

## A Prayer of Penitence and Recommitment

God of second chances,  
we recognise the damage we have done to the Earth  
and the injustice we see in society every day,  
all of it fuelled by worship of profit and possessions.

We pray for the coming of a better world  
with justice, kindness and humility at its heart.  
We ask that you guide us to be co-creators of this new world.

Because we are God's people,  
**we will care for each other.**

Because we are part of God's creation,  
**we will care for the Earth.**

Because we are loved by God,  
**we will share God's love with everyone.**

Give us confidence to follow the prophetic voices,  
to stand against injustice to people and to planet.  
So that together, in your strength, we stop this climate crisis.  
**God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

## Hymn StF 499 HP 500 **Great God your love has called us here**

May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory.  
May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling.  
May God bless us with courage at this critical hour.  
And may the blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
rest upon us and on all creation,  
this day and for the future to come. **Amen.**

*This sheet was compiled from Christian Aid Week website resources*

## **Worship at Home for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and Christian Aid Week 2021**

Hymn StF 685 / H&P 758 ***In Christ there is no east or west***

Reading - [Micah 6: 6-8](#)

### A Story from Kenya

Florence is full of life, love and laughter. The women in her farming group look up to her. She's courageous, kind – a survivor. A few years ago, her husband died, leaving her a widow. At that time, she had no water to grow crops. Her children were hungry. She had to walk for hours on dangerous journeys to collect water. 'Life was miserable,' she recalled. But things have changed for Florence. Next to her farm, Florence is proud to point to something remarkable – a dam, full of fresh water.

It is thanks to our donations that, with the help of Christian Aid's partner *Anglican Development Services Eastern*, Florence and her community have built this water dam, just a short walk away from her village.

With this dam, Florence can grow tomatoes, onions and chillies on her farm. With this dam, her children can eat healthy, nutritious vegetables. For Florence it is a source of life and joy.

Florence also uses the water from the dam to keep bees. She sells the rich, golden honey for cash at the market. Now, Florence is reaping a good life for herself and her family. The dam gives Florence strength to withstand even the most unpredictable weather. It is a reliable water source, whether she faces long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Sadly, millions of people in Kenya are desperately struggling to survive climate chaos. We can help another community build a dam. Many more people will have the water they need to sustain their families.

*You can view a short video of Florence's story at:*

<https://christianaid.resourcespace.com/pages/view.php?ref=4187&k=66efe9ccc9#>

## Reading - John 15: 9-17

### Reflection

'I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.' *John 15:11*

This verse is the purpose statement of this long parting speech from Jesus to his disciples. To speak of joy when he himself is on the threshold of deep trial and suffering is an indication of what joy is. It was for the joy set before him he endured the cross.

Despite the suffering of Good Friday and the silence of Holy Saturday, this is a joy that believes that resurrection life is coming. This joy does not deny sorrow or suffering but co-exists with them.

Jesus' parting words to his disciples are an encouragement to abide in the love of God and dig deep into consistent, uncircumstantial joy.

And he knows that they are going to need each other to get through. Their love for one another and their sacrificial giving for their friends will strengthen them to endure. It is not duty, obligation or command that will enable them to remain faithful and bear lasting fruit. It is love, friendship and joy.

Love, friendship and joy is what we hope lies at the heart of our experience of Christian Aid Week. We hope that it is our love for one another that inspires our generous giving.

It is our friendship with communities whose stories we read that motivates us to sacrificial acts of solidarity. And it is through our generous giving and sacrificial actions that we bear lasting fruit and know complete joy.

The joy that we participate in and experience in and through Christian Aid Week does not lead us away from suffering and struggle, but towards it. We choose to look towards the pain and see the possibilities for transformation. Jesus goes on to explain to the disciples that even pain will turn to a joy that no one can remove (John 16:20-22).

Alice Walker wrote 'resistance is the secret of our joy'.

## Thanksgiving, Giving and Intercession

God of abundant life, we see your goodness all around us and we thank you for every part of it; from the plants and animals which play their part in complex ecosystems, to the dry deserts and stormy seas which test the limits of life. We pray that in this time of climate crisis and ecological emergency, you may help us to rediscover your love of creation and to reflect that in our own lives.

God who speaks through unexpected people,  
We thank you for contemporary prophets who are challenging us to act on climate change;  
for indigenous people and their invaluable knowledge of the land and sea where they live;  
for scientists dedicating their careers to warning us about changes to the planet;  
and for young people striking for their future.

We pray that you will help those in power to hear their prophetic voices.

Give them wisdom and courage when they face difficult decisions.

**God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We bring what we have – our energy, our voice, our influence, our money, our time, our talents, our prayer, and our worship – and use them to work for a world that is becoming more like God's Kingdom.

Generous and giving God,  
Bless the gifts we and others are offering.  
Bless the work we will do;  
Bless the witness we will bear;  
Bless the dreams that we share;  
Bless the help and care given and received.

*We can also support this Christian Aid Week, through making our donations to help vulnerable communities. Donations can be made by phone **08080 006 006** or online at **www.caweek.org***