

# Christ, Be Our Light

BY BERNADETTE FARRELL

\*VERSES (♩ = ca. 132)

1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

(1) truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 (2) hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 (3) wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 (4) warmth, man - y are cold. Let us your build - ing,  
 (5) hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

(1) your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 (2) has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 (3) bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 (4) shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 (5) to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

2 REFRAIN

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

church gath - ered to - day.

## Free Resource

This worship bulletin is available, free of charge in any quantity, to use as a resource for your church's Offering of Letters this spring or summer. The reverse side includes a sample letter to Congress as well as coupon for requesting additional information from Bread for the World. Offering of Letters kits—with a 28-page handbook and a 10-minute DVD—are still available for only \$10. You can order these resources by visiting [www.breadstore.org](http://www.breadstore.org). Using your Bread for the World membership number will speed delivery.

*"Taking the five loaves and the two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled." — Mark 6:41-42*

With five loaves and two fish offered in faith, Jesus fed thousands. When we turn our faith into action, God uses our voices. Our actions are multiplied.

Schools, farming tools, basic medicines, and clean water—these resources are helping the world's poorest people in Africa and elsewhere to break the cycle of poverty and build new lives for their families.

This is happening because people of faith have been writing letters to their representatives in Congress. They've told their elected officials that helping our neighbors—whether near or far away—is the right thing to do.

Real progress has been made in reducing hunger. Still, nearly one billion people live on less than \$1 a day. In 2000, every nation of the world, including the United States, pledged to work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), ending extreme poverty by 2015.

Bread for the World's 2008 Offering of Letters campaign urges our nation's leaders to keep this promise. Specifically, Bread for the World is calling on Congress to provide more funding for anti-poverty assistance—an increase of at least \$5 billion, which would be invested in agriculture, education and health care.

Bread for the World is also seeking better development assistance—by urging passage of the Global Poverty Act. This historic legislation would coordinate U.S. assistance so that the greatest possible benefit is most effectively reaching those in greatest need.

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live. [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

## Plan now to Start a JustFaith Group in the Fall

The spring and summer months are an ideal time to recruit a leader and participants for a JustFaith group this fall in your church. These small groups engage in biblical reflection, focused discussions, and hands-on experiences that foster engagement in social justice. This study program is being co-sponsored by Bread for the World and JustFaith. For more information—including details about an orientation session near you—visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).



WOODCUT BY HELEN SIEGL

**Bread for the World** is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. God's grace in Jesus Christ moves us to help our neighbors, whether they live in the next house, the next state or the next continent. By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities where we live.

## BFW Staff Can Help

Bread for the World's staff can offer tips on letter writing, brief you on legislation, assist your church's hunger ministry, and put you in touch with others who are working on these issues.

**Bread for the World National Office:**  
1-800-822-7323

### Church Relations Staff

- **Danielle Mutone-Smith**, Sr. Associate for Church Outreach

### Regional Organizers in National Office

- **Elise Young**, Central/Mid-Atlantic Organizer

### Bread for the World Regional Offices

- **Mariah Priggen** (1-800-447-0239) Illinois, Indiana and Missouri Organizer
- **David Gist** (1-800-315-3239) California Organizer
- **Matt Newell-Ching** (1-888-752-7323) Western Organizer ([mnewellching@bread.org](mailto:mnewellching@bread.org))
- **Ricardo Moreno** (1-800-315-3239) Organizer for Latino Relations
- **Tamela Walhof** (1-800-363-7239) Upper Midwest Organizer
- **Suzanne Berman and Seth Wispelwey** (1-888-257-0239) Texas and Oklahoma Organizers
- **Elizabeth Coleman** (1-888-239-0073) Southeast Organizer
- **Larry Hollar** (1-800-619-9239) North Central Organizer
- **Derrick Boykin** (1-866-238-0507) Northeast Organizer



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

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# Hunger Sunday



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## Dealing with the Root Causes of Hunger

# Easter and God's New Creation

In almost every church in the United States, there is at least one offering or collection a year to support emergency hunger appeals or church-related relief agencies. This outpouring of contributions enables Catholic Relief Services, Church World Service, Lutheran World Relief, and dozens of other well-managed organizations to send tens of millions of dollars of food and medicines that helps save lives in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

But these organizations do much more than meet emergency needs for food. Through innovative initiatives,

they help farmers to grow more food, provide health care to keep people well enough to work, and make it possible for boys and girls to school. Remarkably effective programs are enabling hungry people in Africa, Asia, and Latin American to feed their families and make a living.

Many of these practical measures that address the root causes of hunger are funded by poverty-focused development assistance offered by the United States and other countries.

Poverty-focused development assistance enables church-related agencies—as well as organizations like Care and UNICEF—to sustain long-term projects to improve agriculture, education, and health care. There is also critical support for the Child Survival Program, the oral rehydration and vaccination efforts which that have saved millions of young lives. And this assistance provides medicines that help stop the spread of AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

As part of the Millennium Development Goals, 189 nations—including the United States—have agreed to increase this kind of development assistance. The goal of cutting hunger in half by 2015 is achievable because poverty-focused aid has already proven to be so effective.

That's why, in 2008, Bread for the World is working with churches and other religious organizations to

persuade our nation's leaders to increase poverty-focused development assistance by \$5 billion. These efforts grow out of the church's social teachings and demonstrate our solidarity with those who suffer and are in need. The Easter message of God's new creation sets forth a vision of abundance and sufficiency for all. The Spirit of the Risen Christ inspires and equips us to make sure that all people have fair and just opportunities to make a living and feed their families.

To learn about Bread for the World's 2008 Offering of Letters and how you can take action to help end hunger in God's world, visit [www.bread.org/action](http://www.bread.org/action).



PHOTO © MARGARET W. NEA

**Getting—and keeping—kids in school in Africa, Asia, and Latin America is one of the most effective long-term solutions to hunger and poverty.**

## Offering of Letters Bulletin Announcement

This spring, our congregation—along with other churches across the country—is taking action that addresses the root causes of hunger. We are urging our nation's leaders to provide more and better poverty-focused development assistance for Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This increased aid will build schools, health clinics, and wells for clean water—providing the resources that will enable hungry people to feed themselves. To learn more about this effort, visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

## Making your Voice Heard in Washington, D.C. on Behalf of Hungry People

Churches across the country have scheduled an Offerings of Letters for a Sunday or set of Sundays this spring or early summer. These handwritten letters to members of Congress have a big impact because senators and representatives receive so little communication about hungry and poor people—especially letters where a constituent has taken the time to write a personal note.

As effective as these letters are, more extensive and personal efforts are essential for persuading our elected officials to change policies and programs to benefit hungry people. Here are some additional ways you can communicate with your members of Congress:

1) The spring and summer months are an ideal time to arrange a face-to-face meeting with your representative. She or he is likely to return to your district on a regular basis, especially on weekends. The representative's local office can arrange for a meeting. Often these meetings can involve several members from your congregation—or from a number of churches. You can find your representative by going to Bread's website, [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org), and choosing "Take Action".

These face-to-face meetings are immensely influential because you'll have an opportunity to present more information and respond to questions. Often one or more Congressional staff persons will join the representative, and they will receive any printed materials that bolster your case.

Bread for the World staff can help you set up and prepare for these meetings. Contact your regional organizer or call 1-800-822-7323.

2) Plan to participate in Bread for the World's Lobby Day on June 17, 2008. Some congregations send a delegation each year for this in-depth experience in citizenship. Special training is provided and visits with Senators and Representatives are arranged. Lobby Day concludes with a reception in the Capitol and closing worship. For more details, visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

3) Phone calls to your members of Congress can be especially effective because you can make contact at exactly the time when your opinion will have the greatest impact. When you call the Capitol switchboard, you will be quickly connected to the office of your representative or senators. In most cases, you'll talk with a staff

member who will take your message. In other cases, you'll reach voice mail and be asked to leave a message. Only very rarely (the good news and the bad news) will you ever speak with your senators or representative. But all phone calls are carefully logged and monitored. Repeatedly, we hear from Congressional offices about an upsurge in phone calls about pending legislation.

Ideally, your face-to-face meetings and your phone calls will relate to specific legislation or committee hearings. When you go to [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) to get the names of your representative and senators, you will also find suggested language and other recommendations—both for letter writing and for more personal communication with your elected officials.

### How to contact your member of Congress:

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Capitol Switchboard:  
202-224-3121

Visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) for news about pending legislation and the names of your members of Congress.



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## Worship that Lifts Up Justice for Hungry People

Bread for the World churches have found wonderful ways to highlight justice for the world's poor and hungry people by weaving this message into worship. Through prayer, communion, sermons and music, churches across the country are lifting up to God the needs of hungry people each week.

Many churches use prayer to center their concern for hungry sisters and brothers. In its printed and web-based resources, Bread for the World includes prayers and litanies based on the church calendar or specific themes, such as the Millennium Development Goals. A section of the Offering of Letters kit provides worship materials. Bread for the World Sunday resources are designed to help churches lift up those who are hungry in worship.

At the right is an excerpt from a special prayer by former Bread for the World intern, Emily Kuhn. She prepared this litany in recognition of the world's reaching the halfway point to the Millennium Development Goals.

Music in worship is one of the most powerful ways to highlight God's concern for hungry and poor people. Hymns such as "We Are Called" and "Lord of Feasting and of Hunger" proclaim God's concern and call for our response. Another such song, "Christ, Be Our Light" by Bernadette Farrell, is a powerful example of how music can illuminate Christ's message of peace and concern for the poor, hungry, thirsty and broken. In the third verse, the song calls on God to make us living bread

to heal the hunger in the world:

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others.  
Shared until all are fed.

The music and lyrics of "Christ, Be Our Light" are included in this issue of *Hunger Sunday* for use in your church.

Many churches also include hymns from around the world when focusing on issues of hunger and poverty. In this way we remember we are connected through Christ to those near and far who struggle for food and subsistence.

Hymns from other cultures that can be found in the various denominational hymnals as well as online. One such resource, provided by Global Ministries of the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ, catalogs hymns from other cultures. Visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org) and choose "World Communion Sunday" under the resources section.

Throughout the year, Bread for the World will continue to provide new worship resources through *Hunger Sunday* as well as on our website. We welcome receiving any stories, pictures, or other resources (liturgies, sermon text, prayers) that we might share with others.

In April, Bread for World will launch a new monthly email to pastors—with lectionary reflections on food and justice and other worship resources. If you or your pastor is interested in receiving this email, please contact Danielle Mutone-Smith at [dmutonessmith@bread.org](mailto:dmutonessmith@bread.org).

**LEADER:** When Israel wandered in the wilderness, God showed them the way to go by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. At the halfway point to target date of 2015, let us pray for the Millennium Development Goals, for all combined efforts to achieve those goals, for all people in need, and for God's guidance along the path to achieving these goals.

(moment of silence)

God of all nations, we join our voices with those all around the world who long for justice and equality for all the earth. As we step back this year to examine our efforts,

**PEOPLE:** Show us, O God, the way to go from here.

### Goal #1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

**LEADER:** We pray for the eradication of extreme poverty,

**READER:** For all those people living on less than \$1 a day,

**READER:** For all those people who are chronically hungry,

**READER:** And for those individuals living in poverty and areas of the world we now name. (pause)

**LEADER:** As we step back this year to examine our efforts,

**PEOPLE:** Show us, O God, the way to go from here.

(For the full prayer, visit [www.bread.org/church](http://www.bread.org/church))

## Christ, Be Our Light

BY BERNADETTE FARRELL

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ be our light!*

*Shine in your Church gathered today.*

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others.  
Shared until all are fed.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others  
walls made of living stone.

5. Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

**Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)**



*Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx*, will present a reflection for preaching. This and other resources for worship will be available in July 2008.