

# CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP



# WORSHIP RESOURCES

## INTRODUCTION

Christian Stewardship is a fundamental part of Christian Discipleship. It is concerned with the gifts of God and the way we use these gifts. It is concerned with the love and commitment of God to his world and its people, and with our response to God's love and God's commitment.

Worship has a pivotal role in any consideration of Christian Stewardship in the life of the Church. In worship we give thanks for the gifts of God; we confess our failure to use these gifts as God expects them to be used; we explore the pages of the Bible and engage in theological reflection on God's giving and our response; we offer to God our time, our talent, our money to glorify him and advance his kingdom.

**When we worship, as Christians, we bend our minds and imaginations and motives to fit God's mind and God's intentions. The wavelength and wave-pattern of our human spirit are adjusted to coincide with the Holy Spirit. Our value-system is corrected by God's values. This is what true worship is about.**

These words of John Davies in 'World on Loan' not only describe Christian Worship: they also point to the interface of Christian Worship and Christian Stewardship.

From the perspective of this interface, this booklet is designed to provide a few pointers for ministers and other worship leaders who are preparing acts of worship focusing on aspects of Christian Stewardship.

Lists of Bible Readings and Hymns are not intended to be comprehensive lists, but rather a selection of texts that are appropriate to the particular theme.

References to hymn books are as follows:

CH4 *Church Hymnary: Fourth Edition* (2005)

CH3 *Church Hymnary: Third Edition* (1973)

MP *Mission Praise: Complete Edition* (2005)

## GIFTS FROM GOD

When we think about gifts from God, we should begin at the beginning. The fundamental gift we receive from God is **life in God's world**.

This gift includes the gifts of **space** and **time**, which provide us with many opportunities – to enjoy the beauty and wonder of creation, to work, to rest, to give, to receive.

God's gift of life is the gift of unique life : each one of us is different, with his/her own strengths and weaknesses. To some extent we develop these strengths and skills. To some extent they are part of our unique personalities. God's gift of life includes the gift of **talent**.

No Christian understanding of gifts from God would be complete without reference to God's gift of **new life in Christ**. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus signify God's intervention in the life of the world – an intervention occasioned by God's love for his world and its people, and God's commitment to his world and its people. The supreme gift from God is the gift of **love**.

This supreme gift continues to come to us through the presence and power of God's Spirit, working through people and events.

## GIFTS FOR GOD

Christian Stewardship acknowledges the many gifts we receive from God and reminds us that these gifts should be used to praise God the giver.

We have a responsibility to **care for God's creation**.

We have a responsibility to **use time in a balanced way** that enables us to enjoy life as God intended it to be.

We have a responsibility to **make full use of our particular talents** if our lives are to be all that God has intended for us.

We have a responsibility to **love and care** : the measure of our love for God is the extent to which we care for his people throughout his world.

The way we use our **money and other possessions** is one indication of our willingness to praise God in every aspect of our lives. We are expected to display a sharing, unselfish attitude in the way we use these resources at our disposal.

## GOD'S GIFTS OF LIFE AND LOVE

### Bible Readings:

Genesis 1: 1-31

Psalms 8; 23; 65; 100; 103; 104; 145; 147

Isaiah 40: 1-31

Lamentations 3: 22-26

Mark 6: 30-44

Luke 15: 11-32

John 1: 1-18; 10: 1-18

Acts 17: 16-34

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Colossians 1: 15-23

### Hymns:

<i>All creatures of our God and King</i>	(CH4 147, CH3 30, MP 7)
<i>All my hope on God is founded</i>	(CH4 192, CH3 405, MP 16)
<i>All things bright and beautiful</i>	(CH4 137, CH3 154, MP 23)
<i>Before the world began</i>	(CH4 317)
<i>Behold the amazing gift of love</i>	(CH4 478, CH3 396)
<i>Every new morning</i>	(CH4 213)
<i>For the beauty of the earth</i>	(CH4 181, CH3 367, MP 152)
<i>For the fruits of all creation</i>	(CH4 231, MP 153)
<i>God is love: let heaven adore him</i>	(CH4 123, MP 187)
<i>God, who made the earth</i>	(CH3 151)
<i>Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father</i>	(CH4 153, MP 200)
<i>He's got the whole wide world in his hands</i>	(MP 225)
<i>I love the sun</i>	(CH4 144)
<i>I waited patiently for God</i>	(CH4 31)
<i>Immortal, invisible, God only wise</i>	(CH4 132, CH3 32, MP 327)
<i>In heavenly love abiding</i>	(CH4 551, CH3 681, MP 331)
<i>Lord of all being, throned afar</i>	(CH4 125, CH3 34, MP 439)
<i>Love is the touch of intangible joy</i>	(CH4 115)
<i>Love divine, all loves excelling</i>	(CH4 519, CH3 437, MP 449)
<i>Loving Spirit, loving Spirit</i>	(CH4 597)
<i>Morning has broken</i>	(CH4 212, MP 467)
<i>My song is love unknown</i>	(CH4 399, CH3 224, MP 478)
<i>Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain</i>	(CH4 417, CH3 278)
<i>O God, you are my God alone</i>	(CH4 43)
<i>O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder</i>	(CH4 154, MP 506)
<i>O Love, how deep, how broad, how high</i>	(CH4 354, CH3 223)
<i>O love that wilt not let me go</i>	(CH4 557, CH3 677, MP 515)
<i>O the deep, deep love of Jesus</i>	(MP 522)
<i>Oh, the life of the world is a joy and a treasure</i>	(CH4 141)

<i>Praise, my soul, the King of heaven</i>	(CH4 160, CH3 360, MP 560)
<i>Praise to the Holiest in the height</i>	(CH4 378, CH3 238, MP 563)
<i>Praise to the Lord for the joys of the earth</i>	(CH4 165)
<i>Sing to the Lord a joyful song</i>	(CH4 184, CH3 366, MP 929)
<i>Summer suns are glowing</i>	(CH4 225, CH3 624)
<i>Tell me the old, old story</i>	(CH3 132, MP 628)
<i>'Tis winter now; the fallen snow</i>	(CH4 234, CH3 632)
<i>The great love of God is revealed in the Son</i>	(CH4 358, CH3 415)
<i>The King of Love my Shepherd is</i>	(CH4 462, CH3 388, MP 649)
<i>The Saviour died, but rose again</i>	(CH4 425, CH3 293)
<i>There's a wideness in God's mercy</i>	(CH4 187, CH3 218, MP 683)
<i>Think of a world without any flowers</i>	(CH4 155)
<i>Thy hand, O God, has guided</i>	(CH4 511, CH3 424, MP 705)
<i>To God be the glory! great things he hath done</i>	(CH4 512, CH3 374, MP 708)
<i>We sing the praise of him who died</i>	(CH4 405, CH3 258, MP 738)
<i>Who put the colours in the rainbow?</i>	(CH4 143)
<i>Yes, God is good</i>	(MP 786)

### Themes:

- 1 Giving begins with God
- 2 God's commitment to us

### Sample Order of Service:

Welcome and Call to Worship

Hymn *Immortal, invisible, God only wise*

Prayers of Approach

Word with the Children

Hymn *All things bright and beautiful*

Readings: Psalm 8: 1-9

Luke 15: 11-32

Hymn *There's a wideness in God's mercy*  
or *Yes, God is good*

Sermon 'GOD'S COMMITMENT TO US'

Hymn *Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father*

Offering

Prayers of Response

Hymn *All my hope on God is founded*

Benediction

## STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

### Bible Readings:

Genesis 1: 26-31; 2: 15-17  
 Psalms 8; 24; 96; 98; 148  
 Isaiah 2: 1-4; 5: 1-23  
 Jeremiah 2: 1-19; 22: 1-10  
 Amos 8: 1-14  
 Micah 4: 1-5; 6: 1-8  
 Matthew 21: 33-46; 25: 31-46  
 John 3: 16-17; 8: 12; 15: 1-17

### Contemporary Readings:

Appropriate contemporary readings will be found in the following anthologies:

<i>Harvest for the World</i>	Geoffrey Duncan for Christian Aid	Canterbury Press
<i>Seasons with the Spirit</i>	Ruth Harvey	CTBI
<i>Flowing Streams</i>	Donald Hilton	NCEC
<i>Liturgy of Life</i>	Donald Hilton	NCEC

### Hymns:

<i>Almighty Father of all things that be</i>	(CH4 497, CH3 451)
<i>Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation</i>	(CH4 261, CH3 507)
<i>For the healing of the nations</i>	(CH4 706)
<i>For your generous providing</i>	(CH4 655)
<i>Glory to God above</i>	(CH4 105)
<i>God in such love for us lent us this planet</i>	(CH4 240, MP 832)
<i>God of all ages and Lord for all time</i>	(MP 190)
<i>God, whose farm is all creation</i>	(CH4 226)
<i>Great God of every shining constellation</i>	(CH4 246)
<i>Inspired by love and anger</i>	(CH4 253)
<i>It's a world of sunshine, a world of rain</i>	(CH4 245)
<i>Jesus Christ is waiting</i>	(CH4 360)
<i>Longing for light, we wait in darkness</i>	(CH4 543)
<i>Lord bring the day to pass</i>	(CH4 238)
<i>Pears and apples, wheat and grapes</i>	(CH4 232)
<i>Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field</i>	(CH4 230)
<i>Sing for God's glory</i>	(CH4 172)
<i>Son of God, eternal Saviour</i>	(CH4 468, CH3 454)
<i>The earth is yours, O Lord</i>	(CH4 227)
<i>The voice of God goes out to all the world</i>	(CH4 283)
<i>Touch the earth lightly</i>	(CH4 243)
<i>We lay our broken world</i>	(CH4 721)



## STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

### Bible Readings:

Genesis 1: 14-19

Leviticus 23: 1-8

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

Haggai 1: 1-4

Mark 6: 30-32

Luke 4: 16-21; 10: 25-37; 10: 38-42

Acts 3: 1-10

Ephesians 5: 15-20

Colossians 4: 2-6

### Hymns:

<i>Abide with me: fast falls the eventide</i>	(CH4 580, CH3 695, MP 4)
<i>Awake, my soul, and with the sun</i>	(CH4 210, CH3 42, MP 804)
<i>Beneath the cross of Jesus</i>	(CH3 684, MP 55)
<i>Be still and know that I am God</i>	(CH4 755, MP 48)
<i>Be still, for the presence of the Lord</i>	(CH4 189, MP 50)
<i>Christ be beside me</i>	(CH4 577)
<i>Every new morning</i>	(CH4 213)
<i>Focus my eyes on you, O Lord</i>	(CH4 567)
<i>God be in my head, and in my understanding</i>	(CH4 538, CH3 433)
<i>Here from the world we turn, Jesus to seek</i>	(MP 228)
<i>King of glory, King of peace</i>	(CH3 364, MP 397)
<i>Like a mighty river flowing</i>	(MP 419)
<i>Look forward in faith</i>	(CH4 237)
<i>Lord, for the years</i>	(CH4 159, MP 428)
<i>Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy</i>	(CH4 166, CH3 92, MP 882)
<i>Lord of life, we come to you</i>	(CH4 782)
<i>May the mind of Christ my Saviour</i>	(CH4 536, CH3 432, MP 463)
<i>New every morning is the love</i>	(CH4 214, CH3 47, MP 480)
<i>O Jesus, I have promised</i>	(CH4 644, CH3 434, MP 501)
<i>Oh, for a closer walk with God</i>	(CH4 552, CH3 663, MP 494)
<i>I need thee every hour</i>	(CH4 556, CH3 688, MP 288)
<i>One more step along the world I go</i>	(CH4 530)
<i>Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise</i>	(CH4 221, CH3 649, MP 584)
<i>Seek ye first the kingdom of God</i>	(CH4 641, MP 590)
<i>Sweet is the work, my God, my King</i>	(MP 620)
<i>Take this moment, sign and space</i>	(CH4 501)
<i>Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord</i>	(MP 625)
<i>The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended</i>	(CH4 220, CH3 646, MP 641)
<i>This is the day</i>	(CH4 194, MP 691)
<i>Through the love of God, our Saviour</i>	(CH4 562, MP 704)
<i>Today I awake</i>	(CH4 211)
<i>Will your anchor hold in the storms of life</i>	(CH4 737, CH3 412, MP 770)



**Themes:**

- 1 Time for God
- 2 Time for work and time for leisure
- 3 Time for other people
- 4 Time for the Church

**Sample Order of Service:**

Welcome and Call to Worship

Hymn *Be still, for the presence of the Lord*  
or *Here from the world we turn, Jesus to seek*

Prayers of Approach

Word with the Children

Hymn *This is the day*  
or *Seek ye first the kingdom of God*

Readings: Leviticus 23: 1-6  
Luke 10: 38-42

Hymn *Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord*  
or *Focus my eyes on you, O Lord*

Sermon 'TIME FOR GOD'

Hymn *May the mind of Christ my Saviour*  
or *One more step along the world I go*

Offering

Prayers of Response

Hymn *Lord, for the years*  
or *O Jesus, I have promised*

Benediction

## STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

### Bible Readings:

Genesis 25: 19-28; 41: 1-36  
 Exodus 3: 1-12; 18: 13-27; 35: 10-19  
 1 Samuel 16: 1-13  
 Jeremiah 1: 4-10  
 Amos 7: 10-17  
 Jonah (*all four chapters*)  
 Matthew 25: 14-30  
 Mark 1: 16-20; 10: 35-45  
 Luke 9: 57-62; 19: 11-27  
 John 1: 35-42; 15: 1-17  
 Acts 6: 1-7  
 Romans 12: 1-21  
 1 Corinthians 12: 1-31  
 Galatians 5: 16-26

### Hymns:

<i>Almighty Father of all things that be</i>	(CH4 497, CH3 451)
<i>Angel voices, ever singing</i>	(CH4 498, CH3 455, MP 34)
<i>Brother, sister, let me serve you</i>	(CH4 694)
<i>God be in my head, and in my understanding</i>	(CH4 538, CH3 433)
<i>God gave me eyes so I could see</i>	(CH4 164)
<i>Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost</i>	(CH4 627, CH3 438, MP 198)
<i>Hands to work and feet to run</i>	(CH4 523, CH3 465)
<i>Humbly in your sight we come together, Lord</i>	(CH4 496)
<i>I, the Lord of sea and sky</i>	(CH4 251, MP 857)
<i>I'll go in the strength of the Lord</i>	(MP 862)
<i>Jesus Christ is waiting</i>	(CH4 360)
<i>Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all</i>	(CH4 351, CH3 228)
<i>Let us talents and tongues employ</i>	(CH4 673)
<i>Longing for light, we wait in darkness</i>	(CH4 543)
<i>Lord, make us servants of your peace</i>	(CH4 527)
<i>Lord, speak to me, that I may speak</i>	(CH4 542, CH3 485, MP 444)
<i>Make me a channel of your peace</i>	(CH4 528, MP 456)
<i>Praise the Lord, his glories show</i>	(CH4 152, CH3 359)
<i>Take my life, Lord, let it be</i>	(CH4 502, CH3 462, MP 624)
<i>Take this moment, sign and space</i>	(CH4 501)
<i>The Church is wherever God's people are praising</i>	(CH4 522, CH3 427)
<i>When I needed a neighbour, were you there</i>	(CH4 544)
<i>When, in our music, God is glorified</i>	(CH4 203)
<i>Ye holy angels bright</i>	(CH4 179, CH3 363, MP 783)
<i>Ye that know the Lord is gracious</i>	(CH4 642, CH3 593)

**Themes:**

- 1 God's call to service
- 2 Identifying our talents
- 3 Using our talents to advance the kingdom of God
- 4 The Church is a community of people with different talents

**Sample Order of Service:**

Welcome and Call to Worship

Hymn            *Angel voices, ever singing*  
                    *or Humbly in your sight, we come together*

Prayers of Approach

Word for the Children

Hymn            *Jesus' hands were kind hands*  
                    *or Hands to work and feet to run*

Reading:        Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Meditation:    *God calls us to service by helping us identify our talents*

Hymn            *Lord, speak to me, that I may speak*  
                    *or I, the Lord of sea and sky*

Reading:        Matthew 25: 14-30

Meditation:    *God expects us to use the talents he has given*

Hymn            *Take my life, Lord, let it be*  
                    *or Longing for light, we wait in darkness*

Offering

Prayers of Response

Hymn            *Praise the Lord, his glories show*  
                    *or Ye holy angels bright*

Benediction

## STEWARDSHIP OF MONEY AND POSSESSIONS

### Bible Readings:

Exodus 36: 2-7

Leviticus 19: 9-10; 25: 8-17; 27: 30-33

Deuteronomy 14: 22-29; 15: 7-11; 16: 9-12; 26: 1-15

Ruth 2: 1-7

1 Chronicles 29: 1-9

Nehemiah 10: 32-39

Malachi 3: 8-12

Matthew 6: 24-34

Luke 12: 13-21; 18: 18-25; 19: 1-27; 21: 1-4

Acts 2: 43-47; 4: 32 to 5: 11; 11: 19-30

1 Corinthians 16: 1-4

2 Corinthians 8: 1-15; 9: 1-15

### Hymns:

<i>Brother, sister, let me serve you</i>	(CH4 694)
<i>Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation</i>	(CH4 261, CH3 507)
<i>For the healing of the nations</i>	(CH4 706)
<i>For your generous providing</i>	(CH4 655)
<i>From heaven you came, helpless babe</i>	(CH4 374, MP 162)
<i>God of all ages and Lord for all time</i>	(MP 190)
<i>Heaven shall not wait</i>	(CH4 362)
<i>Inspired by love and anger</i>	(CH4 253)
<i>Longing for light, we wait in darkness</i>	(CH4 543)
<i>Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to thee</i>	(CH3 458)
<i>Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field</i>	(CH4 230)
<i>Son of God, eternal Saviour</i>	(CH4 468, CH3 454)
<i>Teach me to live, day by day</i>	(MP 627)
<i>We thank thee, Lord, for all thy gifts</i>	(CH3 631)
<i>When I survey the wondrous cross</i>	(CH4 392, CH3 254, MP 755)
<i>Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness</i>	(CH4 201, CH3 40)

### Also:

Additional hymns and other worship resources will be found in  
*First Fruits – A Worship Anthology on Generosity and Giving*  
 Compiled by Adrian Mann, Robin Stevens and John Willmington  
 (Canterbury Press 2001)

Particularly appropriate hymns in this anthology are:

<i>A rich young man came seeking</i>	(Marjorie Dobson)
<i>God is the giver of all things that are</i>	(Timothy Dudley-Smith)
<i>God of love, your pilgrim people</i>	(Janet Wootton)
<i>God, who came in Jesus</i>	(Janet Wootton)

<i>How privileged we are</i>	(Martin Leckebusch)
<i>If this is not our world</i>	(Christopher Idle)
<i>Jesus lived a simple life-style</i>	(Marjorie Dobson)
<i>Long ago you taught your people</i>	(Martin Leckebusch)
<i>Lord, you call us to your service</i>	(Marjorie Dobson)
<i>When love is stamped on every coin</i>	(Elizabeth Cosnett)
<i>Yours the greatness, Lord, the glory</i>	(David Mowbray)

**Themes:**

- 1 Called to share
- 2 Generosity and sacrifice
- 3 Tithes and freewill offerings
- 4 Jubilee
- 5 What does God expect?

**Sample Order of Service:**

Welcome and Call to Worship

Hymn            *Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*  
                       or *God of all ages and Lord of all time*

Prayers of Approach

Word with the Children

Hymn            *We thank thee, Lord, for all thy gifts*  
                       or *A rich young man came seeking*

('First Fruits' p.78 –  
Tune: Aurelia, CH4 739)

Readings:    2 Corinthians 8: 1-15

                      Luke 12: 13-21

Hymn            *Teach me to live, day by day*  
                       or *For your generous providing*

Sermon        'CALLED TO SHARE'

Hymn            *We give thee but thine own*  
                       or *How privileged we are*

('First Fruits' p.88 –  
any short metre tune)

Offering

Prayers of Response

Hymn            *Son of God, eternal Saviour*  
                       or *Lord, you call us to your service*

('First Fruits' p.102 –  
Tune: Angel Voices,  
CH4 498)

Benediction

## DEDICATING THE OFFERING

In the context of Christian Stewardship the dedication of the offering is a very important part of worship. Two aspects of this part of our worship are worth noting.

First, the offering of money is symbolic of our offering of our whole selves to God for his service. The wording of a prayer of dedication should, on some occasions at least, specifically reflect our giving of time and talent, as well as our giving of money. It should always make the connection between money and our whole selves. The words of the first verse of CH3 458, *Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to thee*, are a good example of this connection and provide a fine prayer for dedicating the offering.

Second, the money in the plates or bags at worship is not the total offering of money from the congregations. Many members now make their offering as a standing order from their bank account to the congregation's bank account. For a number of reasons this method of giving should be welcomed. The dedication of the offering at worship should reflect the fact that what is physically offered on Sunday is not the total offering of money. On some occasions there could be specific mention of standing orders. The following is a possible form of words:

*Living and loving God,  
through cash and cheque,  
through envelope and standing order,  
we offer our money to you  
as part of our giving  
to the service of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

## CONCLUSION

I hope that these 'Worship Resources' will stimulate thinking on the use of Christian Stewardship themes in worship. As these are mainly my thoughts and my suggestions, I should welcome comments from those who use these 'Worship Resources'. I should also welcome suggestions that might be included in a future revision.

*Gordon D Jamieson  
Head of Stewardship*

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