



photo: Paul Jeffrey

ROOM at the TABLE

A worship resource for World Food Day



The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

ROOM — at the — TABLE

A worship resource for World Food Day

Loving God,
take our hands
take our lives,
ordinary as wheat or cornmeal,
daily as bread –
our stumbling generosity,
our simple actions,
and find them good enough
to help prepare the feast
for all your people.

- from the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

In this worship package, you will find resources to PRAY, GIVE, and ADVOCATE for an end to global hunger. Visit www.foodgrainsbank.ca for more resources and ways to become involved.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger by:

- Supporting international programs to meet immediate food needs, reduce malnutrition, and achieve sustainable food security;
- Influencing improvements in national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger; and
- Increasing and deepening the engagement of Canadians in efforts to end global hunger.

Visit foodgrainsbank.ca for more worship resources, videos, and educational activities on related topics.

Visit the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at fao.org for more information and resources on the issue of global hunger.



ABOUT WORLD FOOD DAY

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) created World Food Day to commemorate its founding in Quebec City, October 16, 1945. The goal of the FAO is to free humanity from hunger and malnutrition, and to effectively manage the global food system. World Food Day events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and help strengthen the link between agriculture and food security.

Quick Facts:

- The world has made great progress in reducing hunger: There are 216 million fewer hungry people than in 1990-92, despite a 1.9 billion increase in the world's population.;
- Still, one in nine people, or 795 million, do not regularly get enough nutritious food to live healthy and active lives;
- Around 70% of hungry people are farmers; women suffer from hunger disproportionately, and make up at least 43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries;
- 2017 has seen the largest humanitarian crisis since the UN formed in 1945; 20 million people in five different countries (South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, and Yemen) have been facing an extreme hunger crisis, and in some cases famine.
- Canada has been a global leader in food security; however, Canadian aid is the lowest it has been in 50 years, contributing only 0.26% of its Gross National Income to helping the world's poorest citizens—well below the average of similar countries (0.54%).
- Last year, the Foodgrains Bank provided over \$41 million of assistance for over 900,000 people in 35 countries.

**World Food Programme, Food & Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Canadian Foodgrains Bank annual report and Good Soil campaign documents, and the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC).*

Canadian Foodgrains Bank projects are undertaken with matching support from the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada, and from generous supporters like you! Assistance from the Foodgrains Bank is provided through its member agencies, which work with local partners in the developing world.

photo: Courtney Klassen



MEMBERS: ADRA Canada (Adventist Development and Relief Agency Canada) • Canadian Baptist Ministries • Canadian Lutheran World Relief • Christian and Missionary Alliance Canada • Development & Peace—Caritas Canada • Emergency Relief & Development Overseas (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada) • Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada • Mennonite Central Committee Canada • Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada • Presbyterian World Service & Development • Primate's World Relief & Development Fund (Anglican Church of Canada) • The Salvation Army • The United Church of Canada • World Relief Canada • World Renew



PRAYERS & WORSHIP RESOURCES

Suggested Scripture Readings

Isaiah 25:1-9 God prepares a feast for all people
Psalm 23 You prepare a table before me
Philippians 4:1-9 Stand firm in the Lord
Luke 14:12-14 Invitations to the feast

Call to Worship

Our God is preparing a feast for all people;
a wonderful banquet with vintage wine and gourmet food,
the choicest meats, and lavish desserts.
And the whole world will be invited!

And God will wipe away the tears from every face,
and lift the despair from every heart.
And together, God's people will proclaim:
This is our God, in whom we place our trust!
Let us rejoice in the salvation God brings!

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,
in love You open wide the doors
and welcome us into Your presence—
saints and sinners alike.
You spread a table before us,
filled with the richest fare—
a feast of love and mercy
for the body and soul.

We come with joy to worship You here,
to eat and drink at Your table,
to taste and see Your goodness,
to celebrate Your grace and mercy in our lives.

May Your Spirit inspire our praise and thanksgiving,
our prayers and petitions
as we worship together in Your presence.

In the name of Jesus Christ,
our host and companion. Amen.

Scripture Litany: Invitation to the Feast (inspired by Isaiah 25:6-9; 55:1-3; Psalm 23:5-6)

All of you who are thirsty, come to the water!
Come and drink – even if you have no money!
Come, take your choice of wine or milk – it's all free!
Why spend your money on food
that does not give you strength?
Why pay for food that does you no good?
Come and listen to me,
and you will eat what is good!

In Jerusalem, the Lord of Hosts
will spread a wonderful feast
for all the people of the world.
It will be a delicious banquet
with clear, well-aged wine
and the choicest meat.

For God prepares a feast before us
in the presence of our enemies.
God anoints our heads with oil;
our cups overflow.

Surely God's goodness and unfailing love
will follow us all the days of our lives,
and we will dwell in God's house forever.

Room at the Table: An All-Age Drama for Worship⁷

Staging: *A round table that seats seven is set with a water-blue cloth. It sits centre stage. Seven plates of distinctly different colours/styles are set on the tabletop and seven very different types of chairs circle the table. The narrator will read his/her part on one side of the stage at a pulpit or music stand with mic (if mic is needed). There is also a standing mic (if mic is needed) on the other side of the stage. This is where the "guests" will speak, preferably without notes, before taking their place after the congregation welcomes them. No pulpit or music stand there.*

Casting: *Although casting the "guest" characters may be a concern in a North American context, it may be good to tell the congregation that while the actual characters cannot be present, their stories are based on true stories from Foodgrains Bank projects and they are being represented by local individuals.*

Congregational Response: *Let the audience/congregation know that they are an integral part of the drama, and that they will have the opportunity to extend the invitation to each "guest" with their verbal response. The congregation or "People" may need to be informed that they have a role, with the narrator's question and their responses either appearing on a PPT screen or on paper.*

NARRATOR:

Do you see it . . . right here . . . a table set for guests?

It's a round table,
A generously large table,
A table that represents not only physical nourishment but
a table that invites an exchange of ideas and a place to
brainstorm new approaches to growing concerns.

Embracing the tabletop is a watery-blue cloth, representing the globe.

Plates in a variety of colours and patterns circle the perimeter, waiting to be claimed.

Chairs - some contemporary, some ornate, some padded, some varnished, some well worn - all offer stable seating.

This table is not our personal table.
It is God's table.

And God, graciously and in good faith
Has entrusted the hosting of this table to us:
To you and to me.

We decide who will sit here.
We determine who is welcome.
Our actions establish the guest list.

So...whom will we invite?
Our relatives?
Our friends?
People who can repay us?
People who look like us? Believe like us? Think like us? Live like us?

Or can we make room at this table,
God's table,
For those who see with other eyes?
Who have experiences unlike our own?
Who challenge our perspectives?
Who are just plain different?

Let's meet some of them.



GUEST # 1: (young woman - late 20's)

I am Yvette and I live in Haiti. My ancestors planted gardens and grew crops to feed themselves. However, with climate change affecting rainfall and creating unpredictable seasons, it is becoming more and more difficult to find ways to continue farming. The past few years have brought one disaster after another. It is very frustrating when we work so hard to support ourselves but we have little to show for it. I don't ask for much. All I want is to be able to provide for my family.

NARRATOR: Is there room for Yvette at the table?

PEOPLE: We welcome you to the table, Yvette.

GUEST #2: (man in his late 30's)

I am Adel (*a-del*) and I am currently living with my wife and four children in Maashouk (*mah-shook*), a refugee settlement in southern Lebanon. We fled Syria when our home and dry cleaning business were bombed. This is our third refugee camp. As refugees, we are not able to get decent jobs here. Providing food for my wife and children is a daily challenge. Our 3-month-old son died in the last camp when my wife could no longer produce milk for him. We are still trying to recover from his passing. It's hard for me to imagine living a basic normal life again. Where can I find hope?

NARRATOR: Is there room for Adel at the table?

People: We welcome you to the table, Adel.

GUEST #3: (early teen or pre-teen)

I am Grace. I am 12 years old. When rebel soldiers attacked my village in South Sudan in the middle of the night, everyone ran for their lives. I lost track of my family. I followed a group of people from my village but we have not seen my parents since then. I'm terribly lonely, especially at night. I miss my Mom and Dad and brothers and sisters so very, very much. I always wonder about my family. Will I ever see them again? Are they alive or dead?

Some of the other mothers that ran away from our village are taking care of me. But I can only eat after they have fed their own children. I am hungry and I feel dirty. This tattered clothing is all I have and it's getting too small. I don't know what will happen to me. I'm afraid and lonely.

NARRATOR: Is there room for Grace at the table?

PEOPLE: We welcome you to the table, Grace.

GUEST #4: (woman in her 50's)

I am Adise (*uh-dee-say*). I come from the village of Kudo in Ethiopia. In my village culture, women are totally dependent on their husbands. We have little power and almost never handle money. Many of us cannot count on our husbands to meet the needs of the family. Together with the other women in my village, we want to find a way to sustain ourselves and to provide for our families.

NARRATOR: Is there room for Adise at the table?

PEOPLE: We welcome you to the table, Adise.

GUEST # 5: (man in his 40's)

I am Dagim (*duh-geem*). I live near the city of Lalibela in Northern Ethiopia. One of the great challenges we face is managing our water supply. There is either too little rain, which causes droughts, or too much, which sweeps the topsoil from the hills.

However, we are blessed with many rocks. The rocks can help redirect the water and slow down the erosion. But knowing how best to accomplish that takes vision, machinery, time and money. We need help dealing with these challenges.

NARRATOR: Is there room for Dagim at the table?

PEOPLE: We welcome you to the table, Dagim.

GUEST #6: (woman in her 40's)

I am Tarij (*tuh-reej*). In India, where I live, the daily temperature often exceeds 35 degrees Celsius. With the combined farming challenges of more extreme heat and crop flooding from more intense monsoon rains, food is often scarce. It is also the custom here that men eat first and women and children receive what is left. With so little food to begin with, many children and women are severely malnourished. I want a better life for my family.

NARRATOR: Is there room at the table for Tarij?

PEOPLE: We welcome you to the table Tarij.

NARRATOR: (*looking at the table and reflecting*) There is still a vacant chair at this table. You and I are invited to commune at this table as well. Each one in this circle has a voice and each one is God's guest . . . and host. We eat together and we are invited to join each other's conversations, creatively deliberating to ensure there is enough for all. But if we think our seat at the table will fill the table, I suspect we would be wrong. For God always leaves space for one more at the table. There is always room at God's table.

(*addressing the guests at the table*) To those of you already seated at the table, is there room for us to join the table as well?

TABLE PEOPLE: Yes, we welcome you to the table. For this is God's table. (*someone from the table moves the chair so it angles open towards the audience*)

(*At this point a song breaks in immediately. Choose from Carrie Newcomer's Room at the Table with video/images of people who are connected to the countries in which Canadian Foodgrains Bank works, or the congregation can sing A Place at The Table, set to the music of Ron Klusmeier. Video and sheet music for these two songs can be downloaded at www.foodgrainsbank.ca/room-at-the-table.)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving¹

O Holy One,
you are our host as well as our shepherd.

You invite us to the banquet,
the banquet of life.
All parts of the world are invited –
enemies and friends,
the alienated and powerful,
those close at hand and those far off.

You offer the abundance and lavishness
of bread broken and shared
and the cup of refreshment that leads to new life.

We praise and thank you for your abundant spirit.
Goodness and love unfailing,
these will follow us all the days of our lives,
and we shall dwell in the home of our God
for all eternity.

Sermon Starter on Luke 14:12-14

“The table is not only where one may say grace; it is the space where one extends grace.... To the gospel writer Luke, “nothing [is] ...more serious than a dining table” (Fred Craddock). The Eucharist and revelations of the risen Christ occur there (Luke 24). Jesus promises the Holy Spirit while eating (Acts 1). Jews and Gentiles reflect the nature of the church through table fellowship (Acts 10, Acts 11). The table is taken so seriously that Jesus gets into trouble because of his eating buddies. He was known as a “friend of tax collectors [publicans] and sinners” because he ate with them. Inviting others to a table could be a sign of affluence or status but could also be a sign of service or a sign of acceptance, as equals, creating egalitarian fellowship through the breaking of bread. Table fellowship meant full acceptance of one another and the inclusiveness of Jesus revealed by the company he kept, especially of the socially ostracized, was suspect.... Jesus speaks to everyone, guests and hosts, the privileged and the underprivileged, about the table, about hospitality, because “hospitality,” as one scholar notes, “is the practice by which the church stands or falls” (Arthur Sutherland). It is that important.”

~ Excerpts from a sermon on Luke 14:12-14 by Luke Powery.
Read the full sermon at: https://chapel.duke.edu/sites/default/files/The%20Welcome%20Table_Revised%2009-1-13.pdf

Sermon Starter on Isaiah 25:1-9

“Unlike today, rich food was not an everyday staple in that time and place. People ate simply, and most people could enjoy meat only occasionally. Typically, they would eat a light meal at midday and a larger meal at the end of the work day. Bread was the staple food—vegetables are mentioned only occasionally in the Old Testament. People raised olives for oil, and enjoyed grapes, both fresh and dried (raisins), as well as wine made from grapes. “Rich food filled with marrow” and “well-aged wines strained clear” would be rare and prized....

Kings and other wealthy people could serve lavish banquets, but only for their closest friends and associates. Even a king as rich as Solomon could not afford to host a grand banquet for “all peoples”—nor would a king be inclined to do so if he could. Great banquets were one of the things that distinguished kings from common people, and kings are always interested in maintaining those kinds of distinctions. But the feast mentioned in this verse is not a banquet hosted by an ordinary family. It isn’t even a banquet hosted by a king. It is a banquet hosted by “Yahweh of Armies”—the one who created all that is—the one who owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10). The Lord of hosts can afford to serve the finest foods and wines from beginning to end. The Lord of hosts can afford to provide fine foods for “all peoples” —and that is exactly what the Lord of hosts intends to do.”

~ Excerpts from a commentary by Richard Niell Donovan on Sermon Writer. Read more at <https://www.sermonwriter.com/biblical-commentary/isaiah-251-10-commentary>

Opportunity to Respond

See Room at the Table and Harvest of Letters at the end of the resource!

Sample bulletin insert:

One way to create room at the table for global neighbours is through your voice! [After/Before/time] our worship service, join [person in charge] in the meeting room/basement to learn more about the Canadian Foodgrains Bank’s Harvest of Letters campaign. Did you know Canada’s international assistance funding is at an all-time low? We will learn more about Canada’s international assistance program and why it is important for ordinary Canadians to voice their support for global neighbours with our elected officials. As Christians, and as Canadians, our voice matters!



Prayer for the Offering

Generous God,
in Your love and mercy
You have provided for all of our needs,
and so much more.
In deep gratitude, we offer back to You
some of what You have given to us.
Use these offerings to minister to the world around us,
so that others may find a place at the table,
and live without want or fear. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (inspired by Psalm 23)²

Loving God,
Jesus likened your kingdom to a banquet
and invited his followers
to eat and drink at the table in remembrance.
But when he saw injustice,
he turned over tables in the temple.
We honour You, generous God,
for the abundance of creation.
You prepare a table before us.

We thank You, generous God,
for giving manna to the Israelites –
and to us when we find ourselves
in places of wilderness.
You prepare a table before us.

We praise You, generous God,
for the gift of Jesus,
who modeled faithfulness to you
and who feeds us with holy food and drink.
You prepare a table before us.

We admit, gracious God,
that we have failed to assure
that our neighbours at home and abroad
have access to the food they need.
Overturn the tables in our hearts.

We confess, gracious God,
our struggles to trust in Your abundance.
Overturn the tables in our hearts.

We acknowledge, gracious God,
our silence when we should have spoken
and our passivity when we should have acted
to end hunger.
Overturn the tables in our hearts.

And so, loving God,
we ask for strength that we might do your will,
and live with faithfulness and integrity.
Prepare a table before us.

Surely your goodness and unfailing love
will follow us all the days of our lives,
and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment ³

God our Father,
We give you thanks
for the abundance of your creation,
and the generosity of your gifts.

We are sorry that amongst us
are so many people
who are excluded from the feast
prepared by you for us all.

May your Spirit inspire us and lead us
as we seek change,
so that hunger and poverty
are no longer a scar and scandal in our world.

May your Spirit guide us as we seek change,
so everybody has enough food to flourish
and a place at the table you spread for all.

Affirmation⁴

I believe that bread comes from grain
that grows in the wind and the rain
with the farmers' help
far from the eyes of city folk.

I believe that bread comes from love
the love of God
the love of the farmer
the love of the baker's hands
the love of those who bring it to me.

I believe that bread can be
and should be broken
and shared
and given to all persons
until all have enough
and then some.

I believe that Jesus loved bread
and took it
and broke it
and blessed it
and fed his disciples
and asked them to feed us.

I believe enough in bread
to want it from Jesus
to want it to nurture me
to want his life through it
to want to give life through it.

I believe that his body as bread feeds me
and as part of his body
I want to be bread for others.
I believe the Spirit will help me
as well as Jesus' people. Amen.

Lord's Supper Litany⁵

In our sharing bread today we include in companionship the saints alive and the saints resurrected.

In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship the poor, marginalized and rejected of this world.

In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship those known to us and those not known, who need Jesus now.

In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship Jesus, our incarnated, broken and risen Lord.

Amen!

Wine is for sorrow and for joy, for suffering and for celebration, for forgiveness and for new relationship. We drink until Christ returns.

Amen!

And so we pray:
Send us out to wait and to work for the Kingdom.
Make us people of hope,
fanning the flames of redemption and resurrection in the world.

Amen!

Blessing: And the Table Will Be Wide⁶

And the table will be wide.
And the welcome will be wide.
And the arms will open wide
to gather us in.
And our hearts will open wide
to receive.

And we will come
as children who trust
there is enough.
And we will come
unhindered and free.
And our aching
will be met with bread.
And our sorrow
will be met with wine.

And we will open our hands to the feast
without shame.

And we will turn toward each other
without fear.

And we will give up our appetite
for despair.

And we will taste and know
of delight.

And we will become bread
for a hungry world.

And we will become drink
for those who thirst.

And the blessed
will become the blessing.

And everywhere
will be the feast.

Closing Prayer

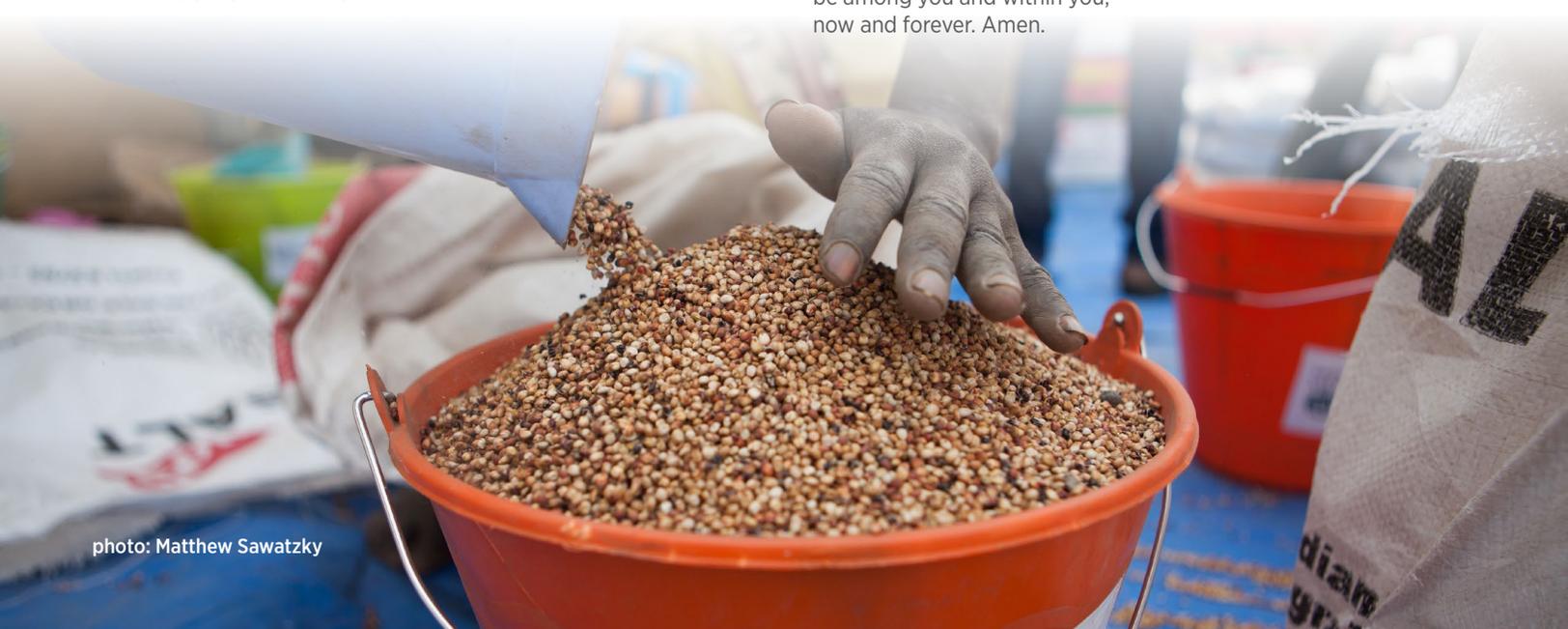
Generous God,
we have been welcomed at Your table.
a feast of love and mercy
for the body and soul.

May what we have received here today
continue to strengthen our faith and our resolve
to be your hands and feet in the world,
working together so that everyone
may find a place at Your table. Amen.

Benediction

Go out from here
as the people of God,
strengthened in your desire
to live and act as God's people
in our hungry, hurting world.

And may the blessings of God –
boundless love,
redeeming grace,
enduring presence –
be among you and within you,
now and forever. Amen.



SONG SUGGESTIONS

Lead sheets, guitar chords, and other music masters are all available at www.foodgrainsbank.ca/room-at-the-table

For Everyone Born, A Place At The Table

Shirley Erena Murray
Suggested tune: Ron Klusmeier

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,
and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!

Words by Shirley Erena Murray © 1998 Hope Publishing Company. [Click here](#) for sheet music, including lead sheet, guitar chords, and other music masters.

Give Thanks for Every Gift

(Suggested tune: DARWALL "Christ is Our Cornerstone")

Give thanks for every gift
this fertile earth displays;
to God your voices lift
in thankfulness and praise!
Our sea and sky, our fruitful land,
are blessings from a Father's hand.

Each passing season brings
its store of sun and rain,
as winters turn to springs
and summers bloom again:
then God be thanked for autumn fields,
the ripened grain that harvest yields.

And even as we pray
'Give us our daily bread,'
we long to see the day
when all the world is fed,
when justice reigns from shore to shore
and hunger stalks the earth no more.

In Christ all needs are met,
to him in faith we come;
on him our hopes are set
of that eternal home,
where, one with him, our sins forgiven,
we share the harvest feast of heaven.

~ written by Timothy Dudley-Smith. Words © 2015 Hope Publishing Company. For a PDF of the melody, [click here](#). You can find a full accompaniment for this song in most hymnals. If you use this song in worship, be sure to report it on your CCLI or OneLicense copyright license.

Together We Serve

(Suggested tune: HANOVER "Ye Servants of God")

Together we serve,
united by love,
inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray
through sorrow and joy,
extending your love to the last and the least.

We seek to become
a beacon of hope,
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through
until we see Christ in each person we meet.

We welcome the scarred,
the wealthy, the poor,

the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home
to those who will come,
our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace,
we witness and work,
remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve
in Spirit and truth,
remembering love is the strength of our song.

~ written by Daniel Charles Damon. Words © 1998 Hope Publishing Company. For a PDF of the melody, [click here](#). You can find a full accompaniment in most hymnals. If you use this song in worship, be sure to report it on your CCLI or OneLicense copyright license.

Room at the Table

(Carrie Newcomer)

Let our hearts not be hardened
to those living on the margins,
there is room at the table for everyone.
This is where it all begins,
this is how we gather in,
there is room at the table for everyone.

Chorus:

There is room for us all,
and no gift is too small.
There is room at the table for everyone.
There's enough if we share,
come on, pull up a chair.
There is room at the table for everyone.

Too long we have wandered,
burdened and undone, but
there is room at the table for everyone.
Let us sing the new world in,
this is how it all begins,
there is room at the table for everyone. (Chorus)

No matter who you are.
No matter where you're from,
there is room at the table for everyone.
Here and now we can be
the beloved community:
there is room at the table for everyone. (Chorus)

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Other Contemporary Worship Music suggestions

Lift Your Voice

(David Gungor, John Arndt, Kate Gungor)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVTypowLBuc> (The Brilliance)

The Table

(Chris Tomlin)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peeqJlBmT_w

Table in the Wilderness

(Russ Taff, Darrell Brown, David Batteau)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eEE5WUzjoA>

Come to the Celebration

(Douglas Mews, Marnie Barrell – CCLI #2108029)
Chords/lead sheet available on <https://songselect.ccli.com/> if you have a CCLI license

VIDEOS

[Click here](#) for a YouTube video “Room At The Table” for use during the worship service, offertory, or other time. Includes images from Canadian Foodgrains Bank projects in developing countries, learning tours, and Canadian events.

Did you use this resource? We'd love to hear about it. [Click here to let us know.](#) or send an email to foodjustice@foodgrainsbank.ca.

SOURCES

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

- (1) Prayer of Thanksgiving was excerpted from a paraphrase of Psalm 23 written by Sonya Dyer. From Sonya Dyer's Prayerbook, posted on the Seekers Church website. <http://www.seekerschurch.org/>
- (2) Prayer of Confession comes from “A Place at the Table,” posted on the Bread for the World website (with a few alterations). http://www.takepart.com/sites/default/files/APATT_Bread_Toolkit.pdf
- (3) Prayer of Commitment is from the CAFOD website. www.cafod.org/uk/worship
- (4) Affirmation was included in Bread for the World Worship Aids II, posted in Liturgy, Justice and the Reign of God. <http://www.jfrankhenderson.com/pdf/ljrg.pdf>
- (5) Lord's Supper Litany is from the Third Space website. <http://third-space.org.uk/blog>
- (6) Blessing: And the Table Will Be Wide was written by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on The Painted Prayerbook. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>
- (7) “Room at the Table: An All-Age Drama for Worship” was written by Connie Epp for Canadian Foodgrains Bank.



GIVE

ROOM AT THE TABLE

Providing space around your dinner table for ending hunger.

When you give a banquet, invite the poor (Luke 14:12-14)

Nakuru Lopeeto Lowi lives in Kapoeta, South Sudan. Due to the ongoing conflict and famine, both Nakuru's parents have died, leaving her to raise her four younger siblings. So instead of going to school like most other teenagers, Nakuru spends her days at home, cooking what food she can find, cleaning and trying to survive.

Nakuru wants to be able to plant okra and sorghum to feed her younger siblings some of the nutrients they need -- but can't, due to drought. Nothing will grow.

"The drought has made life harder," she says. On top of that, the ongoing conflict has also disrupted agricultural production, created widespread displacement and forced farmers off their land.

Managing to get enough food to eat the next day is a full-time struggle for many in South Sudan, and going to bed hungry is a normal occurrence. More than one million children in South Sudan are acutely malnourished, including 276,000 children who are also severely malnourished, meaning they are "at imminent risk of death," according to UNICEF.

Fortunately, Nakuru and her siblings are some of the 13,500 people receiving emergency food assistance made possible with funds from PWRDF's membership at Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

It is providing sorghum, beans, oil and salt to people affected by conflict in the region of Kapoeta. The food will help the family get by until Nakuru can plant again. Not only will it nourish the children's bodies, but it will let them know they are not forgotten.

Through Room at the Table, you can invite someone who has experienced hunger to be a guest at your mealtime—as a family, at a church banquet, or other gathering. While they are with you, you can learn their stories, pray for them and for others who are hungry, then **make a donation to PWRDF's account** at the Foodgrains Bank to help those who don't have enough to eat.

Can you make room at your table for Nakuru, her siblings and others like her? Get the full resource which includes:

- Table cards with Nakuru's story and photo, plus table cards with stories and photos of many others from around the world
- A Room At The Table video to watch at your table
- Instructions on how to do it

With donations from people like you across Canada, Canadian Foodgrains Bank makes room at the table for about a million people each year who are facing hunger.

For more information, visit <http://foodgrainsbank.ca/campaigns/room-at-the-table/>



photo: Matthew Sawatzky

HARVEST OF LETTERS:

A Voice At The Table For Global Neighbours

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. (Isaiah 25:8)

Isaiah's vision and message came about as he heard the cries of those people experiencing injustice and exploitation. Today, nearly 800 million people around the world do not know where their next meal is coming from. We are witnessing extreme hunger, and in some cases, famine. The majority of those people do not have a voice at tables where decisions are made. We who have access to halls of power, through our elected decision makers, can amplify the voices of the people around the world who do not get enough to eat.

One way to do that is to write a letter to your Member of Parliament. Better yet, gather a Harvest of Letters from your faith community in response to the great needs around the world.

What is our message?

In the past, Canada has been a leader in responding to the needs of people in need in the developing world. More recently, our commitment to international assistance has

declined. The current government is on track to having the worst record on aid of any Canadian government in half a century.* We are far from where Canada has been in the past, and from the position of the generous leader that many Canadians want their country to be.

As Christians we are called to give voice to the injustice of hunger, to love our global neighbours, and to inspire the actions required to address it. We invite you to use your voice to end global hunger by engaging with your Member of Parliament (MP) to let them know you want Canada to contribute its fair share for international assistance. As your representative to the federal government, your MP can speak on your behalf, to influence decisions in support of our global neighbours.

* Source: Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC)

How do I go about doing this?

Everything you need to write a letter, or to hold a simple letter writing event with your faith community, is included on our website at www.foodgrainsbank.ca/letters. You can also reach out to Foodgrains Bank staff. We'd be happy to help you! Contact us at info@foodgrainsbank.ca (with 'Harvest of Letters' in the subject line) or phone 1-800-663-0377.