

## Prayer Partners

We offer these prayers and images for your services of worship, church magazines etc to encourage and guide your prayer for global justice. We suggest using one per month but feel free to mix things up.

### 1. Global Justice Now

At [Global Justice Now](#) we see that the principles of social and economic justice are central to the teachings of Jesus Christ. We wish to follow his example by standing with the oppressed and marginalised, upholding principles of solidarity, equality and justice.

*Credit: Christian Aid/ Zimbabwe BRAC –  
Chipo Kodogo collection*

We pray for residents of countries in the Global South facing economic crisis due to the Global North's refusal to cancel debts, such as Zambia which spends almost 50% of its national budget on foreign debt repayments. We pray for communities fighting trade deals that prioritise corporate interests and profits over human rights and public services. We pray for all of those who have lost their homes and livelihoods because of the climate crisis; who suffer through extreme weather events knowing rich countries refuse to take real action.



We pray for Black communities and people of colour who face relentless racial injustice, prejudice and hate.

We pray for those struggling to access vaccines, treatments and medications in the face of an unfair and profiteering global pharmaceutical system.

We pray that all communities and campaigners championing the causes of climate justice, debt justice, trade justice and universal access to adequate healthcare are successful in their fight. Amen

## 2. Prayer for debt justice

By Heidi Chow, *Debt Justice*

Dear God, thank you that you are a God of justice. We come before you to pray against the social and economic injustices that debt plays in our communities and in our wider world.

We pray for the 54 countries that are engulfed in debt crisis and urgently needing debt cancellation to release resources to deal

*Credit: Christian Aid/Umama Rohingya 2021 Bangladesh Humanitarian Response in Cox's Bazaar – Women & Girls Safe Spaces*



with rising food and energy costs, the climate emergency and the fallout from the pandemic.

We pray for the leaders of the G7 and the G20 countries to take concrete action to compel private lenders to take part in negotiations to cancel debt.

Closer to home, we pray for people in our communities who have been forced into debt to put food on the table, keep the lights on and a roof over their heads.

We pray for the government to take steps to widen debt solutions and introduce a fair debt write-down to reset the finances of people who are at the sharp end of soaring living costs and give them a fresh start.

Lord God, whether it's here in the UK or in lower income countries, we pray for a debt jubilee. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen



### **3. Poem for black lives matter**

*By Karen Campbell, Global Intercultural Ministries*

#### **Black**

If the night sky wasn't inky  
Could the stars shine so bright?  
And if there wasn't darkness,  
Tell me, how could light be light?  
No dark depths of earth –  
How would the flora grow?  
Black is essential, don't you know.

You tell me black is no good –  
The shade of evil, shade of sin;  
How do I then make sense  
Of the blackness of my skin?  
The skin I didn't choose  
No more than you could choose your own;

The skin that I was gifted –  
Only skin I've ever known.  
Black is what I am; it's who I am;  
It is my pride.  
It's the strength on which I stand –  
Where I refuse to be denied.  
Black speaks of where I'm going –  
How the world relates to me;  
Black speaks of where I've come from –  
Heritage and history.

But it's hard not to internalise  
The message all around –  
Before a word is spoken  
That in Black offence is found;  
Explicit or implied.  
Yet from your view you cannot see  
The shackles to be broken  
Until Black lives full and free. Amen

*Credit: Life Matters, Pexels*



## 4. Prayer for Commitment for Life church contacts and synod advocates

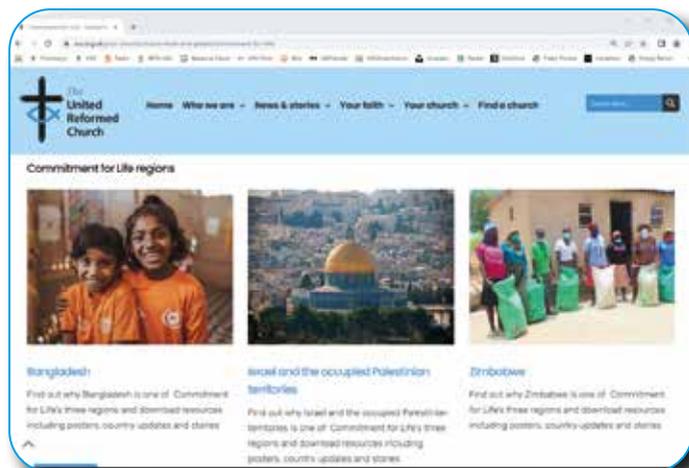
*By Wendy Cooper, Eastern Synod Commitment for Life Advocate*

Loving God, your love for the world inspires us to take action to seek justice, end poverty and bring hope worldwide, recognising that change starts with all of us.

We bring our thanks and prayers for all *Commitment for Life* Church contacts and Synod Advocates, recognising that some have had the responsibility for a long time, while others are new to the role. Be with them as they continue to use every opportunity to share the *Commitment for Life* message: encouraging, informing and inspiring response from their churches and synods. May they realise what a difference they are making, whether by using resources to share the stories of our partners to show how lives are affected by the action we take, publicising online opportunities to learn more and keep in touch, or conversations at events.

May their valued example encourage all churches and synods to find contacts and Advocates so that *Commitment for Life* is truly the global justice programme of the whole United Reformed Church. Amen

*Shared stories on the URC Commitment for Life web pages*



## 5. Christian Aid

By Charlotte Scott, from *Christian Aid*

God of all people, whose image is in all those you have created and whose teaching commands us to love one another, give us the courage to stand with the most vulnerable and excluded people of the world. Help us to see the situations where there is need:

- those suffering on the front lines of the climate crisis.
- those displaced by conflict.
- those marginalized by unjust systems.

We pray for your love and grace to fill the lives of those who are struggling to thrive through poverty and injustice that they may see change. Empower Christian Aid's partners in their work to respond and give them the tools, knowledge and perseverance to stand alongside the poorest communities. Inspire your Church across the world to look for a more equal division of power and mobilise people to build a movement for change to bring social justice for all. Challenge us to look at ourselves and understand our part in the global systems of injustice; send your Spirit to help us shape our lives and our churches to live out your call to love one another. We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen



## 6. Climate disruption and the environment

*By Roo Stewart – Joint Public Issues Team*

### A prayer of repentance

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, you brought light into darkness.  
You breathed life into nothingness.  
You made the world, and it was good.  
You made us, and it was very good.

And then things went wrong.  
At first, we didn't realise our choices would bring pain and difficulty.  
Later, we did realise our choices would bring pain and difficulty but  
chose them anyway.  
The human race has acted with disgrace towards this beautiful  
world: your invitation for us 'to care' interpreted as 'to dominate',  
to abuse, to destroy.

And we are truly sorry.  
Sorry for species that no longer exist, wiped from the face of the  
planet, because of our recklessness, thoughtlessness and greed.  
Sorry for neighbourhoods and homes, livelihoods and fields being  
lost beneath the rising tide of vain ambition, ambivalence, prejudice,  
and convenience.  
Sorry for children who will only know scorched earth, hardship,  
dirty air, dirty water, lack, drought, famine and disease.  
Sorry that praying this makes us feel uncomfortable and yet  
powerless to change.  
Sorry that our choices now still bring pain and difficulty.

But you are still loving and patient.  
Your desire for a world in harmony, peace, shalom is within us.  
And so we pray.  
And act. Amen

## 7. Action Prayer with Greta – Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory

### Bubble Prayers

Equipment – small pots of bubbles. Praying with bubbles can be fun, but can be best done outside as if you spill it then it can be very slippery and hard to clean up.

God loves you and wants to take care of you. Tell God something that you are worried about or are fearful about and ask God to help you. Blow the bubbles and burst the bubbles as a sign that you are giving your worry and fear to God. Looking at the colours in the bubbles, thank God for the world and wonders of creation. Amen

### Prayer

*Dear God, we thank you for the freedom we enjoy in this country, that we can walk to school relatively safely, and we have access to hot and cold running water 24/7. We pray for your protection over all children who live in constant fear each day. May they know that you are with them and give them strength and courage to face whatever the day brings. Amen*



## 8. Action Prayer with Greta – Bangladesh

### Lego prayers

Using some building blocks or lego, build yourself a sturdy house. Amen

### Prayer

*Dear God, we thank you for our homes, which are made of solid brick. We remember those who live in countries such as Bangladesh, whose homes and livelihoods, due to the climate crisis, are easily destroyed through floods and strong winds. Amen*



## 9. Action Prayer with Greta – Zimbabwe

### Foot Prayers

Using a marker and a piece of paper, draw round your foot or shoe. Do you have old reusable shoes that could be given to someone who is struggling financially to buy new shoes? Amen



### Prayer

*Dear God, help me not to take my shoes for granted. We remember those in countries like Zimbabwe who struggle to earn enough money to buy shoes to wear for school. We thank you for Christian Aid partners who are working with communities, teaching women new skills in leatherwork so they can make shoes for their families. Amen*

*Credit: Christian Aid/ Zimbabwe BRAC – Chipso Kodogo collection*



## 10. Jesus is our Neighbour

*By Simon Peters, former Walking the Way Project Manager*

Loving God, in every aspect of our lives, the places we live and work, laugh and play, learn and grow, you are there, guiding and nurturing us in your ways of love, peace and justice. If that goes for us, it goes for everyone else as well. Sometimes, it's easy to find you. A warm handshake from a stranger, a meal served by a friend or a hug from a loved one are all signs that you are alive and active amongst us. At other times, though, we find it hard to recognise you in others. They may not look like we look, think like we think, live like we live or worship as we worship, and yet, whether we can sense you or not, you are there, working through them.

Help us to recognise that, in the same way you live in us, so you live in all our neighbours: those whom we know and those we do not, those whom we relate to and those we do not, those whom we like, and those we do not. May we always look for you, and find you, in everyone, friend, stranger or otherwise. In Your Precious Name, Amen

*Credit: Christian Aid/ Zimbabwe BRAC – Chipso Kodogo collection*





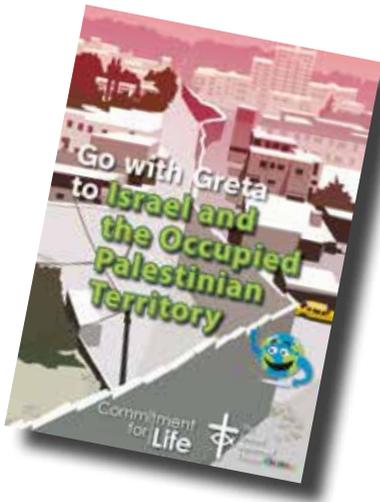
*Credit: Kevin Snyman*

*Credit: Christian Aid/ Zimbabwe BRAC – Chipso Kodogo collection*



Commitment  
for **Life**





## Further resources

More 'Go with Greta' material can be found online in the URC's children and youth work pages: [urc.org.uk/go-with-greta-and-connect](http://urc.org.uk/go-with-greta-and-connect)



The  
United  
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Global  
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Commitment  
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[www.urc.org.uk/cfl](http://www.urc.org.uk/cfl)

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