# Sample Worship Template for Guaranteed Livable Income Sunday, October 17, 2021

*Please also read* [*Guaranteed Livable Income Sunday Guide*](https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/international-day-eradication-poverty)*.*

*The Moderator has* [*recorded sections*](https://youtu.be/5dXOzVDchyo) *marked \* for use in online worship (youtu.be/5dXOzVDchyo).*

## Prelude

VU 582 There’s a Spirit in the Air

## \*Welcome

On this 29th United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, we come together as church to call to mind the divine community that God imagines for all God’s people. A community of love, justice, dignity, and full participation. A world without poverty. In Canada, nearly 5 million people live in poverty. One effort toward God’s kin-dom is the call for a Guaranteed Livable Income program. Together may we reflect on the Word and be moved into the world.

## Territorial Acknowledgment

## \*Call to Worship

We gather together  
as grateful people seeking Christ’s Word made new  
for this time and this place.

We gather together  
to do all we can to live the Creator’s intention  
of community of right relations,  
of community of peace.

We gather together  
ready to act as the Spirit guides us.  
With our seeking, our living, our acting,  
we worship God.

*―Right Rev. Richard Bott, inspired by a prayer by Hallett Llewellyn (Rev. Dr.)*

## Opening Prayer

Good, gracious God:  
As we thank you for each precious breath,   
breathe on us the Spirit of liberty, that it move to extend us to do justice, love kindness, and move humbly―  
with and for thy creation, thy peoples, thy liberation from oppressions, inequalities,  
indignities, and insecurities of inadequate basics, including thus a livable income.  
In the accompanying name of the Anointed One and those before us, ahead of us, and beside us.  
Let it be. Amen.

*―Rev. Barry Morris, Longhouse Council of Native Ministry, Vancouver*

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

(*light the candle*) May the spark of Christ shine in you.

## Hymn

VU 603 In Loving Partnership We Come

## Prayer of Confession

Creator God, we approach you  
knowing that in response to  
our wayward ways  
you come running,  
welcoming our return with intimate embrace   
as a child a parent  
as a hen her chicks  
offering your  
divine compassion to hear and see  
our basic needs

We come confessing  
our complicity and ineptness of care  
in a world where  
the neighbour’s  
daily not enough  
is overshadowed by  
the fleshpots of  
those who have too much,  
and we need your  
heavenly Spirit of distribution  
to heal and save us

Prophets and seers of your Spirit  
truth-sayers in your name  
foretell  
a new day and time  
when the inequities and injustices  
of our making  
the sins of commission and omission  
of our doing  
will be no more  
and then justice will run down like a mighty stream

Loaves and fishes God  
with that vision before us  
we pray for restoration  
remove the selfishness and greed  
from our existence  
till  
that great meal  
of generosity in your day  
is repeated in  
every village and town  
of this nation  
for all your children  
of whatever race, colour, or orientation

And then may we  
go to our beds at night  
knowing that when we  
rise in the morning  
there will be bread for the belly  
shelter for the body  
respect for our living  
and  
dignity for our being

O God of Restless Spirit  
stir the powers that be  
in our land  
of whatever stripe or party or place  
to make laws that are freeing  
policies that bring healing  
decisions that honour our being  
for the sake of the world you so love

Amen

―*Hallett Llewellyn (Rev. Dr.)*

## Prayer for Wholeness (responsive)

God be with us.  
 **Guide us, and bless us  
 as we gather today.**God be with us.  
 **As we search and struggle to hear what you are calling us to do.**God be with us.  
 **As we try to live out that which Jesus showed us was right.**God be with us.  
 **As you were in the past, as you are in the present.**God be with us, guide us, and bless us.  
 **For all the tomorrows to come.**May we be with God as God is with us. Amen

*―Rev. Bonnie Morton, Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry*

## Assurance

## Scripture Readings Related to Guaranteed Livable Income Theme

(*Select a few.*)

Amos 5:4‒15   
Micah 4:1‒5  
Mark 3:20‒21, 31‒35  
Mark 5:21‒43  
Mark 6:30‒46  
Matthew 20:1‒15  
1 Corinthians 12:21‒26  
Acts 4:32‒35

**Reflections**Draw on guaranteed livable income sermons and theological rationale ([see worship resources](https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/international-day-eradication-poverty)) or invite one or more speakers. The Dialogue and Discussion section of the [Guaranteed Livable Income Sunday Guide](https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/international-day-eradication-poverty) includes links to videos of basic income advocates who have experience of poverty and some of basic income. Listening to these stories is an excellent starting point to then reflect on the Word in this context.

## Hymn

MV 178 Who Is My Mother

## Prayers of the People

God of all peoples,  
Creator of a grand cosmos and tiny infants,  
Source of nurture and creation,  
you call us into relationship with each other.

We remain in our own judgment  
when we turn away from those of us who suffer  
in the midst of affluence and pandemic  
and the struggle to survive.

Open us to the cries of others   
and our hearts to your persuasive Spirit.  
May we acknowledge the needs among us  
and advocate for the fair distribution of resources.

May we learn the politics of justice and adequacy,  
that we may act with justice,  
love kindness, and move with humility.

Today we remember all who struggle to survive.  
We specifically hold in our hearts  
low-income racialized communities,  
who have experienced the most challenges with COVID.

We pray for our political leaders,  
that they act with compassion  
as they are asked to give leadership  
to implement a guaranteed livable income.

Remind us, Holy Wisdom, that through your love  
we encounter in each person, friend, or stranger  
Christ’s light and love in the world.

Grant that we may promote the justice and acceptance  
that enables peace, a true shalom.  
Help us to remember that we are one world and one family.  
Amen

*―GLI prayer, Rev. Susan Eagle, Chair, Shining Waters Social and Ecological Justice Commission, with Barry Rieder, Jane Finch Community Ministry*

## Hymn

VU 595 The Servant Song (We Are Pilgrims)

## Benediction

## Postlude

VU 218 We Praise You, O God

## Dialogue and Discussion and Common Action: An Essential Component

See [Guaranteed Livable Income Sunday Guide](https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days/international-day-eradication-poverty) for discussion and common action ideas to incorporate into your planning, as well as more info on the guaranteed livable income and additional music ideas.

*We gratefully acknowledge worship resources shared by St. Thomas Wesley and Knox United Churches (Saskatoon), Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry, and members of the United Church Guaranteed Livable Income network who contributed to this worship resource.*