

FAIR TRADE SUNDAY (UK)

February 23, 2014

Sunday February 23 2014, the Second Sunday Before Lent, falls immediately before Fair Trade Fortnight. The Church in Wales' lectionary also includes a set of readings for Creation Sunday. Either of these sets of readings is suitable for the theme of Fair Trade. The resources below may also be used at other times for remembering Fair Trade – such as at Harvest, Rogationtide, or One World Week.

Collect for Creation Sunday

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Creation

Genesis 1.1 - 2.3; Psalm 136.1-9 [10-22] 23-26; Romans 8.18-25; Matthew 6.25-34

2 Before Lent

Leviticus 19.1-2,9-18; Psalm 119.33-40; 1 Corinthians 3.10-11,16-23; Matthew 5.38-48

KYRIE CONFESSIONS¹

God has blessed us, but still God's children go hungry.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God has blessed us, but still the poor cry out for justice.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

God has blessed us, but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You delight in creation, its colour and diversity;

yet we have misused the earth and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You have brought order out of chaos, light in darkness, good out of evil,

but we have preferred darkness in words and deeds which dishonour God's holy name.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You have showered us with blessings,
but we have been grudging towards others and lacking in generosity in word and deed.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE²

Creator God, You loved the world into life.
Forgive us when our dreams of the future
are shaped by anything other than glimpses of a kingdom
of justice, peace and an end to poverty.

Incarnate God, you taught us to speak out for what is right.
Make us content with nothing less than a world
that is transformed into the shape of love,
where poverty shall be no more.

Breath of God, let there be abundant life.
Inspire us with the vision of poverty over,
and give us the faith, courage and will to make it happen. **Amen.**

Loving God, you make us in your image.
Forgive us when we fail to see your image in each other,
when we give in to greed and indifference
when we do not question the systems that are life-denying.
As we are made in your image,
let us live in your image
and be Christ-like
in service, endurance and love. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray to God our creator,
who has given us the earth's goodness for our delight,
and entrusted it to our care and tenderness.

For all who live in captivity to debt,
whose lives are cramped by fear from which there is no turning
except through abundant harvest;

Lord, we pray:
may those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

For all who depend on the earth for their daily food and fuel,
whose forests are destroyed for the profit of a few;

Lord, we pray:
may those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

For those who labour in poverty,
are oppressed by unjust laws,
are prevented from speaking the truth,
and long for a harvest of justice;

Lord, we pray:
may those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

For all who are captive to greed and waste and boredom,
whose harvest joy is choked with things they do not need;

Lord, we pray:
may those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.

Save us from all that holds us captive,
restore our vision,
that our mouth may be filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy.
Amen.³

As we purchase our next packet of tea or jar of coffee, make us mindful of those whose livelihoods depend on us:

The farmers, planters and pickers; the packers, dealers and merchants;
The transporters, blenders, shop assistants and supermarket owners.

Let it be for us a matter of simple justice and fair trade.

We pray especially for ... *(local shops and retailers)*

As we drink from our next cup, make us mindful of the many places with whom we share this drink:
China, Sri Lanka and India; Kenya, Malawi and Indonesia; Zambia, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.
From the past and the present.

Let it be for us a matter of simple justice and fair trade.

We pray especially for ... *(communities known locally where coffee is produced, such as in the Link Diocese if appropriate; or producers mentioned on the Traidcraft or Christian Aid websites)*

As we take time to share our next tea break together, make us mindful of the times when we have sat down and chatted:

Sharing in friendship, pouring out our hurts, and enjoying a laugh.

Let it be for us a matter of simple justice and fair trade.

We pray especially for those known to us who need our prayers at the time... *(mention by name those to be prayed for, according to local practice)*

As we set out to shop for ourselves or our families, make us mindful of the benefits of fair trade:
The farmers and producers whose lives and communities have been transformed
Through fair wages, good working conditions and the extra security that comes with fair trade certification;

and the organisations which work tirelessly to achieve trade justice.
Help us to support them, both practically and in prayer,
as they seek to support some of the world's poorest producers.

Let it be for us a matter of simple justice and fair trade.

Amen⁴

BLESSING AND ENDING⁵

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all peoples;
and the blessing ...

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.⁶

¹ Church of England: *Seasons and Festivals of the Agricultural Year* www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/times-and-seasons.aspx

² <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/prayer/ending-poverty.aspx>

³ See Note **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

⁴ Traidcraft Big Brew and Tea Service worship materials (adapted)

⁵ See Note **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

⁶ See Note **Error! Bookmark not defined.**