

2024

Commitment for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Prayer Partners

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



1. Prayer for Global Justice Now

By the Global Justice team

Dear God,

While the world's people are battered by the effects of a cost of living crisis, the worst pandemic in a century, and disastrous climate change, the profits of the biggest firms on the planet nearly doubled.

We pray for those who are affected by these injustices, for those whose livelihoods are destroyed by the greed of corporations, for those who are denied access to life-saving medicines, and for those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

We pray that you give strength and courage to those fighting for solidarity, equality and justice. May their voices be heard, and their actions inspire others to join them in their fight.

We pray that governments and corporations around the world recognise their responsibility to protect human rights, the environment, and the common good, and take concrete action to promote justice and fairness. Amen.

*Buhera District, solar powered borehole servicing a
Commitment for Life funded clinic, via Christian Aid
Credit cover image and below: Kevin Snyman*





*No dig farming in Zimbabwe
Credit: Kevin Snyman*



*Batsirai Nyamutete at a mill making
livestock feed from carefully selected
indigenous shrubs and bushes
Credit: Kevin Snyman*

2. Prayer for Zimbabwe partners *By Aulline Chapisa*

Dear God,

We pray for the resilience of our partners who continue to work in a political and economically challenging environment, that they may be strengthened to stand for the truth despite threats to their lives and the existence of their organisations. We also remember beneficiaries of the Christian Aid partners' work in Zimbabwe, that they may be receptive of the education and support offered to them, especially those living in poverty – so that they may escape the trap of poverty and become self-reliant.

We pray for the safety of the Christian Aid partners as they do their work in Zimbabwe during this election year and for peace during general elections. We ask God for wisdom, so that our partners can work in continued shrinking civic space. We pray that our partners continue to strengthen their benevolence and solidarity with people living in poverty.

We pray for resources to take the work forward. Amen.

3. Prayer for Commitment for Life

By Christine McMillian

Creator God

We thank you for the wonderful world we inhabit.

We are sorry that we don't always share the good things we have.

We thank you for all the people;

those in our churches

those working through Christian Aid

and those with Global Justice Now

who strive tirelessly to make things fairer for us all.

We know that it is not easy, that folk become tired and dispirited.

Loving God

Inspire us, renew our determination and commitment,

so that together we may all enjoy life in all its fullness.

Amen.

Harvesting corn in Zimbabwe, Credit: Kevin Snyman





*Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
Credit: Morzina Akter, Christian Aid*

4. Prayer for Bangladesh

By the Revd Margaret Nilanjana Ali

Dear God,

We pray for Bangladesh, a country that is bursting at the seams with more than 169 million people crammed within its borders.

We continue to remember Bangladesh in our prayers fervently. Because of its location between the foothills of the Himalayas to the north and the Bay of Bengal to the south, Bangladesh is prone to natural disasters. Monsoon flooding is almost an annual event, and storms and cyclones routinely make life miserable for the people of this country. Corruption is endemic and deeply rooted, so we pray for just, transparent and effective governance.

We pray for the binding of the powers of darkness operating in religious, social and ethnic realms. We pray that constitutional freedom allowing all to practise and propagate their own religions might be maintained. Amen.

5. Prayer for Christian Aid

By Jonathan Clarke, from *Christian Aid*

God of the oppressed, let justice flow like a river.

God of compassion, let dignity be extended to those who suffer.

God of the marginalised, let those living with discrimination
come to know equality.

God of comfort, may every heart know your love and grace.

We pray that your purposes for Christian Aid would be accomplished.

May those caught in the grip of poverty and injustice be met with
dignity, equality, justice and love.

Strengthen and guide Christian Aid, its partners and sponsoring
churches in all their work. Give them wisdom, perseverance for
the task at hand, and a heart of compassion
for all that they work with. Empower them by your Spirit to bring
your hope to this world that you love. Amen.

Shared stories on the URC Commitment for Life web pages



A screenshot of the URC Commitment for Life website. The header includes the URC logo and navigation links: Home, Who we are, News & stories, Your faith, Your church, Find a Church, and a search bar. The main heading is 'Commitment for Life'. Below this is a blue box with the text: 'We are the URC's global justice programme. Our goal is to enable you, the local congregation, to make global justice a core foundation of your mission. We offer resources to facilitate prayer, advocacy, and effective action for the most vulnerable people in the world.' There are three images: a woman in a boat, people working in a field, and a woman carrying a basket. At the bottom, there are three links: 'What is Commitment for Life?', 'Commitment for Life videos', and 'Order or download resources'. A small arrow icon is visible at the bottom left of the screenshot.



*Woman working in Hijab, Palestine
Credit: Hosny Salah from Pixabay*

6. Debt Justice Prayer

By Heidi Chow

Dear God

Thank you for your heart for social and economic justice. We pray today for communities in the UK and across the Global South who are challenging the exploitation and hardship created by unjust debt.

We pray for the 54 countries that are in debt crisis and pray that UK politicians would introduce new legislation to help unblock efforts to cancel unpayable debt. Thank you for your idea of debt cancellation. Cancelling Global South debt today would release resources to fund healthcare, education and the climate emergency.

We also pray for households in our communities that are facing mounting debts created by soaring energy bills and rising prices.

We pray for government action to cancel energy debt to address extreme financial pressures and give households a fresh start.

We pray for debt jubilee in the name of Jesus,
Amen.

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

Olive Oil Prayer

Equipment – bottle of olive oil, a bowl and cotton bud.

Olive oil is not only used for cooking but is also used for anointing. Anointing means putting oil on someone's head or hand when you bless them. The bottle of olive oil should say where it comes from. Place a drop or two of oil into a bowl and using a cotton bud, dip it into the oil and touch it into the palm of each hand or draw the sign of a cross on the forehead of a friend. As you do so, say: 'God bless you and use you to do good things.'

Prayer

Dear God, we thank you for our homes, the places where we feel safe, the places where we belong. We pray for all families and people who worry about having somewhere safe to live. We pray for peace in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, so that people can share fairly and live without fear. Amen



8. Action Prayer with Greta – Bangladesh

Living Water Prayer

Equipment – jug of fresh water, a glass.

Water is essential for life on Earth.

We use water to clean, to drink and to make plants grow. Take a jug of fresh water and pour yourself a glass of water. As you drink the fresh water, thank God for the free access of clean water that we have readily available to us in our homes for drinking, washing, cooking and sanitation which we take for granted.

Prayer

Dear God, we ask for your blessing on the communities living in the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh who do not yet have access to clean running water for drinking, cooking and washing. May you purify, protect and multiply their water sources, so they may fully enjoy the benefits of clean water and essentials like education and good health. Amen



9. Action Prayer with Greta – Zimbabwe

Papaya Prayers of Hope

Equipment – eating papaya, knife and plate.

Learn about the papaya or paw paw fruit. Look out for them when you next go shopping and if you can, purchase one. Cut the papaya like you would a melon. Scoop out the seeds and count them. All the seeds have the potential to grow into a papaya tree and produce further papayas. As you taste the papaya, thank God for the harvest and all farmers around the world.

Prayer

Dear God, we thank you for farmers around the world who grow crops for use in our food. We pray for farmers in Zimbabwe who have been hit by the challenges of climate change and economic injustice and have had to learn new skills and farming techniques to survive. Amen

Credit: Arifur Rahman, Unsplash

Commitment
for Life



Supporting
Zimbabwe



10. Prayer on Economic Justice

By Richard Lewney

God our Creator and Sustainer, we stand in a place of frustration, longing for the world as you intended it to be, while living in the world as it is. We see lives blighted by poverty, hunger and powerlessness. We see spirits 'oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care'. We participate in systems that depend on and perpetuate injustice. Sometimes our faith wavers, and your kingdom seems a long way away.

Restore our faith, we pray. Help us to see the signs of your kingdom breaking into our world today. Free those who are shackled by poverty. Bless them, and those who support them, as they pursue changes to make a real difference in their lives. Give them, and us, today our daily bread. Amen.

Credit: Latrach Med Jamil, Unsplash





Olives, occupied Palestinian territory

Credit: Simon Rawles

11. Prayer for IoPt

By Reuben Watt

Heavenly God,

We pray as a loving family, seeking your divine presence and guidance. Thank you for the blessings of life, love, and togetherness.

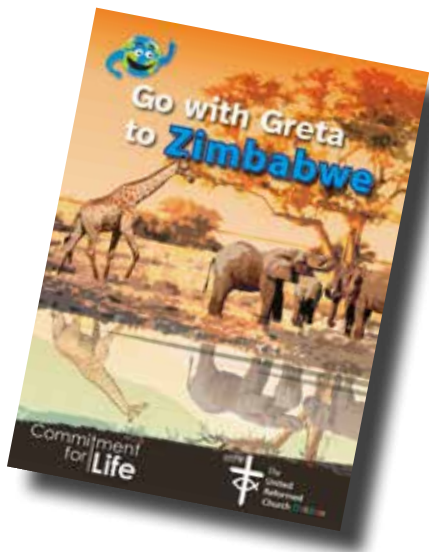
As we reflect on what is happening in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, we pray for a world filled with understanding and compassion, where kindness prevails over conflict.

May our actions and words reflect the values of love, respect and inclusivity.

Guide us to embrace diversity, celebrating the uniqueness of each person we encounter. Help us build bridges and nurture harmony within our communities.

Grant us the wisdom to treat others with empathy and acceptance, acknowledging the beauty of our shared humanity.

May we be instruments of peace, spreading love and understanding wherever we go. Amen.



Further resources

More 'Go with Greta' material can be found at the URC's children and youth work pages: urc.org.uk/go-with-greta-and-connect



The
United
Reformed
Church



Global
Justice
Now



These prayers and photos can be reproduced for non-commercial use

Commitment
for **Life**

www.urc.org.uk/cfl

Working with Christian Aid and Global Justice Now

The United Reformed Church, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT
www.urc.org.uk

The United Reformed Church Trust (URC Trust) is a limited company in England and Wales (Registered Number 135934) and a charity (1133373).
Christian Aid is a charity in England and Wales (1105851) and company (5171525) and in Scotland number (SC039150) and company (5171525).
Global Justice Now is a charity (1064066) and company (2098198).