

## LITANY FOR A DEEPER ECONOMY

*Adapted by Jim O'Bold from an original litany by Fran Pratt, "Litany for Money: A Deeper Economy."*

God, you created humanity, and humanity exists in an economy based on money. People are suffering economically in many ways due to the pandemic. People are losing their jobs. People are getting evicted from their homes. People are getting sick and have hospital bills. People are dying from COVID-19 and not providing needed income to family and loved ones. People are losing physical connections with others that can help. People are using up valuable economic margin that will affect their future.

We acknowledge that money profoundly affects our lives. We acknowledge that dealing with money requires our attention and effort. We acknowledge that the love of money is a root of evil. We acknowledge our temptation toward greed. We acknowledge that money and hard work are linked. We acknowledge that money and privilege are linked. We acknowledge that poverty is an ongoing problem, and that your heart is for the poor.

We remember the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25. We remember the Parables of the Treasure and the Pearl in Matthew 6. We remember Jesus talked about money as much as he talked about the kingdom in the four gospels. Whether we currently see the world from a position of scarcity or abundance, money and stewardship seem worthy of prayer.

We confess our love of money. We confess our equating money with power and status. We confess our squandering of resources. We confess our hesitance to risk, to invest, and to have faith. We confess our obsession with possessions. We confess our worry when needs arise. We confess our jealousy of the riches of others.

Give us our daily bread. Give us enough, but not too much. Give us treasure that moth and rust do not destroy. Give us riches of life, relationships, and joy. Give us wisdom to handle money in ways that reflect your character.

Help us to steward well that which you choose to give us authority over. Help us to have healthy attitudes towards money, to neither disregard nor idolize it. Help us to use our money for your kingdom work. Help us to care for the needy, the orphan, and the lonely. Help us to be generous, as you have been generous towards us. Help us to be disciplined and work hard, and be rewarded accordingly. Help us to save for times of need, and for pleasure. Help us to trust in your care and provision.

May we, your children, exist in a deeper economy; not an economy based on money or power, but on grace. May we live, not from scarcity, but from the abundance of your kingdom. Amen.