# One Great Hour of Sharing 2026: Our Love Offering to the World

## Call to Worship

*One:* God invites us to be a people of generosity.

*All:* **That’s our love offering to the world.**

God invites us to remember our blessings.

**That’s our love offering to the world.**

God invites us to build a legacy of love.

**That’s our love offering to the world.**  
God invites us to give cheerfully.  
**That’s our love offering to the world.**

## Prayer of Invocation

You provide for all of our needs, O God, even when we do not realize or recognize it. You are the source and we are the resource. You modeled generous giving when you freely offered us your Son, Jesus Christ. Nothing is too wonderful for you. As we begin worship on this One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, stir up in us the desire to give cheerfully from the great wellspring of gifts you have gifted to us. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

## Litany or Responsive Reading[[1]](#footnote-1)

*One:* When communities are impacted by disaster,  
*All:* **Our love offering is comfort, provision and a hand to rebuild.**  
When people are displaced,  
**Our love offering is shelter, nourishment and safety.**  
When groups are afflicted by prejudice, economic hardship, or difficult circumstances beyond their control,  
**Our love offering is empowerment, strength to rise and dreams for a better future.**  
Our love offering is  
**loving our neighbor, next door and on the other side of the world.**  
Our love offering is   
**not just for this hour, but forever.**

## Invitation to Communion

“It only takes a spark to get a fire going,

And soon, all those around can warm up in its glowing;

That’s how it is with God’s Love,

Once you’ve experienced it,

You spread the love to everyone

You want to pass it on.”

Hymn writer Kurt Kaiser was sitting in his den by the fireplace where the remnants of a fire and light from the embers reminded him of the simplicity of starting a fire. One spark and, in the right conditions, it can take off.

The sacrament (or time) of Holy Communion is a moment that reminds us that on special occasion, Christ took the simple elements of bread and wine and told those who were gathered there that evening that they would be the spark which would become a blaze, spreading love and light and even the resources of their hands throughout the world.

In this meal, we witness the generosity of Jesus shared with his disciples – not just those present that evening – but all of us who have followed their spark ever since. Holy Communion was Christ’s love offering to the world and now, we receive it as we share in the fellowship of one another and with Christ.

We rise from the table to be generous people who share this same love with the world. It is our offering and we share it generously, as Christ shared generously with us. One spark of generosity passed on.

## Communion Prayer

Your generosity, God, has been evident from the creation of the world. You spent your time creating the sky, the water, the earth, the animals, even the first person. And when that person needed a helper, you created that too. You generously gave them the garden to tend, seeds to plant and water to drink.

That generosity was not always returned to you as humanity often turned away to make their own path through the world you so lovingly created. They did that by turning away from your love and grace, demanding a king and then refusing to listen to the prophets who came to show a different way.

They warned the people that their gestures—devoid of genuine thanksgiving and devotion to God—were not pleasing to God. We forgot your commands to care for each other. Widows and orphans were neglected. Strangers were excluded. The poor were exploited. The sick were ostracized. The hungry were not fed.

So you sent your son, Jesus, who also showed your generosity as he taught us a new way to live and love others, through his daily interactions, his teachings and his sacrificial offering for all of humanity. He preached and taught the stories of ancient Israel to remind the people of who they were and to whom they belonged—the God who showed up with mercy, grace, compassion, and love. Jesus reminded the people that God still cared about the plight of the least and the vulnerable.

After his death and resurrection, you generously gave us the Holy Spirit so that we could continue the ministry of Jesus into the world. As we continue our generous offerings to the world today, 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

*Let each one give as (they have) chosen*

*With a heart of gratitude,*

*Not with grumbling or reluctance,*

*But with a cheerful attitude*

*And God is able to make all grace*

*Abound toward you*

*So you will be fully equipped*

*And be blessed in all you do.*

This poem by New Zealand poet Michelle Lowndes reminds us that we are called to give with the right attitude and from that, blessings flow not only for the giver but also for the receiver.

God invites us to give not because our pockets overflow or because we feel guilt. God invites us to give because our hearts are stirred, and we witness God at work in one another. We are agents of grace when we choose to give because we believe in the kingdom of God being built among us.

This is the generosity that you are invited to offer through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Your offering helps rebuild from disaster, feed the hungry, provide clean water to the thirsty, empower the oppressed, and restore hope.

The apostle Paul’s admonition to give generously and cheerfully is bolstered by the words of the Psalmist: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever” (112:9).

We cannot be in all of the places where our offering will eventually go, but like seeds scattered throughout the land by the wind that blows even where we cannot see it, our gifts bless the world far beyond what we can imagine. This offering IS our love offering TO the world. Let us share generously.

## Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, we offer these gifts in the spirit of generosity and with a heart full of gratitude for what we’ve been given. 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. We offer these gifts with a cheerful heart as our love offering to brothers and sisters we may never meet. Bless the gifts, just as you have each of us, with an extra measure of your grace. In Christ’s name, Amen.

## Charge & Benediction

*One:* God has shown us there is enough. When things are tight and the future seems uncertain,   
*All:* **We choose to give a love offering to the world.**  
God’s love shapes us and molds us to share from our own blessings.   
**We choose to give a love offering to the world.**  
Go forth from this place and be   
**a love offering to the world.**

## Hymn Suggestions

* Amazing Grace by John Newton
* Come, Ye Thankful People, Come by Henry Alford
* Draw the Circle Wide by Mark Miller
* Demos con algeria (Give with a Cheerful Spirit) Sonia Andrea Linares M.
* Give Thanks, with a Grateful Heart by Henry Smith
* God of Grace and God of Glory by Harry Emerson Fosdick
* Great God, The Giver of All Good by James Skinner
* In the Midst of New Dimensions by Julian B. Rush
* Love God, Love People by Danny Gokey
* Now Thank We All Our God by Martin Rinkart
* O God, You Send Us Out to Walk by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (written for CWS CROP Hunger Walks)
* Pass It On by Kurt Kaiser
* Take My Life and Let It Be by Frances Ridley Havergal
* The Church of Christ in Every Age by Fred Pratt Green
* There Shall Be Showers of Blessings by Daniel Whittle
* You Are the Seed (Sois la Semilla) by Cesáreo Gabaráin

1. This litany includes direct quotes from the OGHS video. It reverses the “Our love offering” halfway through the litany. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)