

Your economy, God, Your whole creation, is balanced delicately on love. Teach us to order our affairs according to your principles of profit and loss and so return Your investment (by your grace) with interest.

Your Name be glorified, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,

alive and at work in your world.

Help us to follow and find you there

in the place where we meet people,

spend money, and make our plans.

Take us as disciples of your kingdom

to see through your eyes

to hear the questions you are asking

to welcome all people with your trust and truth

and to change the things that contradict God's love

by the power of your cross

and by the freedom of your spirit.

Amen.

Hymn

Blessing

May God bless your work.

May your labours not be in vain.

May you rejoice to find today

Your creator working with you

and see your work in heaven restored

to glory in the new creation.

And the blessing of God almighty

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

rest on you, the people working with you,

and all whom you love

and for whom you pray,

this day and always.

WORSHIP FOR WORK

We believe

that we have to search for the truth,
be brave enough to proclaim it,
and realise that we need one another to build community.

Intercessions

Creator God, You have invested the capital of the universe to be returned with interest –

Your Name be glorified

And humankind (itself a product of Your Spirit's life) is chief executor of all Your wealth. In keeping Your accounts, the laws of Your economy apply.

In Your economy, God, there has to be sustained growth, profit, value added to basic commodities land to be tilled, wheat ground, food processed, mines to be worked, seas crossed for trade.

So work has value in Your economy – and the worker stands with You in common enterprise and finds community and purpose in the work.

Your Name be glorified

But profit is not all – or rather, it is calculated on Your principles. It is possible to gain a world of wealth, and yet to lose the soul. We need to learn the soul's need to recreate itself through work and rest, honour Your image in each other as we ply our trade and balance our accounts.

Your Name be glorified

In Your economy, debt is no burden, the debt we owe is cancelled long ago. The debts we owe each other are to be lent in kindness, payment taken honourably, without oppression and, at need, cancelled in love's joyful jubilee.

For work we do in solitude;
for work that we can share,
We give thanks, O Lord.

For work that is good and wholesome;
for work that satisfies,
We give thanks, O Lord.

To God, creator and redeemer,
giver of life and hope,
sustainer and restorer,
We give thanks, now and always.
Amen.

Hymn

Reading

We believe

In a God of justice, tender to the poor and oppressed,
who hears their cries;
creating, loving, redeeming throughout history.

We believe

In the Son of God, made human. He suffered and died,
because He challenged and upset the powers of his day.

We believe

In the Spirit of God, the Spirit who gives life and joy,
who moves us, touches us and keeps us going.

We believe

that people are born to lead fulfilling, creative
and productive lives.
We believe that unemployment and frustrating work
are a denial of God's image in us.

Gathering

You are the light of the world. Let your light shine in the presence of
others so that they notice the good work you do and give glory to
your heavenly Father.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Collect

O Lord extend our vision, our clearness of sight.
Open our eyes to see beyond the obvious,
To perceive that this is your world.
You are in it,
You invade it,
you pervade it,
you enfold it,
it is immersed in you,
there we meet you,
there you come to us,
there your presence waits to be revealed.

A Psalm for Working People

I will give thanks to the Lord at all times,
His praise will be always on my tongue,
whatever the work of the day,
in it shall I find my God.

When I offer my work to the Lord,
the Lord will be there to bless it.
When I look at the work in my hands,
there, also, is the Lord.

When I am proud of my own accomplishments,
the Lord will laugh at my arrogance.
When I am foolish,
the Lord will lead me like a child.

*I will give thanks to the Lord at all times,
His praise will be always on my tongue.
Whatever the work of the day,
in it shall I find my God.*

When I find myself in despair and the way is dark,
then will the Lord be with me in the darkness.
When I have done wrong and would hide it,
the Lord is there ready with forgiveness.

When strategies oppress my spirit,
the Spirit of the Lord will uplift me.
Whatever policies direct my path,
I will find the Lord on that path with me.

*I will give thanks to the Lord at all times,
His praise will be always on my tongue.
Whatever the work of the day,
in it shall I find my God.*

When targets stretch me to breaking point,
the tensile strength of the Lord will uphold me,
When the demands are overwhelming,
then will the Lord support me.

When I have failed, let me not be ashamed,
but turn to the Lord for renewal and hope.
When I am faced with discouragement,
then will I find the promise of the Lord.

*I will give thanks to the Lord at all times,
His praise will be always on my tongue.
Whatever the work of the day,
in it shall I find my God.*

When the work is creative and challenging,
then will I give thanks to the Creator God.
When the work requires my imagination,
then will I give thanks for vision.

When the work demands new ways of thinking,
then will I thank the Lord for new insights.
When the work takes me into new places,
then will I rejoice in new understanding.

*I will give thanks to the Lord at all times,
His praise will be always on my tongue.
Whatever the work of the day,
in it shall I find my God.*

Dorrie Johnson, published in All Year Round 2003 CTBI pp184/185

That we have work,
We give thanks, O Lord.

For work that needs our gifts and abilities;
for work that stretches and expands us,
We give thanks, O Lord.

For work that raises our expectations;
for work done by others as a gift to us,
We give thanks, O Lord.

For work that we can offer as a gift to others;
for work done by others as a gift to us,
We give thanks, O Lord.