



# It's time to share



*Worship resources for the 2023 One Great Hour of Sharing*

## ***Call to Worship***

ONE: It's time to share

ALL: **with those we know.**

ONE: It's time to share

ALL: **with those we may never know.**

ONE: It's time to share

ALL: **when it seems easy**

ONE: And when it seems a more difficult task.

ALL: **It's time to share!**

ONE: Let us not grow weary.

ALL: **For the time has come for us to share!**

## ***Prayer of Invocation***

God of abundant life,

We come to worship this day from various walks of life and places of engagement, yet we are drawn together through the connection in this community of faith. We pray that during this time, we would be reminded yet again of the power of doing good and of changing the lives of others. It can be so easy to get caught up in our own lives that we forget the simple acts of kindness which can make a world of difference. We want to seize the day and not miss any opportunities. Show us the paths where we might follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## ***Invitation to communion***

"All who hunger, gather gladly. Holy manna is our bread." These words were penned by Sylvia Dunstan, who, after a brief, arduous battle with liver cancer, died in 1993 at the age of 38. For thirteen years, Dunstan had served the United Church of Canada as a parish minister and prison chaplain.

Like many of us, Dunstan knew what it was to live in a world in which hunger is prevalent and to recognize the many reasons for it. It can be brought on by disasters, poverty, or fleeing conflict. The experience of hunger to those who are hungry goes deeper. Food sustains life. Responding to hunger is an affirmation of life. One Great Hour of Sharing is responding to hunger issues, no matter the cause, both locally and globally.

When we come to the table for Holy Communion, we are confronted with the hungers of this world –physically and spiritually. And yet, we turn toward Christ and this communal meal which draws us together in ways that are both mystical and comforting, affirming and filling.

At this table, we share in the fellowship of one another and with Christ. We are filled again, so that we might go out and share with others. At the table, we hear Christ saying to us, “It’s time to share.” All who hunger, gather gladly. Like the Israelites in exile, holy manna is set before us. It’s time to share in the bounty of Christ’s offering to us this day.

### ***Prayer for communion***

Throughout the ages, we have been witnesses, God, to the ways you share life with us. You shared your creation and then created us in your image. You offered a bounty and we squandered it. You allowed us to share in stewardship of your creation through the prophets and the judges, through men and women across the centuries, and finally through your Son, Jesus Christ, who showed us the ultimate act of sharing by giving his life over to the authorities of the day.

If that was not enough, you shared with us the Spirit, the Paraclete, the Advocate, the one present from creation who came in a new and powerful way at Pentecost, so that we might be empowered to love and share with others in the way that we have been loved and cared for throughout time.

You, O God, have shown us the way to share with others by the way you have shared with us, so let us not grow weary in doing so, even as we boldly proclaim this truth which we believe, live and proclaim:  
Continue with the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) and the Great Thanksgiving as your tradition practices.

### ***Invitation to the offering***

*There is in every human heart  
Some not completely barren part,  
Where seeds of truth and love might grow,  
And flowers of generous virtue flow;  
To plant, to watch, to water there,  
This be our duty, be our care.*

This poem, by John Bowring, reminds us that generosity flows out of our own hearts, where seeds of truth and love have been planted. Today, through your special offering to One Great Hour of Sharing, you have the opportunity to plant generous seeds in places near and far.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing support the ministries of the Church of the Brethren that address physical and spiritual hunger. Your gifts allow for people from all walks of life to find the hope of Jesus through finding provisions on their table or a community to care for them with abundant love.

We cannot be in all of these places ourselves or even see them with our own eyes, but through our generous tithes, offerings, and special gifts, we can proclaim boldly that it's time to share. In that spirit, let us share now!

***Prayer of dedication***

Generous God,

We offer these gifts in the spirit of gratitude and with an open heart. These offerings are one way of showing our commitment to sharing with those who are in need, neighbors near and far, whom we are unlikely to meet. Let us not grow weary in giving our gifts to others. Bless them, just as you have us, with an extra measure of your grace. In Christ's name, Amen.

***Charge and benediction***

ONE: Carpe diem!

ALL: **Seize the day!**

ONE: It's time to share.

ALL: **As we enter the mission field, we are ready to share our gifts with others.**

ONE: Let us not grow weary nor give up,

ALL: **For this is the opportune time to start right here, right now. It's time to share!**