

Fair Trade Foundation

CALL TO WORSHIP From Fairtrade Foundation

Leader: Caring Lord, you want the best for each one of us, but we know that so many people still live lives that are hard and care worn. We remember all those who labor in the fields or toil in the factories to provide us with the food and other products which we eat and enjoy. We think of those who grow cocoa but have never tasted chocolate, for those who fill baskets with their harvest but cannot afford to eat it themselves.

**Congregation: From hungry to well fed; From sorrow to laughter;
From poverty to plentiful; From famishing to flourishing**

ALL: We pray for change

Leader: We pray for those who long to see their children educated and engaged in the world around them. For those who cannot read or write themselves but are striving to see that their children do acquire these skills. For those who go without food to buy school supplies.

Congregation: From illiterate to illuminated; From longing to learning; From darkness to light; From failing to flourishing

ALL: We pray for change

Leader: Lord Jesus, we remember the ways in which you touched others' lives and still do today – through us if we will let you. We pray for all those in our community and in this country who fail to make the connection between our actions and the impact those actions have on others. We pray that we be moved to stand up and be counted in opposition to those trade practices we know are wrong. May your call to justice motivate us to strengthen our faith so the choices we make in our lives help families flourish in communities around the world. We pray that our thoughtful and educated purchases will make a difference.

Congregation: From exploiting to enabling; from selfish to selfless; from unconscious to conscious choices.

ALL: We pray for change

We ask all these prayers in your name. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer – A Prayer for Fair Trade From Fairtrade Foundation

Guiding God, we need to put our money where our mouth and heart are. We are reluctant to pay more for food and goods that we are used to buying cheaply.

Make us bold to try new ways of purchasing, even though we must change old habits.

Help us invest in people, in potential, in initiatives that are faithful to your vision and just to your children.

Give us the courage and energy to speak to store owners about providing Fair Trade goods.

Help us to see the faces of those who benefit from us buying Fair Trade, to visualize children who sleep under watertight roofs, who go to school with shoes and books, who return to good meals on their table; all because we paid a few more pennies for a gift, a banana, or a pound of coffee.

Help us to be generous, God. Amen.

Call to Worship From Fairtrade Foundation

One We are drawn together this morning by God who inspires the journey of people all over the world.

All We gather to rejoice in this world's abundance, and bless God's vision of peace on earth.

One God bless your people with hearts to care, hands to offer, and feet willing to tread the path of loving justice.

All God bless all those involved in Fair Trade: those who grow their crops and craft their work; those who transport goods to market, who import, retail and buy.

One In all the small and great decisions we make this day, bless us to live wisely within the web of creation.

All We bless you, God, for the invitation of this day filled with opportunities for renewed commitment.

Prayer From The Church in Wales

silence...

As the taste of chocolate lingers in our mouths, we remember the growers of cocoa and sugar in distant countries -- Africa and the Caribbean. The sweetness reminds us of the bitter conditions in which so many of people live and work....

Hear our prayer for farming communities everywhere, and our thanks for initiatives like Fair Trade, for all small initiatives that promote the good of all. This morning we pray also for those who work in factories throughout the world; for those facing long hours and receiving pitiful wages. We know that sweatshops are not a thing of the past -- God of all, hear our prayer for workers safety and health; may the grip of systems that bind them loose its hold.

Hear our prayer for those who import and sell the products we buy -- may they have a sense of their responsibilities. Grant them courage to take a stand against exploitation, and wisdom to pay those who produce the value of their work.

Living God, grant us wisdom and courage. We pray to recognize the impact of our wants and purchases, to trust that our small choices make a difference in the lives of others; we yearn to let go of habits that imprison us all...

We pray for your reign to come on earth, for the weak to be made strong and the strong to be made just and compassionate.

Teach us to translate our compassion into action, into service in your name.

We give thanks for the simple joys and ordinary days of our lives....

May all of your children live with hope and wonder....

God in our midst, help us bring light to the darkest places.

May the chocolate wrapper we hold this morning remind us to live wisely within the web of your suffering yet beautiful creation. Amen.

Opening Prayer *in unison (Based on Traidcraft 21st birthday reflections from Moon Sharma, Tara Projects, India.)*

As we stand together for the ideals and practices of Fair Trade, O God, grant us a courageous faith in the future of our world. We know already that better and sustained income from Fair Trade have brought about real change in the quality of life for farmers, growers and craft workers; that the enabling process has made for remarkable growth in skills. And we know that real growth for producers has been the intangibles: Learning and evolving, a sense of belonging and togetherness.

As we stand together this morning, we pray to help shape a world where the common needs of our human being are met with joy. O God, strengthen our commitment to one another – friend and stranger, and grant us grace to cherish all creation and to share fairly in its bounty. One body in Christ. Amen

Think of the difference fair trade brings,

the dignity of wages for work that is valued.
Pride in the history of learning to grow,
to carve, to stitch: that sense of purpose.
Think of the power of a coffee bean,
the taste of satisfaction. Crops grown,
enjoyed by others, appreciated,
giving the pleasure of making plans.

Think of the fingers that made that stitch,
weaving us together, thread to thread,
touch upon touch, smile meeting smile.
Imagine the dream and feel it taking shape.

Think of connecting hope with reality,
one world with another, lives and hearts
and voices in a joyful celebration.
Rejoice in the difference fair trade brings.

Fiona Ritchie Walker

Tilt The Scales.....
Tilt the scales,
O God of the mustard seed:
That the poor shall see justice.
Share the feast,
O God of Eden's abundant garden:
That each crop may fetch a fair price.

Upset the tables,
O God of the upside-down Kingdom:
That the least can benefit from their trade.

Open our eyes,
O God of life in all its fullness:
That we may learn to walk the way of your son, tilting, sharing, upsetting this
world

Not satisfied
until the products we bring to our table
Give a better deal, to all who hunger for one.

In His name, Amen.

A Prayer For Fairtrade Fortnight 2001

I Dare To Pray Lord
I dare to pray, Lord let the world be changed,
For I long to see the end of poverty.
I dare to pray, Lord let the rules be changed,
For I long to see trade bring justice to the poor.
I dare to pray, Lord let my life be changed,
For I long to bring hope where good news is needed.
In the strength of your Spirit and inspired by your compassion.
I make this promise to work for change,
And wait confidently for the day when You make all things new.
Amen

Dreaming

Who does not dream of doing great things in life?
of blazing a trail across the heavens?

Like everybody, we too dream dreams.

Yet, sometimes mocked by the immensity of the problems,
sometimes discouraged by the lack of resources,
there is a danger that this dream might fade
into a nightmare of cynicism and pessimism.

So, rather than wait for that great elusive
opportunity to illuminate the skies,
we decide to light small lamps and lessen the darkness.

Julia Esquivel from Threatened with Resurrection
Taken from Traidcraft 21 Years of Fairtrade

God of Justice

We are here, Lord, because we believe in justice.

It is your gift and our struggle.

Help us to work for justice in our own lives
in our nation and in the world.

God of justice, lead us on.

We are here, Lord, because we believe in unity.

It is your gift and our struggle.

Help us to build bridges, to reach out
in solidarity, in sisterhood and brotherhood.

Lord, make us one.

We are here, Lord, because we believe in peace.

It is your gift and our struggle.

Help us change the injustice and inequalities
that destroy true peace.

This prayer is taken from the material Traidcraft has produced to celebrate
Fairtrade Fortnight. For more resources,
worship material and stories visit: www.traidcraft.co.uk/big-brew

As we boil our kettle and prepare our brew...

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 ... (mention local shops and
retailers)

As we drink from our next cup...

Make us mindful of the many places we share this brew with:

China, Sri Lanka and India,

Kenya, Malawi and Indonesia,

From the past and the present.

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

We pray especially for ... (mention some of the producers).

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... (silent or open prayer)
As we purchase our next packet of tea...
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 organizations 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.
Amen.

Responsive Blessing (from Tradecraft Church Harvest Pack)

One - We pray for the Church, that through its prayers, actions and public statements
it may continue to work towards a world where all are free from the pain of hunger and the terror of war.

All - Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One - We pray for world leaders, that they may be inspired to work together to tackle the causes of poverty and injustice, and to use their power, not for their own glory but for the good of all.

All - Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

One - We pray for ourselves, that we may have the courage to be witnesses to the power of sharing and to the values of global community.

All - Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Statement – (www.fairtradewinds.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/)

If we hope for a society, in our nation and around the world, that is more equal and just, we must press trade into the service of people:

True fair trade creates shared value throughout the supply chain.

True fair trade promotes openness and transparency.

True fair trade respects human rights.

True fair trade supports diversity.

The Lord's Prayer (Society of the Sacred Heart www.rscj.org)

One Our God who art in heaven and in all of us here on earth, holy is your name in the hungry, the oppressed, the excluded.

All May your kingdom come and your will be done, in our choices to struggle with the complexities of this world, and to confront greed and the desire for power in ourselves, in our nation and in the global community.

One Give us this day our daily bread, bread that we are called to share, bread that you have given us abundantly and that we must distribute fairly, ensuring food security for all.

All Forgive us our trespasses: times we have turned away from the struggles of

other peoples and countries, times we have thought only of our own economic security.

One Lead us not into temptation: the temptation to close our minds, ears and eyes to the unfair global systems that create larger and larger gaps between rich and poor; the temptation to think it is too difficult to bring about more just alternatives.

All Deliver us from evil, the evil of a world where wealth for a few is more important than economic rights for all, the evil of a world where gates and barriers between people grow higher every year. Amen.

Offertory

Responsive Blessing: (<http://allwecan.org.uk/resources/prayer-materials/>)

One - In all things let us be imitators of you, O God.

All -You are full of knowledge and infinite wisdom; help us to carefully consider where our products come from, and to make wise decisions about what we buy.

One - Empower us to change our old habits so that our lives honor you.

All -You are full of mercy and loving justice. Let your tender compassion for each one of your children move us to care for our global family. Inspire us that we may inspire others to take action too.

Prayer:

Let our prayers surround those who are struggling on the economic margins: those who have not shared in the great abundance that God has entrusted to our care; the ones who are unemployed or under-employed or unjustly employed; those who are working hard and yet live in poverty and fear of the future.

Let us pray for all those caught up in the workings of an unjust system: the managers, owners, policy makers and consumers -- all of who have a responsibility to help create a faithful economy that values work and honors the dignity of all.

Let us pray for the children whose parents must work long hours just to afford shelter, food and clothing; for those who struggle with the difficult choice of leaving their children for long hours, of missing precious time with their children, in order to provide essential practicalities.

Let us pray for ethical employers who fairly share in their earnings, who pay a living wage and offer a decent and supportive work environment; and for those who have not yet learned to value workers, whose hearts have hardened. whose eyes fail to recognize inherent dignity

Let us pray for our elected leaders that they may place our sisters and brothers struggling at the margins in the center of their deliberations. And let us pray that we, members of God's faithful community, may use our voices and our resources to support the work already being done amidst the brokenness in this world.

Living God, in the hope that we become the people you have created us to be -- in your image of mercy and compassion, of justice and peace -- we lift up our prayers for this sake of this world so graciously entrusted to us. Amen

Prayer: (World Vision – A prayer for Advocates)

God of justice, God of the poor grant us energy, resolve and perspective to challenge the injustice we see before us. In the presence of God, in the light of the world, we commit ourselves to this task:

Speak out for those who cannot speak,

defend the rights of the poor.
We will.
Speak out with fairness and make your
views heard, defend the rights of the poor.
We will.
Speak out on behalf of the silenced and
voiceless, defend the rights of the poor.
We will.
We will defend the rights of the poor.
We will speak out, we will speak out.
Amen

Human justice, it might be said, is at best a bridle on evil; God's justice is the flowering of the good.

That is why God's justice must transcend legal justice.

"I tell you, if your justice goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven" Matt 5: 20

God's justice is done when arbitration is transformed by reconciliation; when people become more than objects of desire, manipulation and profit; when poverty is confronted by asking, not how much the poor require, but how much the rich need; when the goods of the earth are looked upon, not as sources of private profit, but as sacraments of divine and human inter-communication. As and when such things occur, then God's justice is done, and there the kingdom of God becomes manifest. For the justice of God is the kingdom of God.

Prayer: Mark Searle: Serving the Lord with Justice

(<https://care.org.uk/news/2018/02/making-a-difference-through-prayer-fairtrade-for-tnight>)

Let us pray in support of the producers, farmers and workers who grow our food, the issues that they face and thanksgiving to those who choose to buy and recommend fairly traded goods.

Heavenly Father, please prosper people who conduct their business with integrity and treat their workers honorably. May those who are dishonest and exploit others be found out, brought to justice and where possible, make amends. Amen.

Pray that this service will inspire us to choose the Fairtrade option and buy one of 4,500 Fair Trade products that are available: coffee, tea, chocolate, gold, cotton, flowers, sugar and other products.

Remember the poorest laborers in developing countries, including children, who are paid so little and expected to work so hard but have no choice if they are to survive. Pray that increasingly such situations will become known and employers will be forced to treat them fairly.

Lord, we pray for the success of international efforts to improve the pay and appalling working conditions for some gold miners, and to stop the 'blood diamonds' trade that finances violence and conflict. May more retailers choose to sell fair trade gold and jewelry, and may people increasingly buy them. Amen.

Give thanks for Fair Trade, based on Christian principles, whose mission is to enable people to fight poverty by working for trade justice for growers and producers in the poorest countries of the world.

THANKSGIVING: for the thousands of schools, churches, universities, businesses and even whole towns that have decided to choose fair trade goods.

Pray that more people will make the effort to shop like this so that the producers in countries far away can benefit. Pray that large supermarket chains choose to sell Fair trade products like bananas, chocolate, coffee, sugar and other produce.

“Buying a product is a bit like eating a sausage – easy to enjoy, until you know what’s gone into making it. We need to see what goes before and after our purchases: the producers, and the impact of our consumption”
<https://tribesandnations.com.au/pages/resources-for-church-services>

Fair Trade Relevant songs:

#563 We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

Hymn O God you Call for Justice by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

#576 For the Healing of the Nation (vs. 1, 3,4)

#575 O for a World

O God, You Call for Justice

To the tune of #386 in our hymnal (The Church's One Foundation)

O God, you call for justice — for goodness, never greed!
You seek a world of fairness where all have what they need —
Where all have food and water and homes in which to thrive,
Where all have hope and laughter and joy to be alive!
O God, you call for kindness instead of keeping score;
You seek a world that welcomes the hungry and the poor.
Lord, where there is injustice may we work to protect
The struggling ones, the voiceless that others would reject.
You call us to walk humbly, for we are not our own;
We all are poor and needy; we need the grace you've shown.
May we respond to others reflecting what you give —
Compassion, kindness, justice — so all may gladly live.
O God, may our great nation seek justice, as we should,
and work with dedication to seek the common good.

We're blessed to be a blessing; may we within our law
Seek justice and compassion that reaches out to all.

Fair Trade relevant Scripture

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Jeremiah 22:13-16

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages; who says, “I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms,” and who cuts out windows for it, paneling it with cedar, and painting it with

vermilion. Are you a king because you compete in cedar?
Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? says the Lord.

Proverbs 13:2

The field of the poor may yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice.

James 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

John 10:10b

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

PROVERBS 11:1, 14:31 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

The LORD detests the use of dishonest scales, but He delights in accurate weights ... Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker; but helping the poor honors Him.

Luke 12:48

From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

Reading: Genesis 9: 12 – 16 (NIV)

And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.

Reading: James 2: 14 – 17 (NIV)

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Matt 5: 20

“I tell you, if your justice goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven”

Tradecraft Fair Trade Covenant

Throughout scripture we are confronted by God’s repeated call to act justly. The continuing poverty of millions in a world of plenty, the gross inequalities in the way we conduct trade are affronts to his goodness and justice. They demand a response from us.

Reflection (Caroline Hughesdon, Fairtrade Foundation and prayers from Fairtrade Foundation, fairtrade.org.uk Designed and produced by Forster.)

A reflection on Proverbs 31 v.8–9

Proverbs 31 v.8–9 tells us:

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.’ To those who want to speak up, stand up. Be visible to the world around you, guide the world through your actions and let your voice be heard throughout the chaos of life. Do not be complacent about injustice, but be angry. Campaign for change and yearn for justice. Join together in a passionate communion and ask God for strength, as the gospel of Luke says: ‘For nothing is impossible with God’. Pray that through Fair Trade, impoverished farmers can build stability in their own lives, that together we may tip the balance in favor of the poor, that they may see a road out of poverty. Do not be discouraged by failure, but use your energy to persevere. Lord, as in all that we aspire to do, the spirit is willing, but the body is weak. Help us therefore to keep you at the center of our actions for justice and to continually pray for your strength and guidance to make change happen. Let us not forget that to defend the rights of the poor and needy is your will, therefore we pray that through us may your will be done.

Based on Proverbs 31:8-9

Tender God,
with arms stretched out
enfolding each one of us in divine love,
mend our broken hearts,
where we fail to love,
and where we fail to act

to resolve injustice.
Amen
God of all,
you know the desperation
of living with hunger.
You have felt the pain
of living with thirst.
You see the devastation
of people dying.
Come among us,
powerful God,
bring change
within us.
Amen

Rachel Halsall, Mothers' Union

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