



March 2, 2008, Fourth Sunday of Lent

Thanks to the Giver of all Gifts:

One Great Hour of Sharing® Offering

The One Great Hour of Sharing® collection is received by nine Protestant denominations across the United States. OGHS channels resources for international programs in health, education, agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster preparedness and response. It is administered by Wider Church Ministries.

This Litany may employ many different voices from around the sanctuary, representing the many places and ways in which One Great Hour of Sharing® contributions make a difference around the world.

Leader: God is the Giver of all Gifts.
We thank God for the opportunity to share resources that change lives through **One Great Hour of Sharing®**.
We give thanks for the opportunity to join God in empowering people, and in that relationship to be empowered ourselves.

As voices throughout the world call each other to faithfulness, hear our prayers of gratitude, O God.

One: “We help each other through the trauma of war,” says Amina in South Darfur, Sudan.
“In the Dereig Camp for Displaced People we live and talk with others affected by violence.”

Many: **Thank you, God, for the opportunity to participate in building a community center where there is social and spiritual space for people to offer each other mutual support and encouragement.**

One: We, in the Dominican Republic, work to prevent water-borne diseases that cause death.

Many: **Thank you, God, for gifts that make filters for clean drinking water available.**

One: We, in Mindanao, Philippines, educate our children through lives disrupted and threatened by violence.

Many: **Thank you, God, for making us part of scholarships and assistance programs that enable educational opportunities for children.**

- One:** We, in Myanmar, in Somalia, in Iraq, and other places protect ourselves and our families from persecution by fleeing our own nations or through forcible displacement within our own nations.
- Many:** **Thank you, God, for the opportunity to open our hearts and use resources for the resettlement of refugees in the United States.**
- One:** We in India grow new crops to sell and support our families.
- Many:** **Thank you, God, for training programs that teach new cultivation techniques which empower women and unemployed youth to experience a better life.**
- One:** We in Sierra Leone train ourselves and fellow caregivers to provide trauma healing that encourages restorative justice and true reconciliation.
- Many:** **Thank you, God, for training programs that include us in your acts for sustainable peace.**
- One:** We in the United States find ways to survive in the midst of disaster and make daily decisions on how to rebuild our lives.
- Many:** **Thank you, God, for the ability to walk alongside uprooted families during disaster recovery.**
- One:** We in Egypt find our voices as women through leadership in local and national community development projects and participation in the electoral process.
- Many:** **Thank you, God, for the opportunity to accompany communities as they identify their own needs and natural leaders and are empowered to make a difference in the wider society.**
- All:** **O God, for the opportunity to be part of lives changed throughout the world and to share resources through your love, we give you thanks.
Through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing® we commit ourselves to these connections and acts of life.**

Thanks to the Giver of All Gifts was written by the Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Executive, Volunteer Ministries of Wider Church Ministries.

WORSHIP WAYS
WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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