

Worship Resources for a *Theology of Radical Grace*:

Justice for the Poor and Marginalized

A SUMMONS TO SOCIAL HOLINESS

Call to Worship (L = Lector, P = People)

L: Lo, God is here, let us adore!

P: How awe inspiring is this place!

L: Let all within us feel the power
and silent bow before God's face.

**P: Who know this power, God's grace who prove,
serve God with fear, with reverence love.**

L: Being of beings, may our praise
your courts with grateful fragrance fill;

P: still may we stand before your face,

L: still hear and do your sovereign will;

**P: to you may all our thoughts a rise,
ceaseless, accepted sacrifice.**

(Gerhard Tersteegen, Eng. trans. John Wesley)

Hymn

“Come, thou Holy God, and true”

Charles Wesley

Appendix: No. 1, Music:¹ DIX by Conrad Kocher (1838), arr. W. H. Monk (1861)

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| <p>1. Come, O holy God and true! Come, and my whole heart renew; take me now, possess me whole, form the Savior in my soul: <i>Refrain:</i></p> | <p>2. In my heart your name reveal, stamp me with your Spirit's seal, change my nature to divine in me your whole image shine: <i>Refrain:</i></p> |
| <p>3. Be to every sufferer nigh, hearing not in vain, the cry of the widow in distress, of the poor, the fatherless: <i>Refrain:</i></p> | <p>4. Raiment give to all that need, to the hungry furnish bread, to the sick now give relief, sooth the hapless prisoners' grief: <i>Refrain:</i></p> |
| <p>5. Love, which wills that all should live, Love, which all to all would give, Love, that over all prevails, Love, that never, never fails. <i>Refrain:</i> Love immense and unconfined, Love to all of humankind.</p> | |

¹ *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989), No. 92. See S T Kimbrough, Jr., Timothy E. Kimbrough, and Carlton R. Young, eds. *Songs for the Poor*, (New York: General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik, 1997), No. 1.

Invocation

Act of Praise, Ps 12²

L: Help, O Lord; no one who is godly is left,
for the faithful have vanished from humankind.
they utter lies to each other;
they speak with flattering lips and a double heart.

**P: May the Lord cut off all flattering lips,
the tongue that makes great boasts,
those who say, “With our tongues we will prevail,
our lips are our own; who is our master?”**

L: The Lord says, “Now I will arise,
because the poor are plundered,
because the needy groan;
I will place them in the safety for which they long.”

**P: The promises of the Lord are promises that are pure,
silver refined in an earthen furnace,
purified seven times.**

L: Protect us, O Lord,
guard us from this generation for ever.

**P: The wicked prowl on every side,
when vileness is exalted among humankind.**

The scripture for reflection is from the Acts of the Apostles 20:35, I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

After reading these words Charles Wesley penned what might be called “The Social Manifesto” of the Wesleyan tradition.

1. Your duty let the Apostle show;
you ought, you ought to labor so,
in Jesus’ cause employed,
your calling’s works at times pursue,
and keep th’ Apostle Paul in view,
and use your hands for God.
2. Work for the weak, and sick and poor,
raiment and food for them procure,
and mindful of God’s Word,
enjoy the blessedness to give,
lay out your gettings, to relieve
the members of your Lord.

² John Holbert, S T Kimbrough, Jr., and Carlton R. Young, eds. *Psalms for Praise and Worship* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992), 36–37.

3. Your labor, which proceeds from love,
 Jesus shall graciously approve,
 with full felicity,
 with brightest crowns your loan repay,
 and tell you in that joyful day,
 “You did it unto Me.”

Hymn “Your duty let the Apostle show” Charles Wesley
 Appendix: No. 13, Music:³ CARRBORO by Timothy E. Kimbrough
 Appendix: No. 14, Music⁴ by Pablo Sosa

Reflection

One of the most neglected areas of Charles Wesley poetry is that of his funeral or death hymns, poems written in remembrance of someone who has died and who exemplifies to the community of faith how to live the Christian life.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The golden rule she has pursued, and did to others as she would others should do to her: justice composed her upright soul, justice did all her thoughts control, and formed her character. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Affliction, poverty, disease, drew out her soul in soft distress, the wretched to relieve: in all the works of love employed, her sympathizing soul enjoyed the blessedness to give. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Her Savior in his members seen, a stranger she received him in, an hungry Jesus fed, tended her sick, imprisoned Lord, and flew in all his wants to afford her ministerial aid. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. A nursing-mother to the poor, for them she husbanded her store, her life, her all, bestowed; for them she labored day and night, in doing good her whole delight, in copying after God. |
5. Away, my tears and selfish sighs!
 The happy saint in paradise
 requires us not to mourn;
 but rather keep her life in view,
 and still her shining steps pursue,
 till all to God return.

Hymn “The Golden Rule she has pursued” Charles Wesley
 Appendix: No. 2, Music⁵ by Mary K. Jackson
 Appendix: No. 3, Music:⁶ CORNWALL by Samuel Sebastian Wesley

³ *Songs for the Poor*, No. 10.

⁴ See S T Kimbrough, Jr. and Carlton R. Young, eds. *Help Us to Help Each Other: Hymns for Life and Ministry with the Poor by Charles Wesley* (Madison, NJ: The Charles Wesley Society, 2010), 7–9, No. 1.

⁵ *Ibid.*, No. 9.

⁶ See *Songs for the Poor*, No. 12.

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Prayer for a social conscience (*unison*):

**O God, grant us a social conscience in like mind of our forebear in
the faith Charles Wesley and may his prayer be ours and fulfilled in us:**

**Your mind throughout my life be shown,
while listening to the sufferer's cry,
the widow's and the orphans groan,
on mercies wings I swiftly fly
the poor and helpless to relieve,
my life, my all for them to give. (Charles Wesley)
In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer & Benediction