

# Worship Resources for *Mission Sunday*

November 12, 2006

## Introduction

These resources are designed to assist you in planning for worship on Mission Sunday, November 12, 2006. On the following pages you will find suggestions for the call to worship, invocation, hymns, other music options, children's story, sermon starters, benediction and additional resources.

The lectionary texts for November 12 include 1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146 from the Old Testament, and from the New Testament Hebrews 9:24-29 and Mark 12:38-44.

The theme for Mission Sunday is *Happy are those whose hope is in the LORD their God* (Psalm 146:5 NRSV).

You are strongly encouraged to set aside a Sunday worship service to focus on God's mission at some point during the year. If you are unable to do this on November 12, please choose another date to emphasize your commitment to being a missional church.

## Call to Worship

by Dick Davis

**Leader:** Receive our praise, oh Lord, for our desire is to praise you this morning.

**People:** Lord, lift us up. Help us to recognize your Spirit's presence and provision. Many of us are downtrodden, and we need your help to sustain our worship and our well-being.

**Leader:** Our Lord takes pleasure in those who trust in his providing grace and in those who encourage the advancement of God's mission.

**People:** God, receive our worship as our thanksgiving for your provision. Let this time of worship empower us to embrace your call and to share your grace with all creation.

*Other Calls to Worship*

- Number 120 in *Sing the Journey, Hymnal: A Worship Book Supplement 1*
- Numbers 669, 670, or 677 in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*



**Mennonite  
Church  
Canada**



**Mennonite  
Mission  
Network**

The mission agency of  
Mennonite Church USA

## Invocation

God we know that, in times past, you have associated with hungry widows, visionary prophets and oppressed women to further your mission in this world.

As they experienced your presence and provision, we ask that we too may experience your presence in this hour of worship. We invite you to bless us and to help us trust in the abundant life you provide to those who trust in your abiding love and grace.

## Confession

**Leader: Lord, we confess that we see the lack of resources rather than the abundance of your provisions.**

People: Forgive us, Lord.

**Leader: Lord, we confess that we resist being a missional church.**

People: Forgive us, Lord.

**Leader: Lord, we confess that we love to process details rather to advance your mission.**

People: Forgive us, Lord.

**Leader: Lord, we confess that we often fail to be doers of the word.**

People: Forgive us, Lord.

**Leader: Lord, we confess that we are afraid of how our lives may change if we were to fully embrace your calling.**

People: Forgive us, Lord. May your Spirit empower us to fuse faith and works, discipleship and apostleship, and simple living with abundant grace.

All: Amen.

## Music relating to the Scriptures and theme:

### Music options from *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

#### Gathering

- #4 "Unto Thy Temple, Lord, We Come"
- #7 "Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather"

#### Praising/Adoring

- #37 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
- #64 "Asithi: Amen (Sing Amen)"
- #112 "O Lord, Our Lord, How Majestic"

#### Confessing/Reconciling

- #133 "Out of the Depths I Cry to You"
- #145 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"
- #149 "Great God of Wonders"

#### Proclaiming

- #226 "You are Salt for the Earth"
- #306 "In Christ There is No East or West"
- #322 "For We Are Strangers No More"

#### Offering

- #384 "We Give Thee but Thine Own"
- #387 "Lord, Thou Dost Love"

#### Sermon Response

- #395 "Here I Am, Lord"
- #410 "Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining"

#### Sending

- #427 "You Shall Go Out with Joy"
- #433 "Go, My Children"
- #434 "Thuma Mina"

## Selections from Sing the Journey

#### Gathering

- #5 "Come and Be Light for Our Eyes"
- #9 "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"

#### Praising/Adoring

- #14 "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"
- #16 "Praise with Joy the World's Creator"
- #18 "Over My Head"

#### Confessing/Reconciling

- #21 "Lamb of God"

#### Proclaiming

- #42 "Listen, God Is Calling"

#### Affirming Faith

- #44 "The Love of God"

#### Sermon Response

- #70 "Pah Jesu Song Ern Kha (Jesus, You Have Called Us)" – included on Let It Flow Through You CD by Doug and Jude Krehbiel/Road Less Travelled

#### Sending

- #73 "The Lord Lift You Up"
- #78 "Sizohamba Naye (We Will Walk with God)"

## Additional options

- **God's Love Is for Everybody: Songs for Small & Tall** CD with a song and activity guide by Bryan Moyer Suderman and friends (2002). The guide includes guitar chords, musical notation and activity ideas for using the songs with children. Contact Faith & Life Resources, a division of Mennonite Publishing Network, to order: 1-800-743-2484. Or order online: [www.smallTallMusic.com](http://www.smallTallMusic.com).
- **Let It Flow Through You** CD or cassette with songbook (includes chords) by Doug and Jude Krehbiel/Road Less Travelled (2003). To order go to [www.OS.MennoniteUSA.org](http://www.OS.MennoniteUSA.org). On the drop-down menu, choose Mennonite Mission Network and scroll down to the CD and cassette. Or call Mennonite Media toll-free: 1-800-999-3534.

## Children's Time

### Option A

Props: bathrobes, beach towels, fabric for draping, money, play money or food items, cloth bags to put money in.

Order widow's mites from Nazareth Village's gift shop: [www.NazarethVillage.com](http://www.NazarethVillage.com). Use mites for the story, and then give each child two to take home following the story.

Divide the entire group in half, select two small groups, or select two children and a child or adult to play the part of Jesus for this option. Use money, play money or various food items to give to each person in the play. Slowly read Mark 12:38-44, helping children enact their parts as you or another person reads the Scripture. Encourage the scribes to show great pride, and indicate how great they are by giving part of their money (may use such props as bathrobes/beach towels, etc.). The widow/s could dress in simple robes or draped fabric, giving their money in a simple way, showing their trust in God.

Discussion questions:

1. How can we give of ourselves, use our gifts for others, like the widow (woman) did in this Bible story?
2. I wonder how we can give and show God's love to our friends at church ... our sisters and brothers ... our parents ... our neighbors ... friends at school.

### Option B

Read the book *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein (available in most public libraries).

Discussion questions:

1. How can we give of ourselves, use our gifts for others, like the tree did?
2. I wonder how we can give and show God's love to our friends at church ... our sisters and brothers ... our parents ... our neighbors ... friends at school.
3. Let's listen to the Bible reading from the New Testament, Mark 12:38-44. In this story, the woman, a widow, gave all her money to help other persons and to show her love for Jesus.

### Option C

"Helping God Do Great Things: Building Friendships," a stewardship and mission resource by Mennonite Mission Network. Order toll-free: 1-866-866-2872; or e-mail [MissionBank@MennoniteMission.net](mailto:MissionBank@MennoniteMission.net). Use this resource for children's time in worship, for Sunday school openings or mission projects. These materials were written for use with the new mission banks that also can be ordered through phone or e-mail.

## Offering Prayer

Place a number of mission banks with offering baskets on a table, and have persons bring their offerings forward during singing or instrumental music. A world globe also may be used with the offering baskets/mission banks.

### Options

*Sing the Journey*, 60, read or sing as the offering prayer

*Sing the Journey*, 148, 151 or 152

*HWB* 309, and read Hebrews 9:24-28

## Sermon Starter

The Old Testament and Gospel readings for this day include references to marginalized people. The Hebrews passages focus on Jesus, the Great High Priest, who is our advocate before God and whose sacrifice secures our salvation.

The text from Mark invites us to confession and humble trust. Jesus warns his hearers not to be like the religious leaders, whose actions profane their piety. They abuse power to cheat widows out of property and then hide behind their practice of faith. Jesus warns about people who use religion to varnish their self-reliance and self-righteousness.

This story invites us to reflect on the temptation to use faith as a shield, hiding ungodly actions behind rituals of piety. The history of race relations in North America also can provide us with illustrations where the church participates in and/or benefits from abuse of power. The history of relationships with native peoples in North America includes a mixture of faithfulness and marginalization. Residential schools in Canada illustrate how the church's goal of evangelization was often co-opted to further a political agenda of assimilation. In the United States, relationships between African Americans, Hispanics and Caucasians also will provide illustrations of the church's failure to be faithful.

Jesus points to a widow who gives a small amount of money to the temple treasury. This act of complete reliance on God illustrates pleasing piety. There is no public/status benefit here, only cost. Her action illustrates a complete dependence on God. Others give God leftovers, but this widow's contribution is a sacrifice.

How would our mission practices be affected by such a reliance on God's provision? Is it possible that we are in danger of relying on our own strength? Do our mission initiatives reflect reliance on God or on our own ability to strategize, plan and fund? Second, can we anticipate that God's presence is particularly evident in the margins of life? Are we listening to the marginalized for wisdom, instruction and call to accountability?

## Prayer of Blessing

We are invited to trust completely in God's provision and grace. Go now with a humble heart, expecting God's surprising presence in the most unlikely places. Go in peace.

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These worship materials were compiled by:



Norm Voth, Mennonite Church Canada Manitoba,  
for Mennonite Church Canada Witness  
600 Shaftesbury Blvd  
Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4  
Canada  
Toll-free: 1-866-888-6785  
NVoth@MennoChurch.mb.ca



Marty Bender, Dick Davis, Becky Tyson  
Mennonite Mission Network  
P.O. Box 370  
Elkhart IN 46515-0370  
Toll-free: 1-866-866-2872  
USMinistries@MennoniteMission.net