

# Who is my neighbor?

## A hunger emphasis liturgy

by Katie Cook



**Processional hymn**  
“God of Justice, God of Mercy”  
Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1983  
Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855  
Tune: HYFERDOL  
*A Singing Faith #63*

**Call to worship**  
ONE: God of all creation, earth, grain, water,  
yeast, sun, grapes and air,  
MANY: *Gather us together like the ingredients of  
bread and wine.*

ONE: We are crushed under foot like grapes  
in a winepress.  
MANY: *Let the Spirit of grace ferment in our  
church and relationships.*

ONE: Knead our lives together in this moment  
through pain and joy.  
MANY: *Let your creative fire transform us into  
the Body of Christ.*  
—Lucas Land

### Invocation

**Meditation of contemplation**  
Let us sit down soon to eat

with all those who haven’t eaten;  
let us spread great tablecloths,  
put salt in the lakes of the world,  
set up planetary bakeries,  
stables with strawberries in snow,  
and a plate like the moon itself  
from which we can all eat.  
—Pablo Neruda, *Chilean poet  
and Nobel Laureate*

### Hebrew scripture reading

Deuteronomy 10:12-19

### Responsive word from the prophets

ONE: This is what God says: I don’t want all  
of your fancy worship.  
MANY: *This is what I want from you: to break  
the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in  
the workplace, free the oppressed, to cancel debts.*

ONE: This is what I want from you: to  
share your food with the hungry, invite the  
homeless poor into your homes, put clothes  
on people who are shivering, to take care of  
your own families.

MANY: *If you do this, your lives will be full of  
sunlight. Then, when you pray, I will answer.  
Then, when you call for help, I will be there.*

ONE: I want you to get rid of your unfair  
practices, quit blaming victims and quit  
gossiping about other people’s sins. I want  
you to be generous with the hungry and  
start giving yourselves to the people who  
need you.

MANY: *If you do this, your lives will begin  
to glow in the darkness, where once there was  
shadow, there will be bright sunshine.*

—adapted from Isaiah 58:6-10 in  
—The Message and the NRSV

### Hymn

“Come Celebrate the Call of God”  
Words: Brian Wren, 1989  
Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1993  
Tune: ALIDA’S TUNE  
*Chalice Hymnal #454*

**Epistle reading**  
1 Timothy 6:6-19

**Gospel reading**  
Luke 10:25-37

### Drama

“What Am I Supposed to Do  
about Hunger?”  
a dramatic project for children & youth  
by Katie Cook  
(see page 11 of the Hunger Emphasis Packet)

### Sermon

“Go and Do Likewise: Hearing the Good  
Samaritan Story as Adults”  
by Marsha Martie  
(see page 8 of the Hunger Emphasis Packet)

### Invitation to the table

We welcome all to this table, which is the  
table of our Lord. As we gather at the table,  
let us remember that the ones with whom  
we share are the daughters and sons of God,  
and so, too, are the people outside these walls  
who need our help.

### The bread

*The celebrant lifts the bread and says,*  
As we share this bread, we thank you, God,  
for our daily bread, for the food that delights  
and nourishes us and for the companionship  
that sustains us.

*The celebrant breaks the bread and says,*  
On the night before his death, Jesus was at  
supper with his friends. He took bread from  
the table and blessed it, and gave thanks  
for it. Then he gave it to his friends, saying,  
“Take this and eat it, for it is my body.” As  
we take this bread, we remember that he also  
said, “Whenever you give bread to the least  
of my brothers and sisters, you have given it  
to me.”

### The cup

*The celebrant lifts the cup and says,*  
We thank, you, God for the cup that quenches

our thirst and for the Living Water with  
which you surprise and enrich and  
transform our lives.

*The celebrant pours the cup and says,*  
On the night before his death, Jesus also  
took a cup of wine from the table. When  
he had given thanks, he gave it to his  
friends, and said, “Drink this, all of you.”  
In drinking from this cup, we remember  
that he also said, “Whenever you give  
something to my brothers and sisters to  
drink, you have also quenched my thirst.”

### Communion blessing

Giving God, bless all who have gathered  
round this table. May we know the  
fullness of your presence at every meal  
and in all our sharing times. Amen.

### Meditation of commitment

*If you haven’t already played it, this would  
be a good place to play “A Little Bit of You”  
by Marsha Martie (see page 3 of the Hunger  
Emphasis packet).*

### Hymn

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”  
Words: Omer Westendorf, 1976  
Music: Robert E. Kreutz, 1976  
Tune: FINEST WHEAT  
*Chalice Hymnal #429*

### Benediction

May God bless each of us as we make  
our way from here, and as we continue  
our journey. In our times of need, may  
we find a table spread in the wilderness  
and companions on the road. In our times  
of plenty, may our eyes be open to the  
hungry one lost in the wilderness. God,  
give us the grace to share our plenty with  
him. In our times of plenty, may we see  
the one who needs our companionship,  
and may we have the courage to reach out  
our hands to her.

—Katie Cook is the Seeds of Hope editor.

# How much do you know about hunger?

compiled by Natalia Alas

*Test your hunger knowledge by taking the following quiz.*

1. One in \_\_\_ Americans do not have access to enough food.  
A. 5      B. 2      C. 6      D. 8
2. True or False: The lack of adequate nutrition affects a child's cognitive, physical and behavioral development.  
A. True      B. False
3. Approximately how much of the population in developing countries is undernourished?  
A. 15 percent      B. 20 percent      C. 10 percent      D. 5 percent
4. How many US dollars does it cost per day to provide a child with all of the vitamins and nutrients he or she needs to grow up healthy?  
A. \$1.00      B. \$5.00      C. \$0.25      D. \$10.00
5. How many people in the world do not have enough to eat?  
A. 50 million      B. 100 million      C. 500 million      D. 870 million
6. What percentage of deaths in children under the age of 5 in developing countries is linked to undernutrition?  
A. one-third      B. one-half      C. one-fourth      D. one-eighth
7. 1,345 million people in developing countries live on \$ \_\_\_ per day or less.  
A. \$0.40      B. \$1.25      C. \$1.00      D. \$0.75
8. True or False: A key cause of food insecurity in the United States is the lack of sufficient resources to cover the cost of food in addition to meeting other basic needs.  
A. True      B. False
9. How much do low-income households spend on food?  
A. 18.5 percent      B. 20 percent      C. 16.4 percent      D. 10 percent
10. One in \_\_\_ people will go to bed hungry tonight.  
A. eight      B. six      C. ten      D. five

—Natalie Alas, a native of Pearland, TX, is a Professional Writing student at Baylor University and a Seeds of Hope intern.