



World Food Day Worship Guide:

Nourishing Hope in times of Scarcity.



What is World Food Day?

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) created World Food Day to commemorate its founding in Quebec City on October 16, 1945. The FAO aims to free humanity from hunger and malnutrition and effectively manage the global food system. World Food Day events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and help strengthen the link between agriculture and food security.





About Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger. We work with locally based organizations in developing countries to meet emergency food needs, achieve long-term solutions to hunger, and to foster informed action by Canadians and governments to support this international cause.

The Foodgrains Bank engages Canadians in working together to end global hunger; we inform and inspire actions such as giving, learning, praying, and advocating. Some of these actions are more direct than others. At the Foodgrains Bank, we want to help you feel prepared to do your best, whatever you choose.

This worship guide provides various resources for churches, communities, and individuals to mark World Food Day through worship, prayer, and learning. These resources can be used within a church service in informal gatherings, or with individual reflection. The sermon starters, children's feature, and scripture passages found in this worship guide present good options for pastors or church leaders to plan a church service around World Food Day, which will be marked on October 16, 2025. You can also use these resources for a series of church services leading up to World Food Day, or encourage small groups within your church to use these resources throughout the fall.



For more information

1-800-665-0377 | cfgb@foodgrainsbank.ca | foodgrainsbank.ca



Using This Guide

In this worship guide, you will find resources to **PRAY, LEARN, ADVOCATE**, and **GIVE** focused on the theme of nourishing hope in times of scarcity.



PRAY

A worship service including prayers, songs, and other diverse elements to help you focus your worship on the issue of hunger.



LEARN

Information and resources to help you, your family, community or congregation learn more about how Canadian aid is making a difference, and why people of faith should demonstrate their support.



ADVOCATE

Ideas on how to get involved by sending a message to your elected leaders and let them know that you care about Canada's role in ending hunger.



GIVE

An invitation to donate to support partners around the world working to end hunger.



Hunger and food security are complex, yet we believe it is God's desire that no one should go hungry. Prayer reminds us that we are not alone and that we depend on God.

Why are people hungry?

- Conflict that forces people to flee their livelihoods.
- Economic disparities that keep people trapped in poverty.
- Food system failures.
- Climate change and natural disasters.

Why do we pray?

- Prayer helps us acknowledge our dependence on God and helps us to witness God's love for creation.
- Prayer equips us to take faith-grounded advocacy.
- As part of our mission to end global hunger, we pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, believing that God does not want any human to go hungry.

What we pray for:

Prayer Requests:

- For people who experience persistent hunger.
- For those experiencing drought, conflict, or natural disasters that cause displacements.
- For the Church to advance the Gospel by working for justice and an end to hunger.
- For the leaders, that they will make ending hunger and poverty a priority.
- For all people to have knowledge about and access to affordable, nutritious food.
- That we do not waste food.

Praise Items:

- Gratitude for those who work the soil to produce our food.
- God's love that guides our steps as we work to end hunger.
- Give thanks for the food you eat.
- Rejoice that we can share the sacred gift of food with all.



Sermon Starter/ Meditation

(based on 1 Kings 17:1-24)

Do you remember a time you reached the end of a task or project? When you did everything the best you knew how to meet your own needs? When you had exhausted all the resources at your disposal, and you were only left with the reality of your inability staring back at you? What did you do??

The natural response is for us to worry, right?

This is the story of two people whose hope sustained them during the famine.

God knew that Elijah needed to be fed. If you think that food delivery services like DoorDash or Skip the Dishes are only modern inventions, God sent the ravens to deliver bread and meat in the morning and the evening! God provided a brook to quench Elijah's thirst. So, you can imagine how Elijah felt when he went for his usual drink and found that the brook had dried up and the ravens had stopped their daily food hampers!

Widows were known to be poor and still are in some communities. This foreign widow could not provide for herself and her son, what about another full-grown man? And yet she was God's solution to sustain Elijah through the famine.

Elijah finds her at the gate scavenging for twigs and sticks to make a fire for their last meal. Imagine how the widow felt when Elijah asked her for a tumbler of water- and a meal to top up!

Her response, "As surely as the LORD your God lives. I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die" (NIV). She had officially given up hope, but even in her hopelessness, she still honored the hospitality of her culture.

In verses 15-16, the widow did as Elijah had told her: "So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah" (NIV).

Suggested Scriptures

1 Kings 17:1-24

Prophet Elijah and the widow.

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus calls his first disciples.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in believing, so that you may abound with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 40:30-31

Even youth will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.



Children's Feature: Generosity in Times of Scarcity



Learning objective: To help children learn and appreciate the importance of sharing even when they have little. God knows what you need.

Materials: A jar with a little bit of baking flour, a small jug with a small amount of cooking oil, Play-Doh, and some cookies.

Narrate the story of 1 Kings 17:1-24: The widow only had enough ingredients for a small loaf of bread for her son and herself. (Show the kids the little amount flour and cooking oil). She had faith that if she shared the last of her food, God would bless her with more.

Making Bread

Give each child Play-Doh and ask them to make bread.

Show the baking ingredients to the kids and talk about how the widow would have had to mix the oil and flour, knead the bread, and then bake it.

Ask the kids if the ingredients would make enough bread for their families.

While the kids play with their Play-Doh bread, ask them questions like these:

- Q.** What would you do if you only had a little bit of flour left for your bread and nothing else?
- Q.** What do you think the church can do to make sure everyone has enough food?

Sharing with Others

Provide some cookies for the kids. Encourage the kids to care for others in the congregation by sharing just like the widow did.

Share about how God took care of Elijah and the widow's family by providing food for them. God takes care of you by giving you a family to help you. Now it's your turn to take care of someone else!

- Q.** How does God take care of you?
- Q.** What do you think the church can do to make sure everyone has enough food?

Selection of Prayer

Opening Prayer:

God, we are thankful for the food around us.
We hear you asking us to take care of other people.
Help us feed the hungry and love them as you have loved us.
Thank you for the gift of hope, even in the darkest of times. We trust in your love and your power.
Amen.

Faithful Lives

O God,
We pray that we will know you more clearly as we try in faith to live with you.
May we truly worship you in body, mind, heart and soul, so that the fullness of your life is expressed in some small way within us.
Teach us to see the world around us as you do, Holy Spirit:
so that we discern your wisdom and guidance in all our relationships.
Help us to follow in your way, Jesus Christ: loving our neighbours as ourselves and walking in courage towards those who exploit others.
Show us the beauty of your creation, God of the Universe:
that we may value everything that lives and cherish all that you have given to us.
May your church always bear witness to the delight of your infinite reality, O God, and gather together all that we know of you into a unity which makes us one with you, for you are the centre of everlasting life, O God. Amen.

From Words for Worship, posted on the Uniting Church website.

Prayer for Those Living with Poverty and Hunger

Our Loving Creator God,
We bring before you this day
the burden the whole world carries
as it endures extreme poverty and hunger
in every land.

Stretch out your loving arms, we pray,
to embrace the suffering women, men and children whose bodies, minds and spirits are shrinking before our very eyes.

Help us to look, really look,
with clear eyes and open hearts,
to see the pain and hopelessness
in their bewildered eyes.

Kindle within each one of us
a flame of love and purpose,
and then

Enable us to channel our love into action
in every way possible
and impossible.

For this we pray. Amen

Written by Mimi A. Simson, in "Lifting Women's Voices: Prayers to Change the World." Posted on the Episcopal Relief & Development website.





Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, so we lift our hearts up to you, God, in praise and thanksgiving.

As we count our blessings, and acknowledge your goodness,

our hearts go out to those who do not have, and who are in need.

We thank you for plentiful harvests and full refrigerators and ask that you supply the needs of those who are hungry.

We thank you for jobs that provide for our families and supply the needs of our society, and pray that you would care for those who have no work, or the dignity and purpose it brings.

We thank you for opportunities and choices, for meaning and challenges, and pray that you would give a sense of purpose to those who feel trapped.

We thank you for family and friends who love us and care for us and pray that you would befriend those who are alone.

The abundance of the harvest is a symbol of the abundance of your love in our lives.

May we live in a spirit of gratitude to you and generosity to our neighbour.

Loving God, in this season and all year long, give to us the gift of a thankful heart, so that we may acknowledge you as the giver of all that is good in our lives.
In the name of Jesus we ask it.

Amen.

Posted on the Presbyterian Church in Canada website.
www.presbyterian.ca

Confession: Salt and Light

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?”

Matthew 5:13

Lord, you placed us in the world to be its salt.
We were afraid of committing ourselves,
afraid of being stained by the world.
We did not want to hear what ‘they’ might say
and our salt dissolved as if in water.
Forgive us, Jesus.

Kyrie eleison (or, Lord, have mercy)

Lord, you placed us in the world to be its light.
We were afraid of the shadows,
afraid of the poverty.
We did not want to know ‘difficult’ people
and our light slowly faded away.
Forgive us, Jesus.

Kyrie eleison (or, Lord, have mercy)

Lord, you placed us in the world to live
in community.
Thus you taught us to love,
to share in life,
to struggle for bread and for justice,
Your truth incarnate in our lives.
So be it, Lord Jesus.

Peggy M De Cuehlo, in Harvest Prayers, posted on the
Christian Aid website.

Prayer of Commitment: Time to change

Just and loving God,
we know it is time to change,
to change our lives
and so the lives of others.
Help us to sing a new song.

Inspire us with the stories of those
who are strong and determined,
those who, through their own creativity and work
have turned their lives around.
Help us to sing a new song.

Show us how to turn the tables
so that those who have the least
may share in the gifts you have given us all.

May your kingdom come.

Written by Linda Jones/CAFOD. Used by permission.

Prayer of Intercession

Based on Psalm 8

God, when we think of your creation,
we are amazed,
We can never come to the end of your wonders.
But you have entrusted us to take care of all these
You have shown us how to sustain life
Help us to use this knowledge for the good
of the world,
To the benefit of your people and to the glory
of your name. Amen

Sending Out Prayer:

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Though the fig tree does not blossom
And there are no grapes on the vines,
Though the olive crop fails
And the fields produce no food,
Though there are no sheep in the pen
And no cattle in the stalls,
Still, I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in the God of my salvation.

Closing prayer:

Creator God, thank you for giving us the power
to make a difference, even with just small actions.
Bless the people who do these small actions every
day. Help us do the same so that more good things
can happen in this world. We pause to think and
pray for people in the world who are experiencing
hunger. In the silence of this moment, we dedicate
ourselves anew to our God. Amen.

Now to him who is able to do exceedingly abund-
antly above all that we ask or imagine, according
to his power at work within us, to Him be glory in
the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all
generations, forever and ever.

Amen.





LEARN

Through Foodgrains Bank members and their local partners, agriculture and livelihood projects implemented in countries around the world help people to produce food and increase their income so they can purchase what they need. Training, tools, and support help food producers to increase their harvest, save money, store seeds and food for the future, and hopefully be more resilient to the challenges that lay ahead. A new Foodgrains Bank video highlights the impact our members and their partners have on the lives of people like Gladys.

A Legacy Taking Root

“We’ve come a long way, and I’m so proud of how far we’ve come,” says Ugandan farmer Gladys Ocida.

Gladys is one of 3,602 participants who took part in an agriculture and livelihoods program to improve food security from 2012 to 2019, implemented by World Renew partner Church of Uganda Nebbi Diocese (CoU Nebbi) with support from Foodgrains Bank.

Six years on from the program’s end, Gladys is sharing the story of her family’s transformation and how they’re still reaping the benefits of the skills they learned.

“Life was very hard when I joined the project. At that time, I used to eat once a day. Sometimes I wouldn’t even eat, and if we were to eat, we had to sell our labor to get money for food.

It was a challenging time for Gladys’ family as well as many other farmers in Kucwiny sub-county in Nebbi District, Uganda, due to the lack of rain.

Over 80% of the households in Kucwiny depend on agriculture as their main income source. Prior to 2008, Kucwiny had two rainfall seasons annually, but significant changes in weather patterns have led to long dry spells, making it difficult for farmers to achieve sufficient crop yields.

Through the project, Gladys had the opportunity to improve her sustainable farming knowledge, join a village savings and loan group to strengthen her access to seeds and livestock, learn beekeeping, and purchase two motorbikes which she rents out for extra income.

Initially farming on one to two acres of land, Gladys now farms on seven acres of land alongside her husband Dickson Oyirwoth, who is proud of Gladys’ efforts and the impact it is having on their children.

“My children were malnourished before, but now they are healthier,” says Dickson. “They are able to focus at school because they’re well-fed, and that



gives me hope for their future... the children are happy about what she's doing. She's a role model in this community."

All 15 Foodgrains Bank members work together with partners in this way, improving access to food for people like Gladys and her family.

Learn more and watch the short film about Gladys' story 'A Legacy Taking Root' at www.foodgrainsbank.ca/alegacytakingroot



On average, households participating in the project doubled their food availability and nearly tripled their household income by the project's end, leading to more children going to school, improved education rates, and more animals being brought into the community!

The Impact of Canadian Aid

It is estimated that up to 757 million people are facing hunger worldwide and do not enjoy "food security," meaning they do not have regular access to enough nutritious food to live healthy and active lives.

Countries like Canada help support communities around the world facing hunger by providing international aid, also known as ODA - Official Development Assistance.

The Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 churches and church-based organizations. Together, we represent nearly 30 denominations, working to end world hunger. We believe that supporting international aid leads to peace, prosperity, and improved health worldwide. And it's not just about charity—ODA helps create trade opportunities, boosts economies, and encourages education, while building a better future for everyone.

To learn more about the importance of ODA and how Canada delivers aid through this mechanism, check out this three-minute video that gives you an introduction to how international aid can change lives around the world: youtu.be/mF27nCJ6PdY

Whether within a church service, small group, or within your family circle, please consider sharing this short video to raise awareness of the importance of Canadian aid. The more people understand ODA, the more people can support the work of our members and their partners to end global hunger.





ADVOCATE

Canadian aid makes a real impact for people living in poverty around the world. What if you could support changing lives around the world right here living in Canada?

Foodgrains Bank is rooted in the belief that humankind is created in the image of God and that it is God's desire that no person should go hungry.

At Foodgrains Bank, we focus our advocacy efforts on food security and food justice. Will you join us and other Canadians and raise your voice to help build a strong international aid program?

Hunger is preventable, let's get to work!



Many Foodgrains Bank supporters view their contribution to ending hunger as an expression of their Christian faith. They appreciate Canada's strong track record of working to end global hunger, including over 40 years of support for the Foodgrains Bank.

Add your voice and send a postcard:

Join others in speaking out for our global neighbours by sending your own postcard to the Secretary of State for International Development, Randeep Sarai, that expresses support for Canada to act on the values of justice, compassion, and generosity. This helps communities around the world dealing with rising food prices, climate change, and conflict, by prioritizing support for agriculture and food systems.

If decision makers don't hear from their constituents, they may assume people don't care about global hunger.

You can visit our website to send a digital postcard here: foodgrainsbank.ca/postcard

Mobilize advocacy action:

Host a church letter-writing or postcard event with your congregation or small group!

Sending postcards or letters as a group sends a powerful message to Canada's leaders, and it doesn't have to be fancy or complicated.

Here's what a simple event can look like:

- ➡ Invite your friends, neighbours, or people from your church or small group to gather for an hour or so—virtually or in person.
- ➡ Everyone will need access to a device such as a laptop, tablet or mobile phone to participate and send this digital postcard: foodgrainsbank.ca/postcard. To request printed postcards for your church, contact us at foodjustice@foodgrainsbank.ca
- ➡ Contact us (connect@foodgrainsbank.ca or call 1-800-665-0377) to book a speaker for your event, or to let us know how your event went.

This is a quick and meaningful action you and your church can take that can make a big difference!



When you give to the Foodgrains Bank, you are making a true impact – whether providing emergency food assistance, supporting long-term responses to improve food security, or integrating both responses for recovery today and security for tomorrow. Please consider asking your church to give [a donation.](#)



For more World Food Day resources, visit **UntilAllAreFed.ca**