her child and herself.  
God, teach us the joy of hospitality  
which welcomes friend and stranger,  
neighbour and enemy,  
and so finds You feasting among us....  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of Abundance,  
with two small coins  
the widow of Jerusalem offered to you her love,  
her worship and all she had.  
Teach us the joy of giving freely,  
which counts nothing as ours by right,  
but willingly shares  
and so finds you sharing with us....  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of Resurrection,  
with his whole being  
Christ Jesus sacrificed himself  
for the sake of your love for us.  
Teach us the joy of giving ourselves to you,  
so that we yearn for your presence,  
long for your salvation,  
and so find you living in us....

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of Mercy,  
it is your will that we love and work and pray  
for those who are in need of bread and of shelter,  
of healing and of wholeness.  
Hear the prayers we make for those of our world—  
those of our community,  
and those of our family who are in need.  
We lift before you now in the silence of our hearts  
and with the words of our lips....

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bless your church throughout the world  
and help it to fulfil the purpose you have given it.  
Guide us each day  
and help us to give as completely as we have received.  
We ask it in the name of Christ Jesus,  
our Lord and our Saviour,  
our brother and our friend. **Amen.** <sup>5</sup>

## Prayer of Commitment

God of honey and harvest,  
of grain and grape  
of ocean and orchard:  
This harvest time  
may we both praise and pray;  
praise you for the abundance  
and pray that this harvest is not just shared,  
but shared justly.

God of beehives and breadbaskets  
of living webs and the weaving of life  
of ecosystems and economy:  
This harvest time  
may we both praise and pray  
praise you for the wealth of the harvest  
and pray that this harvest is not just a promise  
but is full of promise for all.

God of bumble bees and blue whales,  
evolution and environment,  
ice-field and star-field:  
This harvest time  
may we both praise and pray:  
praise you for the sheer wonder of the world  
and pray that this harvest is not about our wealth  
but the wealth of our generosity. <sup>6</sup>

## Opportunity for Response: Reminding Political Leaders About Being Generous

See the “Advocate” section of this resource to learn about how members of your community of faith can contribute their voices to remind our political leaders about the importance of addressing world hunger.

## Sample Bulletin announcement:

Canadian Foodgrains Bank ([@Foodgrains](#)) is inviting people of faith to use their social media voice, and remind political leaders and candidates that Canadians care about international aid ([#PoliticsAside](#), [#DoBetter2015](#)), particularly for small-scale farmers around the world ([#aidforag](#)). Find the candidates in your riding and tag them in a Facebook post or tweet. Contact \_\_\_\_\_ for more information, and visit [www.foodgrainsbank.ca](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca) for sample tweets and posts.

## Closing Prayer

God, source of all life,  
the northern autumn is all around us now,  
beautiful in scarlet and gold.  
We have heard the Spirit of God  
in the rustling leaves and the rush of water,  
and we are so grateful for a generous harvest,  
for seeds of many kinds, sown and multiplied;  
for the sufficiency we enjoy.

Creator God,  
we are so grateful for the creation  
which nourishes and sustains all that lives.  
Renew in us the sense of its value  
that we may not squander its riches,  
or so bend it to our will  
that we find we have destroyed it.

Transforming God,  
we cannot sow our seed with clenched fists.  
Help us to open our hands, to let go of grasping,  
that we too may scatter with hope and generosity  
our seeds of justice, peace, and joy.  
So may the fruits of our harvest  
be for the sharing of the earth  
and the blessing of your love. Amen.

## Commission and Benediction

Go now, and invest your lives in the works of faith.  
Make a name for yourselves for generosity and compassion.  
Fulfill God's holy law  
by putting love into action as eagerly for others  
as you would for yourselves.

And may God be your defender and provider;  
May Christ Jesus dispel all that disturbs or disables you;  
and may the Holy Spirit make you rich in faith,  
and loving and merciful in action.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

# SONG SUGGESTIONS:

## For the Fruit of All Creation

(Tune: AR HYD Y NOS)

For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God;  
for the gifts of every nation,  
thanks be to God;  
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,  
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,  
God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neighbour,  
God's will is done;  
in our world-wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God;  
for the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God;  
for the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

*~ written by Fred Pratt Green. Words © 1970 Hope Publishing Company. If you use this text in worship, be sure to report it on your CCLI, LicenSing or OneLicense copyright license. A PDF of the music is available at [http://www.hopepublishing.com/media/pdf/hset/hs\\_3560.pdf](http://www.hopepublishing.com/media/pdf/hset/hs_3560.pdf).*

## Bringing in the Sheaves 2.0\*

(Tune: BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES)

Sowing in the morning  
sowing seeds of kindness  
sowing in the noontide  
and the early eve;  
waiting for the harvest  
and the time of reaping  
we shall come rejoicing  
bringing in the sheaves.

Bringing in the sheaves  
Bringing in the sheaves  
We shall come rejoicing  
Bringing in the sheaves  
(REPEAT)

Harvesting the bounty –  
gifts from God's creation –  
gen'rously provided for our ev'ry need.  
Hand in hand together  
strengthening each other,  
we shall come rejoicing  
bringing in the sheaves.

Sharing of the riches  
that we have been given,  
with our human fam'ly  
all around the world;

Foll'wing Christ's example,  
loving one another,  
we shall come rejoicing  
bringing in the sheaves.

*Words: Knowles Shaw (st. 1, refrain), Christine Longhurst (st. 2, 3) Music: George A. Minor Words and Music: Public Domain.*  
*[\\*Click here for a PDF of the music/chords and lead sheets.](#)*

## Contemporary P&W:

Multiply Your Love (Andy Park)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16TwRGkMrcc>

You Crown the Year (Reuben Morgan and Brooke Ligertwood)  
– Psalm 65:11  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT3toe-jzel>

All I Have Is Yours (Bobby Gilles and Rebecca Elliott)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JDrUtzpAyM>

## Video suggestion:

Multiply Your Love (Andy Park) – Offertory based on  
Canadian Foodgrains Bank people and places: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iy4uDB9-zc&feature=youtu.be>

# SOURCES

Sharing the Harvest was written and compiled by Christine Longhurst for Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Our thanks to the following individuals or organizations who contributed prayers or readings:

<sup>1</sup> *God of the Bountiful* written by Christine Sine, and posted on her website **Godspace**. <http://godspace.wordpress.com/>

<sup>2</sup> *All-Age Prayer of Thanksgiving* from "Harvest Resources: for use with Children or Young People" (alt), produced by **The Arthur Rank Centre**. [www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk](http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk)

<sup>3</sup> *Prayer of Confession* written by Joe Sereman, South Africa (alt).

<sup>4</sup> *Offering Prayer* from the **Third Space** website. <http://third-space.org.uk>

<sup>5</sup> *Prayer for Others* written by John Maynard, and posted on Rev. Richard J. Fairchild's **Kir-shalom** website. <http://www.rockies.net/>

<sup>6</sup> *Prayer of Commitment* written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on **Mucky Paws**. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/>

<sup>7</sup> *Closing Prayer* written by Peggy M De Cuehlo (from *Bread of Tomorrow*, edited by Janet Morley, SPCK/Christian Aid), abridged. Posted on the **Christian Aid** website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

<sup>8</sup> *Commission and Benediction* copyright © 2003 Nathan Nettleton [www.laughingbird.net](http://www.laughingbird.net)

# GIVE

As a member of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) works to end global hunger by supporting international programs and partnerships to meet immediate food needs, reduce malnutrition and achieve sustainable food security.

In Mpata, Malawi, dry spells, erratic rains, and floods can have devastating effects on crops that have been carefully tended and cultivated for many months. In the dry season, it is a challenge for farmers to keep their crops hydrated. Mulch material is scarce and roaming livestock often eat crops that manage to survive.

But now, through the PWS&D-supported Mpata Drought Mitigation Project, farmers are learning conservation agriculture techniques, including mulching, crop rotation and the use of compost manure.

Mussa Mwakasungula, a father of six, is one of the farmers benefiting from the project. Mussa has always been proud of the crops he has grown and has worked hard to ensure that his family would be well nourished.

But this past year, Mussa worried because of the recurrent dry spells that left his fields brittle and barren. On top of that, the rains were not coming at the usual time. When Mussa learned

about the conservation agriculture project, he was keen to participate.

Conservation agriculture can greatly improve food security. By minimizing the soil disturbance done through tilling, rotating crops, and placing an emphasis on organic soil cover and mulch, crop yields are increasing as soil quality improves and more moisture is retained in the ground.

Mussa eagerly learned about mulch that would help hold moisture in the soil. Encouraged, he collected enough mulch for his plot of land. He quickly noticed a difference in his fields. “Usually two to three days with no rain would leave my fields dry, but this does not happen on the conservation agriculture plot,” he shares.

Support for the Mpata Drought Mitigation Project is helping smallholder farmers and their families improve their food security and deal with changing weather patterns through education on conservation agriculture techniques, as well as supporting the construction of community seed banks.

To contribute to this important work, go to [www.WeRespond.ca/donate](http://www.WeRespond.ca/donate), select your gift type, and indicate that your gift should be designated towards the Mpata Drought Mitigation project.

# ADVOCATE

**What you are doing is much more than a service that supplies God's people with what they need. It is something that will make many others thank God. (2 Cor 9:12)**

Canadians will be going to the polls for a federal election this fall. For those concerned about global hunger, and especially for people of faith, there are two specific issues to highlight as we think of brothers and sisters around the world who experience hunger.

## **Increasing commitment to effective international aid**

Canada's aid budget plays a central role in directly supporting initiatives that end global poverty and hunger. The latest figures show Canada provided \$5.5 billion in foreign aid—about 0.27% of its Gross National Income (GNI). This is less than the average of other aid donor countries (0.3% GNI), and well below the UN target of 0.7%. Since 2012, Canada's aid budget dropped by more than \$800 million.

## **Increasing Support for Small-Scale Farmers in Canada's aid program**

The role of agriculture in Canada's aid program has declined by more than 30% over the past three years (from over 9% of the aid budget to less than 6%). This is a problem, since most food insecure people are involved in agriculture for their livelihood. Climate change is adding even more challenges

to small-scale farmers. Through the Good Soil campaign, Canadian Foodgrains Bank is asking the government to increase aid for agriculture.

## **Add your voice on social media!**

Show your concern about these issues and your support for a generous Canada that provides its fair share to global efforts to reduce hunger and poverty. Here's how you can use your Twitter and/or Facebook accounts to add your voice:

- find your candidates at [Elections Canada](#)
- tag your candidates if possible (see sample tweets below)
- use your Facebook status (see sample post below)

**Hashtags:** Hashtags identify certain conversations on Twitter. By using hashtags, you are adding your voice to those conversations. Below are three key hashtags for adding your voice to the aid issues during the election.

**#AidforAg** – promotes the goals of Canadian Foodgrains Bank's [Good Soil campaign](#), asking the Canadian government to increase aid for agriculture

**#PoliticsAside** – connected to an increase in funding for Canada's aid program

**#DoBetter2015** – an initiative to improve Canadian aid and promote global sustainability on issues such as climate change and equality for women

**Sample tweets:**

I'm reminding [#cdnpoli](#) candidates that Canada can [#DoBetter2015](#) to end global hunger [@Foodgrains](#) (tag candidates)

Canada should increase [#aidforag](#) to support small-scale farmers around the world [@Foodgrains](#)(tag candidates)

Join me in putting [#politicsaside](#) in support of international development [#DoBetter2015](#) [@Foodgrains](#) (tag candidates)

We'll retweet the best ones!

**Sample Facebook post:**

“Today I'm putting [#politicsaside](#) to remind Canadians that we have a shared value and a sense of pride in our country when it comes to improving food security, health, education and economic opportunity for the world's poorest people. Share this message if you believe Canada can [#DoBetter2015!](#)”

For more details and how you can engage your candidates this fall, visit our election resource webpage at [www.foodgrainsbank.ca](http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca).

Did you use this resource? [Click here](#) to tell us about it.



@foodgrains



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