



Words of Renewal

The human is created for transcendence.
It is the Jewish and Christian belief
That we are meant for a selfhood
That is more than our own selves—
That we are by nature created
To envision more than we can accomplish,
To long for that which is beyond our possibilities.
—From *Gravity and Grace*, Linda-Marie Delloff

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Giver of all good gifts—
We take this opportunity to give to you our profound
thanks for your liberal and constant generosity.
We give you heartfelt praise for modeling
a way of living that prioritizes giving.
May we, amidst all our myriad blessings, cultivate the
discipline of cheerful giving.
Of those to whom much is given,
much will be required.
May we not shirk our responsibility and our privilege—
that of feeding the hungry—clothing the naked—
caring for the sick and imprisoned—
of redistributing what we've been given
to those less fortunate.
And may we find in our service the joy and peace
Jesus proclaimed in living for others. Amen.
—John S. Ballenger

Prayer of Confession

Unison: This earth is yours, O God. You created its riches—the water,
the land, the minerals—sufficient resources for all your children's needs.
We confess that we are not good stewards of all you have placed in our care.
Too often we think of ourselves first and only.

Leader: Creator God, forgive us.

People: We are short-sighted and selfish with your gifts,
squandering today what needs saving for tomorrow,

Leader: hoarding "ours" instead of sharing what is yours,
refusing to use some gifts at all.

People: We seek comfort and security for ourselves
at the expense of bare essentials for others.

Unison: Show us your way, Lord, to bring Good News to the poor.

People: We refuse to be swept into the whirlwind of your Spirit
that will challenge and change us.

Leader: We object, complaining that we have challenge and change enough
that disrupts our lives.

People: We look for reasons to reject new ways to respond to your Word.

Unison: O Breath of God, breath fire into us again!

People: We expect our government to protect us and our basic human rights.

Leader: But we do not insist on fulfillment for others of those basic human needs.

Unison: Forgive our lack of vigilance. In a country where we have both
**a voice in government and a responsibility to use it, we have not been
good stewards of your gift of citizenship.**

Leader: Fill us with the transforming power of your love.

Unison: Show us new ways to respond to your Gospel. Challenge and equip us to
turn our compassion into action for all of your children who suffer. Amen.

—Adapted from *Bread for the World's Banquet of Praise*

Familiar Stranger

I saw a stranger today.
I put food for him in the eating-place
And drink in the drinking-place
And music in the listening-place.

In the Holy name of the Trinity
He blessed myself and my family.
And the lark said in her warble
Often, often, often

Goes Christ in the stranger's guise,
Goes Christ in the stranger's guise.
—*Celtic Rune of Hospitality*

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes that they may see
the deepest needs of people.
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry;
Touch my heart that it may bring warmth
to the despairing;
Teach me generosity that welcomes strangers;
Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked;
Give me the care that strengthens the sick;
Make me share in the quest to set the prisoner free.
In sharing our anxieties and our love,
Our poverty and our prosperity,
We partake of your divine presence.
—*Canaan Banana, Zimbabwe*
(from *Church World Service*)



The block prints on this page were created by the children
of Seventh & James Baptist Church.

Poverty:

Around the world...

- More than 963 million people in the world are malnourished—907 million of which are from developing countries. More than 153 million of them are under the age of five.
- Every day, almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes—one child every five seconds.
- Virtually every country in the world has the potential to grow sufficient food on a sustainable basis. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has set the minimum requirement for caloric intake per person per day at 2,350. Worldwide, there are 2,805 calories available per person per day.
- Fifty-four countries fall below the minimum requirement for calories, failing to produce enough food to feed their populations. Nor can they afford to import the necessary commodities to bridge the gap. Most of these countries are in sub-Saharan Africa.
- More than 2 million children each year have severe visual problems due to lack of vitamin A.
—From the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Of the 6.2 billion people in today's world, 1.2 billion live on less than \$1 per day.
- The amount of money that the richest one percent of the world's people make each year equals what the poorest 57 percent make.
- Each day in the developing world, more

than 30,000 children die from mostly preventable and treatable causes such as diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, measles or malaria. These diseases are far more deadly to children who, as a result of malnourishment, are stunted or underweight.

- By the end of 2000, some 22 million people had died from AIDS, which has caused 13 million children to lose either their mother or both parents.
- 40 million people are living with AIDS—90 percent of them in developing countries and 75 percent of them in sub-Saharan Africa. 2.9 million are under the age of 14.
—From the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Malnutrition can severely affect a child's intellectual development. Children who have stunted growth due to malnutrition score significantly lower on math and language achievement tests than do well-nourished children.
- In developing countries, 91 children out of 1,000 die before their fifth birthday. By comparison, in the United States that number is eight out of 1,000.
- Due to poor nourishment and poor maternal and neonatal health, 1,500 women die every year while giving birth. That's half a million mothers every year. A woman in Niger has a one in seven chance of dying during from complications during pregnancy or delivery. In America, that chance is one in 4,800.
—UNICEF
- 12 million people, including 3 million children, die each year from waterborne disease. 1.1 billion lack access to clean water; 2.4 billion live without decent sanitation; and 4 billion without

wastewater disposal.

—The World Bank

- One of the leading causes of food security crises is displacement. Three out of every four refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide are women and children.

—Church World Service

And in your own backyard...

- 33.6 million people—including almost 13 million children—live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger. This represents approximately one in ten households in the United States (10.7 percent).
- 3.3 percent of US households experience hunger. Some people in these households frequently skip meals or eat too little, sometimes going without food for a whole day. This affects 9 million people, including 3 million children.
- 7.4 percent of US households are at risk of hunger. Members of these households have lower quality diets or must resort to seeking emergency food because they cannot always afford the food they need. 24.6 million people, including 9.7 million children, live in these homes.
—United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Preschool and school-aged children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of chronic illness, anxiety and depression, and behavior problems than do children with no hunger, according to a recent study.

—Pediatrics, Vol. 110 No. 4, October 2002

- Between 2006 and 2007, poverty rose to 37.7 million people, up from 36.5 million.
- The poverty rate increased for children under 18 years old (18.0 percent in 2007, up from 17.4 percent in 2006).
- The 2001 median household income in the US was \$42,228, representing a 2.2 percent decline in real income from its 2000 level of \$43,162.

—US Census Bureau

- In 2007, 11.1 percent (13.0 million) of American households were food-insecure, hungry or at risk of hunger (this number is essentially unchanged from 10.9 percent in 2006). 36.2 million people lived in food-insecure households, including 12.4 million children.
- Overall, households with children had nearly twice the rate of food insecurity (15.8 percent) as those without children (8.7 percent) in 2007.
—United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Household Food Security in the United States

- Average unemployment rates in the past few years have risen. At 4.6 percent in 2006, the rate jumped to 5.8 percent by 2008.
—US Bureau of Labor Statistics



—The 2009 Hunger Emphasis place mat was designed and compiled by Lauren Elder.