



## Outline for Worship Service

### Welcome

#### Opening thoughts

*'Make us attentive to the voices of all those who hunger for bread and thirst for dignity. God alone provides the bounty of food to all living things, but we are God's stewards. In prayer we join their voices to our own as we call upon the God of bounty.'*

#### Prayer

*God of the harvest,  
You do not desire your people to suffer.  
Rather, you look to have us love one another  
And give to each the goodness of food and drink.  
Jesus, your beloved,  
Did not shrink from the poor and the hungry  
But satisfied those who starved for bread and  
human dignity.  
In every age your Spirit of love calls us  
To attend to your very presence  
In the poor among us.  
Breathe forth that spirit among us.  
Put to flight the powers of greed and selfishness.  
Break into the shadows of our lives  
And lead us to new ways of selfless love.  
Teach all the nations of the earth  
To tend the soil for a new bounty  
That will feed the poor with bread and justice.  
We ask this through Christ, with you and the Holy  
Spirit  
One God forever and ever  
Amen.*

**Song(s) of worship** (e.g. 'Kingdom of Friends'  
included in the pack)

**Overhead Presentation (included in pack)**

**Drama/ poem (included in pack)**

**Message/ Sermon**

Possible texts: Deuteronomy 24:10-22, Deuteronomy  
15:1-18, 2 Corinthians 9:7

*Ideas:*

The place of the poor and vulnerable in God's law for his Old Covenant people represents God's special concern that they be looked after. Actions mandated in the Deuteronomy passages include:

- not withholding a poor person's deposit on a loan, particularly where it's an essential item of clothing
- paying wages of poor labourers fairly and promptly

- giving justice to those who are vulnerable, e.g. widows and orphans
- leaving the gleanings of a harvest to meet the needs of the dispossessed and vulnerable
- establishing a mechanism for the regular forgiveness of debt and release from slavery so that no one is deprived of the means for life and dignity

Warrants or reasons for this given in the passages:

- as a command from God
- caring for the poor will be to people's credit before God, while God will hear the cries of the poor if the Israelites fail to act justly and they will incur guilt.
- because of the Israelite's experience of salvation – 'Remember that you were a slave in Egypt...'

And for God's New Covenant community:

How does Paul suggest that the Corinthians' understanding of grace needs to transform their generosity? In the context, he is calling on them to give generously to a collection he is gathering for the needy saints in Jerusalem. (2 Corinthians 9:13 suggests that their generosity was to extend beyond just Christians.)

**Song(s) of worship**

**Prayers for TEAR Partners:**

*Today, bountiful God we remember the poor of this world who struggle daily. We remember those who hunger for justice and peace.*

*We offer to you the following special needs...*

(Pray for UMN, the TEAR partner featured in the resource pack, and other partners working to assist poor and marginalised rural communities move beyond bare subsistence).

**Offering**

**Benediction :**

*'From today and always may we:*

*Look upon each person we meet with the eyes of Christ;*

*Speak to each person we meet with the words of Christ;*

*And go wherever we are led with the peace of Christ.*

*Amen'*

*Worship resources adapted from Edward F. Gabriele, **Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly – Prayers for Peace and Justice**, St Marys Press, 1995. Permission sought.*