

## Prayers for a Just and Compassionate Budget: July 20, 2011

### “Working Together to End Hunger”

*Worship Prepared by the National Council of Churches USA for the WISC Community*

#### **I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table**

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, I'm gonna eat at the welcome table one of these days, Hallelujah! I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, I'm gonna eat at the welcome table one of these days.

(All Sisters, All Brothers, All Children)

#### **Litany**

One: For the pregnant mother who works the night shift to feed her family, and the about 400,000 other pregnant mothers whose WIC food assistance might end.

**Many: She's gonna eat at the welcome table.**

One: For the boy who cannot concentrate on his homework because his family had to skip dinner, and for all the children whose families could lose about \$150 worth of food stamps per month.

**Many: He's gonna eat at the welcome table.**

One: For the one in four Latino and African American families that struggle to put food on the table, and for one in seven U.S. families overall.

**Many: *Everybody's* gonna eat at the welcome table.**

One: For our families, friends, and faith communities who go hungry or serve hungry people. At this time I invite you to pray silently for them or speak their names out loud.

**Many: We're all gonna eat at the welcome table. Amen.**

**Scripture** Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31:8-9)

**Prayer of Confession** (Adapted from UMH 893)

One: God, we confess our day to day failure to be truly just and compassionate.

**Many: God, we confess to you.**

One: God, we confess we often fail to love with all we have and are, often because we are afraid of taking a risk.

**Many: God, we confess to you.**

One: God, we confess our selfishness and lack of sympathy.

**Many: We have stifled generosity and left little for others.**

One: Spirit, speak to us. Help us listen to your word of forgiveness, and go forth with new hearts. Amen.

**Words of Motivation** (Fighting Poverty with Faith)

**Word of Assurance and Sending:**

**Many: May God hear our words and forgive, yet deny us an easy peace. May God grant us instead, passion, a revolutionary passion that spills over into the world in acts of compassion and love, justice and integrity. Let us go in the spirit and way of God, who is the source of our strength and passion. Amen.**

**I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

*African-American Spiritual*

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
(Work, Pray, Sing)

*You can access the Fighting Poverty with Faith action toolkit at:*

*<http://fightingpovertywithfaith.com/f2/actiontoolkits/>*