



Anthem: "Come Labor On"

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1813-97, *alt.*

John Ferguson

Based on ORA LABORA

by Thomas Tertius Noble, 1867-1953

"Inspired by the gospel parables that liken the coming of God's kingdom to the sowing of seed and harvesting of grain (see Matt. 9:37-38; Matt. 13; John 4:35-38), the text calls us to work for God's cause even in the face of Satan's opposition. Because our earthly time is limited, we must use our resources wisely and be diligent in our kingdom tasks until we hear the final "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21).¹

Read the anthem text to understand the special call to work as a Harvester for God's Kingdom.

Anthem Text

Come labor on. Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
While all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say, "Go work today."

Come labor on. Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
To young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly. The night draws nigh.

Come labor on. Away with gloomy doubts and fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here;
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill God's will, God's righteous will.

Come labor on. No time for rest, till grows the western sky,
Till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
And a glad sound comes with the setting sun, "Well done, well done!"

There is Harvest Work for everyone. Here are a few examples.

A homebound person writes handwritten cards with encouraging messages and scripture for those on a prayer list.

A shopper hands a check-out employee an FUMC invitation card and asks him or her to come worship if not already attending a church.

FUMC's Opportunity for Service booklet readily provides many various ways to become a Harvest Worker.

Bible scholar William Barclay wrote, "There are many tasks in the Kingdom, the task of him who must go out and the task of him who must stay at home, the task of him who must use his hands and the task of him who must use his mind, the task which will fasten the eyes of all upon the doer and the task which no one will ever see. And always Jesus' eyes are searching the crowds for those who will do his work."

Personal Questions: How can I purposely spread God's love?

How can my actions be identified as sharing God's love and message of hope?

How might I need to prepare to enact my Harvest Work plan?

Prayer: Lord, inspire me to be used as one of Your Harvest Workers. Open my eyes as to how to do that Work so that I can point others to the Gospel and to You. Please then lead me to action. Amen.

¹<http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/PsH/526>