



# Sample worship service elements

Go to [fastforchange.ca](http://fastforchange.ca) for more worship resources on food and hunger.

When someone steals a man's clothes  
we call him a thief.

Should we not give the same name  
to one who could clothe the naked and does not?

The bread in your cupboard  
belongs to the hungry man;  
the coat hanging unused in your closet  
belongs to the man who needs it;  
the shoes rotting in your closet  
belong to the man who has no shoes;  
the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.  
—*Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea (ca 365)*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(Psalm 96:1-4, The Message)

Sing to God a brand-new song!  
Earth and everyone in it, sing!

Sing to God—worship God!  
Shout the news of his victory from sea to sea,  
take the news of his glory to the lost,  
news of his wonders to one and all!  
For God is great, and worth a thousand Hallelujahs!

Bring gifts and celebrate;  
Bow before the beauty of God.  
Get out the message—God Rules!  
He puts the world on a firm foundation;  
he treats everyone fair and square.

Sing to God a brand-new song!  
Earth and everyone in it, sing!

## READINGS

(Sermon notes available online)

**Old Testament:** Ruth 2:11-3:5; Psalm 96

**Epistle:** I Corinthians 3:1-8

**Gospel:** Luke 18:1-8

## WORSHIP SONG

Defender of the Poor (see other side)  
(Listen online!)

## LITANY

(based on Psalm 67)

God, be merciful and bless us;  
look with favour on us.

May your ways be known throughout the earth,  
so that everyone everywhere will know your power to save.  
How glad the nations will be!  
They will shout your praise, celebrating and singing for joy  
because you judge the nations fairly;  
you bring true justice to the world.  
The soil has given its bountiful harvest once more—  
once again, you have richly blessed us.  
Continue to bless us, O God,  
that the whole come to know and honor you.

## CONFESSION

Compassionate One,  
we are surrounded by the needs of your people,  
and we are overwhelmed by their suffering.  
We confess we could lessen the harm that comes to them  
by sharing their hardships and working to end the injustices  
our systems and lifestyles help support.  
Have mercy on us, we pray.  
Touch our hearts.  
Help us to stand with your suffering children  
and to advocate their need to those  
who do not recognize their suffering.  
Open our eyes anew that we might know them  
as brothers and sisters  
and be glad for the richness they bring us.  
This we ask in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

—*from Banquet of Praise, Bread for the World, #19*

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(based on Isaiah 58:58:9-11)

If you stop oppressing the poor  
and instead feed the hungry and help those in trouble,  
then your light will shine in the darkness,  
and the darkness around you will become as bright as day.  
And the LORD will guide you continually,  
watering your life when you are dry  
and bringing health and wholeness.

## BENEDICTION

Go forth in peace, and be of good courage;  
hold fast to all that is good,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
And may the God who fills the hungry with good things  
fill us all with Christ-like love  
and with a consuming hunger for justice  
in our land and in our world.  
Amen.

—*from Banquet of Praise, compiled and published by Bread for the World, 1990, no. 71.*

# Defender of the Poor

Words and Music by Mike Janzen

Reflective ♩ = 68

Guitar Capo 2 -  
Piano E m7  
F#m7

## VERSE

G  
A



1. To bless the poor \_\_\_ with us \_\_\_ To feed the hun - gry ones \_\_\_  
2. To care for those \_\_\_ in need \_\_\_ To set the cap - tives free \_\_\_

C



3

— Is what you have taught \_\_\_ us \_\_\_ To give as You \_\_\_ have giv'n \_\_\_  
— To love as You showed us \_\_\_ To leave the har - vest fields

G



6

— To bring the or - phans in \_\_\_ Is what You've com - mand - ed \_\_\_  
— For those with - out \_\_\_ to eat \_\_\_ To tell of Your fav - our \_\_\_

D/E



9

Yet I am al - so poor \_\_\_ in love \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ need \_\_\_

E m



14

— You Lord \_\_\_ to fill \_\_\_ me up \_\_\_ De - fend - er of \_\_\_ the poor

## CHORUS

G



17

Re - stor - er of \_\_\_ the bro - ken \_\_\_ Re - lease for the \_\_\_ op - pressed \_\_\_

G



19

— A Shel - ter for \_\_\_ the home - less \_\_\_ Is this not what \_\_\_ it means \_\_\_

E m



21

— to know You Lord \_\_\_ of all? \_\_\_ Is this not what's \_\_\_ re - quired \_\_\_

E m



23

— to wor - ship You \_\_\_ a - bove? \_\_\_