

Worship Resources for a *Theology of Radical Grace*:

Justice for the Poor and Marginalized

A SUMMONS TO ACTS OF MERCY

Call to Worship

Hymn “Help us to help each other, Lord” Charles Wesley
Appendix: No. 10, Music:¹ ST. AGNES by John B. Dykes (1866)
Appendix: No. 11, Music² by David Plüss

1. Help us to help each other, Lord,
each other’s cross to bear,
let all their friendly aid afford,
and feel each other’s care.
2. Help us to build each other up,
our little stock improve;
increase our faith, confirm our hope,
and perfect us in love.
3. Thus let the fullest joy be given,
the same delight we prove,
in earth, in paradise, in heaven,
our all in all is love .
4. Then, when the mighty work is wrought,
receive your ready bride;
give us in heaven a happy lot
with all the sanctified.

Collect for the day (unison):

**Unite the pair so long disjointed,
Knowledge and vital piety,
Learning and holiness combined
And truth and love let each one see
In these whom up to You we give,
Yours, wholly yours to die and live. (Charles Wesley)
In Christ’s name, Amen.**

Act of Praise, Ps 19³

- L: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.
P: **Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**
L: There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
P: **yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

¹ See *UMH*, No. 561 and *Songs for the Poor*, No. 2.

² See *Help Us to Help Each Other*, 10–11, No. 2.

³ *Psalms for Praise and Worship*, 43–44.

L: In them God has set a tent for the sun,
 which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
 and runs its course with joy like a strong man.

P: **Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
 and its circuit to the end of them;
 and there is nothing hid from its heat.**

L: The law of the Lord is perfect,
 reviving the soul;

P: **the testimony of the Lord is sure,
 making wise the simple;**

L: the precepts of the Lord are right,
 rejoicing the heart;

P: **the commandment of the Lord is pure,
 enlightening the eyes;**

L: the fear of the Lord is clean,
 enduring for ever;

P: **the ordinances of the Lord are true,
 and righteous altogether.**

L: More to be desired are they than gold,
 even much fine gold;

P: **sweeter also than honey
 and drippings of the honeycomb.**

L: Moreover by them is your servant warned;
 in keeping them there is great reward.

P: **But who can understand one's own errors?
 Clear me from hidden faults.**

L: Also keep your servant from the insolent;
 let them not have dominion over me!

P: **Then I shall be blameless,
 and innocent of great transgression.
 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
 be acceptable in your sight,
 O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

Lector 1: The following verse of Scripture is for our reflection: Matthew 5:48: “Be therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.” In responding to this text, Charles Wesley wrote the hymn “Wouldst thou require what cannot be?” What can Wesley mean in stanza 3 that we “pass through to perfect poverty”?

Hymn “Would you require what cannot be?” Charles Wesley
 Appendix: No. 8, Music⁴ (MERIBAH) by Lowell Mason (1839)
 Appendix: No. 9, Music⁵ by I-to Loh

⁴ See *Songs for the Poor*, No 7.

⁵ See *Help Us to Help Each Other*, 42–3, No. 15.

1. Would you require what cannot be?
The thing impossible for me
is possible with God:
I trust your truth to make me just,
the omnipotence of love I trust,
the virtue of your blood.
2. “You shall be perfect” here below,
he spoke it and it must be so;
but first he said, “Be poor;
hunger, and thirst, repent, and grieve,
in humble, meek obedience live,
and labor, and endure.”
3. Thus, thus may I the prize pursue,
and all the appointed paths pass through
to perfect poverty:
thus, let me, Lord, yourself attain,
and give to you your own again
that lost in you I’ll be.

Lector 2: The second verse of Scripture for reflection is Luke 16:9: “And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations.”

In pondering these words Charles Wesley shaped a prayer for wisdom, diligence, and justice unique in the Wesleyan literature and which should be the constant prayer of all who seek the unity of knowledge, vital piety, and acts of mercy.

Whate’er you shall to us entrust,
with your peculiar blessing blessed,
O make us diligent and just,
as stewards faithful to the least,
endowed with wisdom to possess
the mammon of unrighteousness.

Hymn “The poor as Jesus’ bosom friends” Charles Wesley
Appendix: No. 4, Music:⁶ O WALY WALY, adapt. and arr. Carlton R. Young
Appendix: No. 5, Music:⁷ ST. CATHERINE by Henri F. Hemy

1. The poor as Jesus’ bosom friends,
the poor he makes his latest care,
to all his followers commends,
and wills us on our hands to bear;

⁶ See *Help Us to Help Each Other*, 18–19, No. 6.

⁷ See *UMH*, No. 710 and *Songs for the Poor*, No. 3.

the poor our dearest care we make,
and love them for our Savior's sake.

2. Whatever you to us entrust,
 with your peculiar blessing blessed,
O make us diligent and just,
 as stewards faithful to the least,
endowed with wisdom to possess
the mammon of unrighteousness.
3. Help us to make the poor our friends,
 by that which paves the way to hell,
that when our loving labor ends,
 and dying from this earth we fail,
our friends may greet us in the skies
born to a life that never dies.

Prayer and Benediction