



# World Food Day

## Worship resources 2021

The World Food Program, in its **State of Food and Nutrition in the World 2021 report**, estimates that 811 million persons are chronically hungry globally, with 41 million people on the brink of famine in 43 countries due to violent conflict, extreme climate patterns and economic downturns. COVID-19 has further disrupted food systems, causing extreme price increases on food items. Currently, 150 million children do not have access to school meals provided by the World Food Program, due to COVID-19-related restrictions.

## Showers of blessing and eternal provision.

**World Food Day is Oct. 16**, but your congregation may choose to use these materials at Thanksgiving or any other time during the year.

### Suggested Scripture readings

Ezekiel 34:25-29  
1 Corinthians 10:23-30  
Luke 9:10-17

### Songs

Voices Together #747  
Voices Together #459  
Voices Together #757

### Opening prayer

God of creation, maker of all things good and blessing to the universe.

Fruitfulness, abundance and well-being are your intention for us. Your profound benevolence upon us reminds us of your unfailing divine assurance.

Humbly, we plead that you bless the fields and seeds, labor and harvest, hearts and minds. You are the power of nature; may your spirit touch our hearts and may the wisdom you bless us with enable us to be good and responsible stewards of your creation and of one another.

Amen.



Ms. Stella Chelula, who leads a farm in Mlowa, Tanzania, shows millet harvested from a three-acre conservation agriculture field. She stores the millet in an underground grains store which removes the need for industrial chemical pesticides. Chelula plans to sell half of the grains and buy corrugated metal roofing for her new house. (MCC photo/Chrispin Mirambo)



## Psalm reading (NRSV)

(Based on Psalm 90: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12, 14-15, 16-17; refrain from Psalm 107: 9).

LORD, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations. Before the mountains were brought  
forth,

or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.  
*For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills  
with good things.*

You sweep away the years; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;  
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the  
evening it fades and withers.  
*For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills  
with good things.*

Who considers the power of your anger?  
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.  
So teach us to count our days that we may gain a  
wise heart.

## Closing prayer

LORD, forgive our waste of food and resources. Forgive our greed and our lack of love and care for the hungry.

Forgive us for the inhumane structures and unjust systems we have created. Your blessings are a gift for one another and a symbol of your presence. Transform us as instruments of your benevolence to see that the basic needs of everyone are met in our world.

May we selflessly and unconditionally share with our brothers and sisters as we receive endlessly from you.  
Amen.

## Benediction/sending song

Voices Together #811

*For he satisfies  
the thirsty, and the  
hungry he fills with  
good things.*

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.  
Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
and as many years as we have seen evil.  
*For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills  
with good things.*

Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children. Let the  
favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!  
*For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills  
with good things.*

