

## **Called to Serve**

**Leader:** You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them for the work was hard. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty. I closed them for I did not want to see. Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You asked for my life that you might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get too involved. Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader:** Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, with only those who make it easy to do so. Lord, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.

--An anonymous  
South African Christian

## **Closing Reflection**

Let us end today's liturgy with words from one of the greatest servants of Jesus: Mother Teresa.

Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming way better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting. In the slums we are the light of God's kindness to the poor. To children, to the poor, to all who suffer, and are lonely, give always a happy smile — Give them not only your care, but also your heart.

—Mother Teresa  
*"Something Beautiful for God"*

## **Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** let us go forth as servants of Christ in one another.

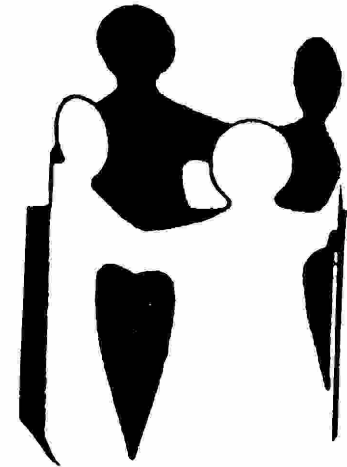
**All: Thanks be to God!**



Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo  
York Catholic District School Board



## Called to Serve: Living a Christian Life



**"We must not only give what we have, we must also give what we are."**

**Desire Joseph Mercier**



## **Call to Worship**

**Leader:** The love of God  
and of our Lord Jesus  
Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

**Leader:** Divine spirit, draw us into your  
light, illuminate our minds with a knowl-  
edge of you, and give us energy to search  
for you where you can be found: first in  
the pursuit of justice, then in the light of  
prayer.

**All: May the Divine Presence fill our  
minds and our hearts.**

## **Scripture Reading: Romans 12:1-5**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ro-  
mans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sis-  
ters, by the mercies of God, to present  
your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and  
acceptable to God, which is your spiritual  
worship. Do not be conformed to this  
world, but be transformed by the renewing  
of your minds, so that you may discern  
what is the will of God—what is good and  
acceptable and perfect. For by the grace  
given to me I say to everyone among you  
not to think of yourself more highly than  
you ought to think, but to think with sober  
judgment, each according to the measure  
of faith that God has assigned. For as in  
one body we have many members, and not  
all the members have the same function,  
so we, who are many, are one body in  
Christ, and individually we are members  
one of another. The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **A Psalm of Service**

**Leader:** The harvest is ready. Whom  
shall I send?

**All: Send me, O God, I am ready to  
serve you, all the days of my life.**

**Reader 1:** Go into the workplace, and into the  
streets, and reveal God's saving Spirit through the  
quality of your life.

**Leader:** The world is waiting. Whom shall I send?

**All: Send me, O God, I am ready to speak of  
you, all the days of my life.**

**Reader 2:** Preach the Good News in all you do  
and say: heal, help, teach, touch, in good times  
and difficult times, and live for the glory of God.

**Leader:** The world is hungry. Whom shall I send?

**All: Send me, O God, I am ready to nourish, all  
the days of my life.**

**Reader 3:** Feed the hungry of body and spirit,  
break the bread of compassion, distribute the  
fragments of hope, be fed by the Bread of life and  
feast on the Word of God.

**Leader:** My people are hurting. Whom shall I  
send?

**All: Send me, O God, I am ready to heal, all the  
days of my life.**

**Reader 4:** Be a healing presence, a sign of hope  
in a world of confusion and unrest. Listen, love,  
labour.

**Leader:** The vineyard is ready. Whom shall I  
send?



**All: Send me, O God, I am ready to  
work for you, all the days of my life.**

**Reader 5:** Enter into, and love the  
mission, and your different ministries.  
Labour for justice, share your presence,  
and may you find contentment in your  
commitment to serve others with a  
loving heart.

**Leader:** My people yearn for a listening  
heart. Whom shall I send?

**All: Send me, O God, I am ready to  
be your listening presence, all the  
days of my life.**

**Leader:** Open your eyes, open your  
ears, open your hearts. Listen to the  
cries of the people and strive to make a  
difference in their lives.

**Reader 6:** Loving God, through  
baptism you entrusted us with a  
mission to the entire world. You gave  
each one of us an individual mission, to  
serve you in others wherever we are.

**Leader:** We ask your blessing as we  
try to be your hands and feet, serving  
you each in our own way. We ask this  
through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**



*Servant Song*  
—Donna Marie McGargil  
World Youth Day Prayer Book