

Responsive Reading for Labor Day

Leader: On this weekend, we remember that Jesus affirmed the sacredness of work, as he said, "My Father is still working, and I am working".

People: We thank God that, through Christ, we are reminded that productive work is seen as an opportunity to serve God.

Leader: The Bible gives us many illustrations of men and women working.

People: We give thanks today for our history which has taught us that work done for God is sacred.

Leader: The lesson of the gardener in Luke 6 reminds us of the patience and diligence of the fruit and vegetable grower. We give thanks for the food which we enjoy. Today we celebrate the patience and hard work of those who plant and harvest the abundance of food which we see in our land.

People: We give thanks for this Godly service.

Leader: Martha reminds us of the importance of looking after our human needs. Today we celebrate the opportunities of Godly service, provided by the many service industries which enrich our lives.

People: We give thanks for this Godly service.

Leader: The Story of the Good Samaritan tells us of the one who stopped to help the neighbor bleeding in the ditch. Today we celebrate the dedicated service of the many individuals who provide for our health needs. The services provided by housekeeping staff, technicians, nurses and doctors, becomes a vital support to each of us at times of sickness.

People: We give thanks for this Godly service.

Leader: Jesus, the one who carefully adapted his material for his students, reminds us of the important material for his students, reminds us of the important role teachers fill in our lives. We celebrate the gift of teaching in its great diversity, from elementary children, to adult retraining in a changing manufacturing society. Gifted teachers provide a vital role, as we adapt to our changing environment.

People: We give thanks for this Godly service.

Leader: Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth, reminds us of the importance of the builders, and manufacturers, who provide the many things

that we use in our modern world. The creative aspects of human knowledge, have enriched our lives and helped us to glorify god, through our physical and mental skills.

People: We give thanks for this Godly service.

Leader: The workers who didn't get hired until the last hour of the day, remind us of the unemployed who are part of our society. We celebrate the gifts of each unemployed person, and share in their pain of rejected applications.

People: We give thanks for their gifts, and pray that they might find meaningful Godly service.

All: Today we give thanks to God for the human gift of meaningful service. We look forward to the day when our master will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!...Come and share your master's happiness."

(Canada), Mennonite Church Canada

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