



Christian  Aid

We believe in life before death

Love never fails.

Coronavirus impacts all of us.

But love unites us all.

**All Age Service including the
Breaking of Bread.**

10th of May 2020

Welcome and Introduction

Today is the beginning of Christian Aid Week. Like many church activities at the moment, Christian Aid Week is being done differently and digitally this year. During this time together we'll have space to read and listen, sing and pray, and remember and acknowledge that we are part of a global community.

We are neighbours near and far who are going through this coronavirus pandemic together. May our shared experience unite us in praise and prayer as one human family, separate but together in the home that is God's world.

Gathering prayer

God of all the Earth,
be present with us now in each of our homes,
as we connect together.

Build us into a spiritual house,
a holy priesthood,
offering spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to you through Jesus Christ,
our risen redeemer and healer.

Amen

First Bible Reading: See Exodus 30:17- 21

Prayer of Confession and Absolution

How many times have you washed your hands today?

We approach our prayer of confession and absolution, mindful of the ritual significance of hand washing in the Bible.

Hand washing in Scripture is closely associated with innocence and cleansing from sin.

You may wish to take your device to your sink as we pray this together, or bring a bowl of water, some soap and a towel to a safe distance before your computer.

Or simply join in this prayer as you watch the ritual of hand washing.

**As we turn on the tap
we turn our hearts
towards you, O God.**

**As we wet our hands
renew our thoughts,
so we might be transformed.**

**As we lather soap between fingers
and over all our hands,
purge from us
all that brings us harm and might harm others.**

**Remove the invisible
guilt and shame
that so often keeps us from you.**

**As we rinse our hands,
we trust in your overflowing grace,
making all things new.
Amen.**

Introduction to the Gospel reading:

This is an extract from the long farewell that Jesus gave over the last supper, shortly after he washed the feet of the disciples with his own hands.

Even though we are now in the Fifth Sunday of Easter, these words have a poignancy and power for us to absorb and process this Christian Aid Week Sunday.
Listen now to the Word of God.

Gospel reading: John 14:1-14

Video for Christian Aid

Response

Look at your hands. Have a good look.
However your hands look to you, they are most certainly clean in these days of regular hand washing to prevent spreading the coronavirus. Our hands really are the most remarkable and useful tools, involved in so much of what we do and how we do things, even in these days of social distancing.

Our hands have become even more significant in these days of physical distance. We might long to hold the hand of a person we can no longer touch. We pray for the hands of medics to bring healing and comfort. We are grateful for hands stacking shelves and delivering groceries and post. And we are extra wary of everything our hands touch that comes from outside our own home. We reach out by clasping our hands together in prayer for our neighbours, and holding our hands open before God as we declare our needs and concerns for their wellbeing and our own.

We also reach out by participating in this digital Christian Aid Week, through making our online donations and sharing the stories from Christian Aid partners, working on the ground to be the hands and feet of love in action.

Let us pray together using our open hands.

Prayer of lament and intercession

God our refuge,
we come to you with open hands,
some of us with hearts full of questions,
some of us bruised by bereavement,
some of us fearful of what the future holds,
all of us stunned by the events of this year.

Draw close to us now in each of our homes
as we place our honest questions and hopes into your open,
resurrected, yet scarred hands.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With the honesty of the psalmist,
the wrestling questions of Job,
and the lament of the prophets,
we bring to you our questions or our silence.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hear the cry of our hearts, Lord,
silent and aloud,
for bereaved neighbours, near and far.
Comfort those pained by being absent,
and hold close those who are hurting alone.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In this season of Easter,
renew us with resurrection hope
that while weeping lingers in this night,
joy will come with the morning.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

On this Christian Aid Week Sunday,
we pray for and with communities across the world who are
most vulnerable to coronavirus.

We pray for people living in refugee camps and city slums,
with limited sanitation facilities,
who are unable to wash their hands regularly, and have little
opportunity to isolate from others.

We pray for Christian Aid partners
working to provide soap and buckets, communicating clear,
accurate information, raising the voices of the most vulnerable
and ensuring they are kept as safe as possible.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those of us who are self-isolating,
which can sometimes feel like we aren't doing anything,
remind us that we are all doing our part,
and saving lives by staying at home.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for much wisdom and resources
for those in local and national authority
for all frontline and key workers
here in Britain, Ireland and across the world.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As we have clapped to honour them,
we clap our hands now in praise of your glorious creation,
and ask God for what you need, before God.

God in your mercy,
hear all our prayers.
Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

(Bread and glass of wine my be placed in front of you on a table)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise

It is right to praise you,
Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.
**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We say the Lord's Prayer together;

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses, as we
forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

(pick up the bread and wine in your hands and say together..)

Creator God, we offer you our hands and ourselves, as a community which desires to Break Bread together as brothers and sisters, united in and by your love.
Be present with us we pray, here in our homes, our gardens and in our streets.
Call us to your table, to feast as one body.
We offer you bread and wine all for transformation through your grace and love.
Amen

(Through a true desire to receive Christ, lively faith and a genuine love for Christ and his people, the Church invites you into spiritual communion; you may eat and drink your bread and wine

at home to symbolically share in the spiritual communion of which you are already a part)

After Communion we say together...

**Generous Lord,
in word and Eucharist,
we have proclaimed the mystery of your love:
help us so to live out our days
that we may be signs of your wonders in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen**

Closing blessing

As we go offline and wash our hands again,
we say our blessing together:

**May the presence of the Creator refresh you,
may the comfort of the Son renew you,
may the inspiration of the Spirit restore you
to be love in action, even from a distance,
in our neighbour, near and far,
this day and for.
Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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