



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Best Gift



—BLESSING OUR BEST GIFTS—

LEADER Lord, giver of every good and perfect gift, we honor you for amazing grace, and we lift our hearts in praise. For in Bethlehem, you gave heaven's Best Gift and flooded creation with joy. Angels spoke, shepherds quaked, the heavenly host rejoiced in song. Today we join their perfect chorus, for Christ, the Lord, has come.

PEOPLE Giver of every good and perfect gift, Lord, we give you praise.

LEADER Like the Magi bowing on knees of grace, we offer our treasures to you—hearts overflowing like the swollen Jordan and lives brimming with joy. Receive our praise and the work of our hands, and bless these gifts, our gracious response to the life we have found in you.

PEOPLE For every good and perfect gift, Lord, we praise your name.

LEADER For clean water, a river of life flowing through deserts and dry places to quench the thirst and cleanse the wounds of your children, our brothers and sisters far from us, yet close to you and dear to us. Your children who reach with outstretched hands, to share and serve in mercy and love to the glory of your name.

PEOPLE Lord, bless our outstretched hands, that we might share your abundant gifts.

LEADER For care of children—schools and blankets and nutritious meals; toys and trinkets and brand-new books; safe places to sleep and play and learn; for entire communities of mothers and fathers, of elders and teachers, of leaders and seekers trusting you for their daily bread,

PEOPLE Lord of hosts, rain your blessing upon these gifts for our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

LEADER For seeds of food and the seed of faith, planted in gardens and watered with tears of patience and love; for bent backs and tired limbs and weathered hands gripping sharp tools to till the soil; for the rich, dark earth beneath their feet and the future harvest of vegetable and fruits to share in communion with family and friend,

PEOPLE We pray for your blessings and your watchful eye.

LEADER And, finally Lord, for your kingdom come, may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,

ALL Amen.

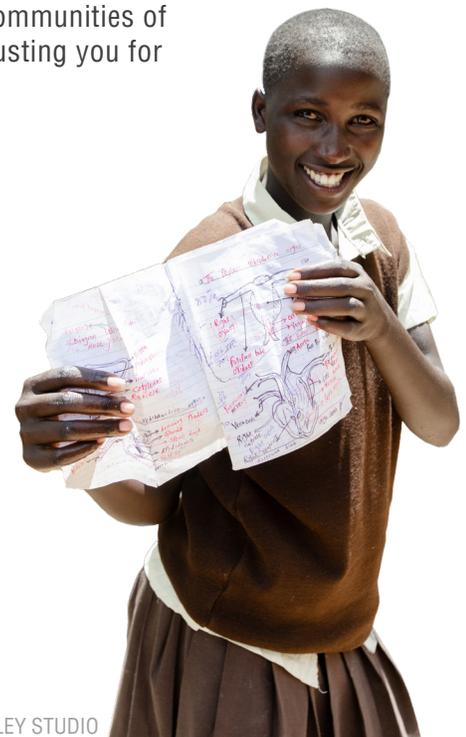


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