

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill
16th May 2021

christian
aid
week
10-16 MAY

Climate Justice

Call to worship

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song Group

All: sing to the Lord, all the Earth.

Leader: Sing to the Lord, bless His name;

All: tell of His salvation from day to day

Leader: Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvellous works among
all the peoples.

**All: For great is the Lord,
and greatly to be praised.**

Song: For the beauty of the earth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CFhYi5KHCM>

Opening Prayer:

Leader: Come and celebrate our common home

All: We gather with the family of humanity.

Leader: With the mountains, islands and deserts

All: We honour the glory of God in creation.

Leader: With the lakes, rivers and seas

All: We come to the source of living water.

Leader: With the land, its soil, seeds
and sustenance

**All: We give thanks for God's generous
provision.**

Leader: With the forests of great trees,
the lungs of the planet

All: We will sing with joy and clap our hands.

Leader: We join with the whole of creation, inspired
by those who have gone before and the prophetic
voices of today

**All: We dare to praise and pray for another possible
world. To the glory of God, Amen.**

Adapted from 'We are the Amazon', an ecumenical act of
solidarity and justice for the Amazon and its people.

Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

Bible Reading – Let Creation rejoice Psalm 96:11-13

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth
rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it. Then
shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord; for He is coming, for He is
coming to judge the earth. He will judge the
world with righteousness, and the peoples
with his truth.

Prayer of Lament

O God, the heavens are not glad, the Earth does
not rejoice warming gases fill the atmosphere
pollution turns clean air foul climate breakdown
wreaks havoc. The sea roars with the grief of all
the plastic that fills it of the destruction of coral
reef. The fields exclaim despair for delayed rains
and prolonged drought for species extinction on
a daily basis.

No song of joy rings out from the trees of the
forest decimated by forest fires. How long O God,
how long until your justice comes for all your
creatures and the Earth? In you we put our trust.
Amen.

Christian Aid Week film 2021 featuring Florence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2g2VYJ2sxc>

The film was originally to be released for the
2020 CAW churches film but due to the
pandemic was pushed back to 2021.

Florence prays more people
like her in Kenya can have access
to a dam full of fresh water

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A woman sings a deep, joyful tune. Her song lifts the
spirits of the other women on the farm. This is Florence.
She is full of life, love and laughter. The women in her
farming group look up to her. She's courageous, kind – a
survivor. A few years ago, her husband died, leaving her
a widow. At that time, she had no water to grow crops.
Her children were hungry. She had to walk for hours on a

Dangerous journeys to collect water. 'Life was miserable,' she told us. Florence could easily have been defeated. But Florence is a fighter, and she shows the women in her farming group that they can be fighters, too. Next to her farm, Florence is proud to show us something remarkable – a dam, full of freshwater. It's thanks to Christian Aid Week donations like yours that Florence and her community have built this water dam, with the help of our partner ADSE, just a short walk away from her village.

With this dam, Florence can grow tomatoes, onions and chillies on her farm. With this dam, her children can eat healthy, nutritious vegetables. It's her source of life and joy. Florence also uses the water from the dam to keep honeybees. She sells the rich, golden honey for cash at the market. Now, Florence is reaping a good life for herself and her family. This is all thanks to generous people like you, who have helped provide a dam close to her home. 'I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed. I am very happy. You can see in my face: my face is shining. I have strength and power.'

You can see Florence's strength and power as she hauls heavy buckets to water her crops. You can see her strength and power as she digs up the fresh vegetables she has grown. You can see her strength and power as she takes climate justice into her hands. Florence is generous, and she knows other people are struggling to cope with the drought. 'There is a village nearby – they don't have an earth dam. They travel for a long way to come to this water point. They are suffering.' 'I am thankful to people who have donated to build this earth dam. I am praying God will increase their giving.'

Sadly, millions of people in Kenya are desperately struggling to survive the drought. It's so severe that it was declared a national emergency. You can help another community build a dam. Many more people will have the water they need to sustain their families.

A script for three readers based on Micah 6:1-9

Reader 1

Listen my people. I need to talk with you. I have questions. I need answers. I have cared for you. I rescued you from slavery. I gave you wise leaders, both women and men. You need to remember the stories of who I am and what I have done. Listen my people. I am talking to those of you who live in the countryside. I am questioning those of you who live in cities and towns.

Reader 2

What have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Speak, the mountains are listening to you. The Earth is waiting to hear your voice. What can I do? What can I bring to God? What does God want of me? What will keep God happy? What will keep God off my back? Would God be impressed with barrels and barrels of olive oil? Would God be satisfied with thousands of animals from my flocks? Perhaps my riches are not enough? Should I offer to God the life of my precious first-born child?

Reader 3

Listen mortal. Listen to what God says. Look carefully at how God acts. Remember the stories of what God has done. God has shown you clearly what is bad and what is good. You are to do justice to act fairly. Do justice in the home and in the street and in the marketplace. Do justice in your community. Work with others to do justice globally. Do justice with strangers and friends and family alike. You are to love kindness. You are to be generous. You are to share your resources and share them with a smile. You are to care for those in need. You are to walk humbly with God. No pretence, no bluster. You are to walk wisely and purposefully. You are to pray and wonder. You are to respect the Earth. You are to experience and learn who God is and what God is about. **Listen up mortal. God has told you what is good. So do it. Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with your God.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of abundant life, we see Your goodness all around us and we thank you for every part of it; from the plants and animals which play their part in complex ecosystems, to the dry deserts and stormy seas which test the limits of life. We pray that in this time of climate crisis and ecological emergency, You may help us to rediscover Your love of creation and to reflect that in our own lives.

God who speaks through unexpected people, we thank You for contemporary prophets who are challenging us to act on climate change; for indigenous people and their invaluable knowledge of the land and sea where they live, for scientists dedicating their careers to warning us about changes to the planet, and for young people striking for their future. We pray that You will help those in power to hear their prophetic voices. Help them to see beyond short-term political priorities and business plans. Give them wisdom and courage when they face difficult decisions.

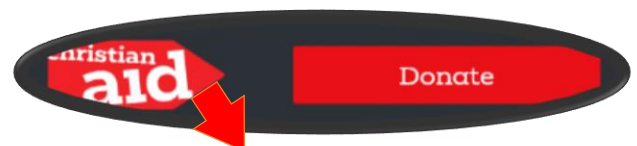
God of second chances, we recognise the damage we have done to the Earth and the injustice we see in society every day, all of it fuelled by worship of profit and possessions. We pray for the coming of a better world with justice, kindness and humility at its heart. We ask that You guide us to be co-creators of this new world. Give us confidence to follow the prophetic voices to stand against injustice to people and to planet. So that together, in your strength, we stop this climate crisis. We ask all this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Final Hymn: Across the Lands (Official Lyric Video) - Keith & Kristyn Getty
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVpkR4gYTlg>

Sending

May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory. May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling. May God bless us with courage at this critical hour.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us now and forever.



<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate>