

# Worship Service

BY BRUCE GILLETTE

CAROLYN WINFREY GILLETTE

---

## *Call to Worship: Psalm 146:1-5*

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth;

on that very day their plans perish.

**Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,**

**whose hope is in the LORD their God.**

## *Hymn of Praise*

“Siyahamba” (“We Are Marching in the Light of God”)<sup>1</sup>

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of,  
the light of God.

We are marching, marching,  
we are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of,  
the light of God.

We are marching, marching,  
we are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of God.

*South African Folk Song (c. 1950)*

## *Call to Confession*

The opening verses of Psalm 146 speak to us about praising God. We praise God with our words and songs, yet we know how often we have

failed to praise God with our attitudes and actions. We have trusted the wrong people and followed the wrong messages and values in this world. Let us confess our sin against God and neighbor.

*The Litany of Confession* (based on Psalm 146:5-10)

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them.

**Loving God, we confess that we have often turned away from you,  
the Creator of all things;  
we have forgotten to truly care for your creation.**

God keeps faith forever;

God executes justice for the oppressed.

**We have been content as long as our own needs –**

**and those of our families and friends – have been met.**

God gives food to the hungry.

**We have filled our shelves and pantries,**

**not knowing who grows our food or what their lives are like.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

**We have bought products without thinking**

**about the working conditions of the people who make them.**

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

**We wear clothes made in sweatshops;**

**we accept the fact that millions go to bed hungry every night.**

The Lord loves the righteous;

the Lord watches over the strangers;

**We have turned away the needy at the gate.**

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**We have been distracted by our own concerns,**

**and so we have failed to hear your people**

**who are calling for justice, for peace, for someone to care.**

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

**Forgive us, Lord, when we fail to catch a vision of your reign;**

**may we work for your kingdom “on earth as it is in heaven,”**

**so that all generations will know your love, your justice,**

**and your peace. Amen.**

### *Declaration of Forgiveness*

“The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.”  
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all  
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us all in eternal  
life. **Amen.**

### *Sharing of the Peace*

### *Prayer for Illumination*

O Lord our God,  
“Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.”  
Startle us with your good news for all, open our hearts and minds to  
your truth, and give us courage to respond with faithful, joyful  
obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58*

### *New Testament Reading: Luke 16:19-31*

### *Sermon*

### *Hymn*

“If Only I Had Known”<sup>2</sup>

“If only I had known the cost of human greed,  
perhaps I would have reached out more to those in need.  
But now I see the truth across the great divide!  
If only I had known and changed,” the rich man cried.

If only we could see which bargains in the store  
are made in dismal sweatshops that oppress the poor.  
For each subsistence wage – each tiny, crippling stitch –  
makes wider the divide between the poor and rich.

And, too, if we could hear a mother’s lullaby;  
she’s singing now to calm her hungry toddler’s cry.  
For rich ones came one day, took land and water rights,  
and left the poor with hopeless days and hungry nights.

If only we could learn what keeps us wanting more:  
 we build our bigger barns so we'll feel more secure.  
 But you alone, O God, give true security;  
 possessed by our possessions, we cannot be free.

O Christ, if we could know God's will for all the earth!  
 And yet, by your own Spirit, you have shown God's truth:  
 "Do justice, help the poor, share life and love and land,  
 and when you see the hungry, open wide your hand."

*Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2007)*

*Tune: LEONI (Hebrew melody adapted by Meyer Lyon, 1770)  
 (pp. 43-45 of this volume)*

### *Congregational Reading*

"They are Hidden from Us"

*Reader 1:* They are hidden from us – the hungry children who sit by  
 the road each day in an isolated village, waiting for their teacher to  
 arrive.

**They thirst for knowledge, and they hunger for the meal she brings  
 each day, a meal of rice and beans.**

*Reader 2:* They are hidden from us – the farmers of the developing world  
 who cannot sell their crops.

**They watch while corporations import foreign corn and sell it, cheaper  
 than the local produce, to the farmers' neighbors.**

*Reader 1:* They are hidden from us – the women who work in sweatshops  
 in the cities, sending money home to feed their families.

**Their own children wait, in rural villages, hoping their mothers can  
 soon come home.**

*Reader 1:* They are hidden from us by thick walls of prosperity,

*Reader 2:* by high fences of prejudice,

*Reader 1:* by chasms of indifference

*Reader 2:* by great shadows of injustice.

*Reader 1:* "When did we see you hungry, Lord?"

*Reader 2:* When did we see you longing for justice?

*Reader 1:* When did we see you a stranger, far from home?

**Open our eyes, God, we want to see Jesus! Open our eyes to people  
 who are poor and oppressed, and heal us of our blindness that  
 makes them seem hidden. Then we will see our brothers and  
 sisters; then we will see our Lord. Amen.**

### *Reflection before the Presentation of the Offering*

The earth belongs not to the rich. It is not from your own possessions that you are bestowing alms on the poor, you are but restoring to them what is theirs by right. For what was given to everyone for the use of all, you have taken for your exclusive use. The earth belongs not to the rich, but to everyone. Thus, far from giving lavishly, you are but paying part of your debt.

*Bishop Ambrose of Milan (340-397)*

### *Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Petition*

#### *The Lord's Prayer*

#### *Hymn*

*"In Christ There is No East or West"*

In Christ there is no East or West,  
in him no South or North;  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord,  
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, members of the faith,  
whatever your race may be!  
Who serves my Father as his child  
is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,  
in him meet North and South;  
all Christ-like souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.

*William A. Dunkerley (1908), alt.*  
*Tune: ST. PETER (Reinagle)*

## Charge

We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

**The commandment we have from him is this; those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.**

1 *John 4:19-21*

## Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, this day and forevermore.  
Amen.

## NOTES

1 The Zulu text and melody of Siyahamba are online at [ingeb.org/spiritua/siyahamb.html](http://ingeb.org/spiritua/siyahamb.html). For sheet music of the melody, see [www.musicatschool.co.uk/year\\_8/gospel\\_sheets/performing.PDF](http://www.musicatschool.co.uk/year_8/gospel_sheets/performing.PDF) (accessed May 22, 2007).

2 Based on Luke 16:19-31, Luke 12:13-21, and Deuteronomy 15:11-12.

More worship resources related to global wealth are online at [www.e-alliance.ch/gwa\\_prayers.jsp](http://www.e-alliance.ch/gwa_prayers.jsp), [www.pcusa.org/trade/downloads/worship\\_guide\\_low.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/trade/downloads/worship_guide_low.pdf), and [www.pcusa.org/trade/worship.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/trade/worship.htm) (accessed May 22, 2007).



**BRUCE AND CAROLYN WINFREY GILLETTE**

are Copastors of Limestone Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, DE.