

Worship Resources for a *Theology of Radical Grace*:

Justice for the Poor and Marginalized

A SUMMONS TO STEWAARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

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

L: Happy the multitude
(But far above our sphere)
redeemed by Jesus' blood
from all we covet here!

P: **To him, and to each other joined,
they all were of one heart and mind.** (Charles Wesley)

L: In this spirit, let us worship God.

Hymn

“Which of the Christians now”

Charles Wesley

Appendix: No. 6, Music: DARWALL'S 148th by John Darwall (1770)

Appendix: No. 7, Music² by Ludmila Garbuzova

1. Which of the Christians now
would their possessions sell?
The fact you scarce allow,
the truth incredible:
that saints of old so weak should prove
and as themselves their neighbor love.
2. Of your abundant store
you may a few relieve,
but all to feed the poor
you cannot, cannot give,
houses and lands for Christ forego,
or live as Jesus lived below.
3. Jesus, your church inspire
with apostolic love,
infuse the one desire
to store our wealth above,
with earthly goods freely to part
and joyfully sell all in heart.
4. With your pure Spirit filled,
and loving you alone,
we shall our substance yield,
call nothing here our own,

¹ See *UMH*, No. 715 and *Songs for the Poor*, No. 4.

² See *Help Us to Help Each Other*, 29–31, No. 11.

whate'er we have or are submit
and lie, as beggars, at your feet.

Invocation

Act of Praise, Ps 10:12-18³

L: Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand;
forget not the afflicted.

P: **Why do the wicked renounce God,
and say in their hearts, "You will not call to account?"**

L: You indeed see, you note trouble and vexation,
that you may take it into your hands;

P: **the unfortunate commit themselves to you;
you have been the helper of the orphan.**

L: Break the arm of the wicked and evildoers;

P: **seek out their wickedness till you find none.**

L: The Lord is Ruler for ever and ever;

P: **the nations shall perish from God's land.**

L: O Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek,
you will strengthen their hearts;

P: **you will incline your ear
to do justice to the orphan and the oppressed,
so that people on earth may strike terror no more.**

Lector 1: The first Scripture for reflection in this service is Acts of the Apostles 4:32:

"The multitude of them that believed, were of one heart, and one soul: neither said any of them, that aught of the things which he possessed, was his own, but they had all things in common. Neither was there any among them that lacked."

Charles Wesley read once read these words and wrote the hymn "Happy the Multitude," the first stanza of which we read at the opening of this service. The hymn was unpublished at Wesley's death. It reflects a keen understanding of what it means to belong to Christian community.

Hymn "Happy the Multitude"

Appendix: No. 15, Music⁴ by Carlton R. Young

1. Happy the multitude
(but far above our sphere)
redeemed by Jesus' blood
from all we covet here!

To him, and to each other joined,
they all were of one heart and mind.

³ *Psalms for Praise and Worship*, 36.

⁴ See *Help Us to Help Each Other*, 37–39, No. 13.

2. See here an apostolic priest,
 commissioned from the sky,
 who dares of all vain self divest,
 the needy to supply!
A primitive example rare
 of gospel-poverty,
to feed the flock one's only care,
 and like the Lord to be.

3. Jesus, to us apostles raise,
 like-minded pastors give
 who freely may dispense your grace
 as freely they receive;
 who disengaged from all below
 may earthly things despise,
 and every creature-good forego
 for treasure in the skies.

Reflection on Charles Wesley's words

Prayer and Benediction