

SPARE CHANGE & GILT-EDGED GRACE

Congregational version

GATHERING

Opening responses

(We are invited to respond appropriately...)

Song: ALLELUIA! RAISE THE GOSPEL,

*Words © 2002 Owen Alstott, music © 2001, 2002 Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications,
Oregon, USA.*

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!
RAISE THE GOSPEL OVER THE EARTH!
ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!
PEACE AND JUSTICE BRINGING TO BIRTH!

1.

Blessed those whose hearts are gentle.
Blessed those whose spirits are strong.
Blessed those who choose to bring forth right
where there is wrong.

36

2.
Blessed those who work for justice.
Blessed those who answer the call.
Blessed those who dare to dream
of lasting peace for all.

3.
Tremble, you who build up riches.
Tremble, you with opulent lives.
Tremble, when you meet the poor
and see Christ in their eyes.

4.
Tremble, you who thirst for power.
Tremble, you who live for acclaim.
Tremble, when you find no comfort
in your wealth and fame.

5.
Glory like the stars of heaven -
Glory like the sun in the sky -
Glory shines upon all people,
equal in God's eyes.

6.
Glory to the Word of Justice.
Glory to the Spirit of Peace.
Glory to the God of Love
whose blessings never cease.

Revelation

(Here the correct answers to the Questionnaire will be revealed)

ENGAGING

Two dissonant readings regarding money

(We hear some words from the books of James and Ecclesiastes, before and after which we sing the chant below.)

Chant: WE WILL TAKE WHAT YOU OFFER,

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We will take what you offer,
we will live by your word;
we will love one another
and be led by you, Lord. *(Repeat)*

Conversation (1)

"If the general public understood the economy and the monetary system, there would be a revolution."

Do you feel that you know enough about the economy, and if not, what aspects do you not understand?

Chant: WE WILL TAKE WHAT YOU OFFER *(Reprise)*

At the door of the church *(a casual encounter with Tom & Jack)*

38 Conversation (2)

“Those who deal with money
are repeatedly rewarded with bonuses,
and those who deal with people
are the first to suffer from budget cuts.”

How has this situation come about?

Song: DO NOT BE VEXED (Psalm 37),

*Tune: 'The House Of The Rising Sun', Irish traditional; words © WGRG, Iona Community,
Glasgow G2 3DH.*

1. (ALL)

DO NOT BE VEXED OR ENVY
THOSE OBSESSED WITH DOING WRONG.
THEIR FORTUNE IS LIKE FIELDS OF GRASS
WHOSE GROWTH CANNOT LAST LONG.

2. (Women)

Trust in the Lord, do what is right;
take root in God's good ground.
Delight in God, for in God's will
your heart's desire is found.

3. (ALL)

GIVE GOD YOUR TRUST, AND LET THE LORD
DIRECT YOUR FUTURE WAY.
THE JUSTICE OF YOUR CAUSE SHALL RISE
AND SHINE AS CLEAR AS DAY.

4. (Men)

Do not be jealous or dismayed
should evil folk succeed.
wait patiently for God who comes
in quietness to your need.

5. (ALL)

MORE BLEST THE PENNIES OF THE POOR
THAN WICKED PEOPLE'S GAIN.
GOD BREAKS THEIR POWER, BUT HUMBLE FOLK
WILL NEVER LIVE IN VAIN.

Conversation (3)

Given the abundance of verses
in the Bible about money,
why do we find it hard
to talk about how we use our money?

RESPONDING

Meditation... with a coin

(We are invited to hold in our hand our smallest coin during the meditation. At its end, we will be invited, if we wish, to place the coin in the basket/ collection plate, thereby associating ourselves with the action of the poor widow in whom Jesus saw a model of selfless generosity.)

Chant: ALLELUIA (Greenbelt10)

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Tenderly ♩ = 60

6

G D Em

AL - LE - LU - IA, AL - LE - LU - IA, AL - LE - LU - IA,

6

Am7 3 D7 G

AL - LE - LU - IA. AL - LE - LU - IA, AL - LE -

11

D Em C G

LU - IA, AL - LE - LU - IA, AL - LE - LU - IA.

Silence

Closing song: HEAVEN ON EARTH

Tune: 'Ho ri ho ro' by A.Sinclair, © GoodMusic Publishing, UK;
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(ALL stand)

Chorus:

THE GOD OF HEAVEN IS PRESENT ON EARTH
IN WORD AND SILENCE AND SHARING,
IN FACE OF DOUBT, IN DEPTH OF FAITH,
IN SIGNS OF LOVE AND CARING.

1.

Gentler than air, wilder than wind,
settling yet also deranging,
the Spirit thrives in human lives
both changeless and yet changing.

2.

When markets quail as harvests fail
and prayer turns feeble and nervous,
the Spirit wills we face these ills
and fear give way to service.

3.

From misplaced bet to soaring debt
in every human confusion,
the Spirit pleads for all that leads
to freedom from illusion.

4.

Truth after tears, trust after fears,
God making everyone wiser:
the Spirit springs through hopeless things
transforming what defies her.

42 Closing litany

Leader: The Gospel is not:
'Faith and economics are poles apart.'

ALL: THE GOSPEL IS:
'ALL THINGS ARE HELD TOGETHER IN CHRIST.'

Leader: The Gospel is not:
'Wealth is a purely private matter.'

ALL: THE GOSPEL IS:
'THERE IS NOTHING HIDDEN
WHICH WON'T BE REVEALED.'

Leader: The Gospel is not:
'Money is the root of all evil.'

ALL: THE GOSPEL IS:
'DON'T BE ANXIOUS ABOUT MATERIAL WEALTH.'

Leader: The Gospel is not:
'Give to the poor and look miserable.'

ALL: THE GOSPEL IS:
'DON'T ADVERTISE YOUR GENEROSITY.'

Leader: The Gospel is not:
'I have come to diminish your pleasure.'

ALL: THE GOSPEL IS:
'I HAVE COME THAT MY JOY MIGHT BE IN YOU
AND YOUR JOY BE COMPLETE.'