

What is in your hands?



Celebrate God-given
gifts in our communities
and relationships
built across borders.



International Witness Sunday

October 16, 2022



mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness



Mennonite Church Canada

Join congregations across our nationwide community of faith as we celebrate International Witness Sunday. This year we consider the question, "What is in your hands?" What has God given you and your congregation to use to bless your community and strengthen the global Body of Christ?

As we look at the gifts that God has given us, material or spiritual, around the world, we see that we have enough for all. Just as Jesus faced a crowd of 5,000 with only five loaves and two fishes, we look at the global Body of Christ with faith that God provides. Let's celebrate the gifts and relationships we share across borders and boundaries.

This worship resource is prepared for International Witness Sunday, October 16, 2022, or any Sunday your congregation wishes to focus on international ministries and relationships. All of the resources in this document are available at mennonitechurch.ca/IW-Sunday-resources.

With thanks,

Jeanette Hanson
Director, International Witness
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PRAYERS & WORSHIP RESOURCES

Scripture

John 6:1-14

- ["Boy with 5 loaves and 2 fishes" - monologue by Mark Diller Harder](#)
- Reader's theatre - "Feeding of the 5,000"
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/readers-theatre-feeding-of-5000.html>

Calls to Worship

God of our hopes and dreams,
we are empty, and long to be filled;
we are hungry, and long to be fed;
we are lost, and long to be found.
Gather us into your love,
and pick up the pieces of our lives,
just as Jesus gathered up the fragments
of the five loaves and two fish
that remained after feeding the five thousand.
Call us anew to eat our fill
and to find our true nourishment in Jesus,
the bread of heaven.
Amen.

Rejoice, folks, Jesus is in our midst.
Feed us, Jesus, and fill us with hope.
Be glad, friends, Jesus has bread and fish to spare.
Free us, Jesus, from the pursuit of food
that does not satisfy.
Sing for joy, people of God;
God gathers up the pieces of our lives,
that nothing may be lost.
Thanks be to God!

~ Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009 © 2008
Abingdon Press. Posted on the Ministry Matters website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

Music

VT 757 There's Enough for All
VT 745 God, Whose Giving
VT 753 Heart and Mind, Possessions, God
VT 759 Take My Life, and Let It Be
VT 1024 There is no scarcity

Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

We come believing in our emptiness,
believing that we will never have enough,
believing that what we have is unworthy.

We come fearful of sharing,
fearful of losing our tenuous grip on security,
fearful of touching and knowing the pain of others.

We come overwhelmed by the hunger,
overwhelmed by the suffering of children near and far,
overwhelmed by the endless tales of senseless violence,
greed, and death.

We come aching from the weight of the responsibility,
aching from the chilling challenge of knowing our
abundance,
aching from the gnawing awareness that we have much
to share.

We come clinging to our meager lunches;
bless them, and us.
break them, and us.
share them, and us.

~ written by Katherine Hawker, on Liturgy Outside.
<http://liturgyoutside.net/>

Confession

All: We confess that we are so caught up in the world of buying and selling that we can barely imagine another way. We hoard our loaves and fishes because we believe we have earned them and they are rightfully ours. We resist having our lives broken open to be shared with others.

Leader: Christ overcomes our fears
and welcomes us into the abundance of the Spirit.
Let us live in the goodness of God.

~Joel Miller (USA), 2014. Creative Commons: Attribution Non-Commercial 4.0 International (CC BY-4.0)

Offering prayer

VT 1016 Jesus of love and leftovers,

we struggle with what to share
and how much is enough.
Sometimes we are the disciples,
quietly suggesting you send
the needy crowds away.
Sometimes we are the crowds,
bringing only our desire
to be close to you.
When we have little,
embolden us to share it.
When we have nothing,
welcome us to stay and eat.
In giving and receiving,
we participate in the miracle of
enough.
Thank you, Jesus.

~Michelle Dueck (Canada), 2019.

Offering prayer

Generous God, we are a people who have eaten
and have much left over. Your generosity toward us is
unlimited. Receive today our offerings, both our first fruits
and our leftovers. Multiply them and use them for your
mission in our world. Amen.

~ "For Your Mission in Our World." Marilyn Rudy-Froese (USA),
2015. Creative Commons: Attribution Non-Commercial 4.0
International (CC BY-4.0)

Sending

VT 1036

Lay one brick at a time,
take one step at a time;
we can be responsible
only for the one action
of the present moment.
But we know that God will take them
and multiply them,
as Jesus multiplied
the loaves and fishes.

Children's story

[Enough for all](#) - by Miriam Suzanne Rempel

["Enough For All"](#) -video

~Music and lyrics by Bryan Moyer Suderman, ©2004 Bryan Moyer
Suderman/SmallTall Music. Video produced and performed by Reuben
St. Louis. The song is printed in *Voices Together* (MennoMedia,

2020), #757.

For those who don't have access to *Voices Together* and would like
written notation for the song, please contact Bryan Moyer Suderman
(bryan@smalltallministries.com).

Messages

Visit mennonitechurch.ca/IW-Sunday-resources
to view/download the following messages from:

- "What is in your hands?" by Jeanette Hanson (John 6:1-14)
- An update from Gerald and Rie Neufeld, Japan
- "What is in your hands?" - Joanne De Jong, Ethiopia

Communion service

"It is enough: God will provide" by Mark Diller-Harder
<https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/14748>

For a list of IW ministries, go to mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness, or designate gifts to Mennonite
Church Canada International Witness General Fund for
use where most needed.



Mennonite Church Canada International Witness is committed to
the creation, resourcing and strengthening of Anabaptist/Mennonite
faith communities and to witnessing God's work in the world through
relationship-building ministries.

Through the work of International Witness you can:

- Support the emergence of new faith communities
- Foster the vitality of existing faith communities
- Equip leadership in these communities
- Enrich disciple-making ministries
- Support communication between congregations and our wider church

Donate to International Witness ministries by visiting
www.mennonitechurch.ca/giving.

For information on International Witness ministries, visit
mennonitechurch.ca/international-witness