

Christian Aid Week Prayer Sheet



Janet Zirugo and her fellow congregants at Church during the Sunday service. She loves singing, dancing and praying which she says is very important for lifting up her spirit and hope.

Call to worship

Let us come to the river
and be like trees planted by streams of water,
putting our roots down deep into God's word,
bearing good fruit that will last
not withering from fatigue,
stretching out to receive
and be a source of healing.
Amen.

A gathering prayer

Creator, Son and Spirit,
we gather together,
online or in-person
to seek Your presence
in our time of worship.
WE ARE HUNGRY FOR YOU

Meet us at our point of deepest need.
Connect us with the needs of others.
Equip us to join in your creative work.
Transform us more into your likeness.
WE ARE HUNGRY FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

We gather with Janet, Jessica and Jerina

and their communities in Zimbabwe
May their stories make us hungry for justice
and even more impatient for change.
WE ARE HUNGRY FOR YOUR JUSTICE

We gather with all of creation;
with the mountains and the hills.
We shall burst into song,
with the trees of the field
we will clap our hands.
WE ARE HUNGRY TO PRAISE YOU
AMEN.

Prayer of confession

Good God of creation,
we sing praise to you.
But even as we raise our voices
we know we have faltered and failed.
Walking on paths that turned our hearts inward,
sitting with those who scoffed
at the cries of the poor,
mocking those on the margins,
denying the earth in her distress.
Too often our leaves have withered
our branches are barren.

We have failed to be pruned
and the axe is now poised.
Poised to cut down
the excesses that crucify all creation,
the systems that impoverish all people,
the privileges that diminish our faith.
But even now it is not too late.
For in the face of judgment
comes the offer of grace
and the hope that deadwood can spring to life
Where we have failed to bear good fruit
and share your abundance for the earth
GOD HAVE MERCY
When our actions and intentions
have been as chaff for the winds of heaven
GOD HAVE MERCY
Forgive us.
Restore us.
Inspire us now
to delight in your purposes,
to embrace your possibilities,
to inhabit your promises,
to flourish as fruit for the world you so love
and bring healing for all the nations.
AMEN.

Prayer of lamentation

Establish the work of our hands, O God.
WE CALL TO YOU, GOD OF CREATION
faithful to us by the trees of Eden;
WE CALL TO YOU, GOD OF REDEMPTION
faithful to us on the tree of Calvary;
WE CALL TO YOU, GOD OF FULFILMENT
faithful to us from the tree of life's healing.

We are your people so answer us, O God,
from the streets of your city,
from your river of life,
from your throne in heaven.
ANSWER US NOW
in words of power
and mighty deeds.
Speak to our cries of 'how long.'

How long will the bellies of children lie empty?
How long will their mothers pray in vain?
How long will temperatures rise beyond record?
How long will the clouds fail to give rain?
How long will the crop fields turn into dust?

How long will the floods cover the plain?
How long will so few live with far too much?
How long will so many be denied what they need?
How long before the healing of nations?
How long will injustice and suffering remain?

But heaven, we know, this is much of our making; our
scapegoats,
our alibis,
they all know the truth:
Our pointing the finger and prayers of 'how long' echo
back on our piety and demand us to answer HOW LONG,
HOW LONG?

How long will indifference, inequality and injustice deny
compassion, healing and fullness of life?

Come and come soon Lord.
Let the peoples rejoice,
from Eden to Calvary,
from heaven to earth.
Lift every voice to sing, 'Amen!'
Establish the work of our hands.

Blessing

In the name of God who plants the seed of justice: Be
hungry.

In the name of Christ who hangs on the tree of love: Be
fruitful.

And in the name of the Spirit who inspires
God's will in our hearts and our lives:
Be celebrated.

You are Christ's people,
here and throughout the world
now and forever.
Amen.

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