



Welcome to
St Nicholas Church
Sunday 14 May 2023

Collect for Christian Aid Week

God, gardener of Eden, who flung stars into Space and nurtures the tiniest plant. It is our hopes and dreams above the loss and damage of our suffering planet, that we might share your long-dreamed vision which values the pea as much as the plant, fill us with your life-giving hope and inspire us with your creative Spirit now, and in the age to come.

Song: For everyone born, a place at the table

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akF3oWZoIXE>

Call to worship (based on Psalm 47)

Clap your hands, all you peoples.

Shout to God with songs of joy.

God has gone up with a shout.

Sing praises to the Most High.

God is ruler over all the Earth.

We worship God with all our heart.

Prayer of approach

Creator God, you have planted the seed of love in our hearts, in our souls, in our lives. We long for the brightness of your presence drawing ever closer to you and to one another, as we join with your people at all times in all places to worship and to serve.

We confess those frequent times when we have been stony ground, too hard to value the tiny seed, the generous smile, the heartfelt word.

[Women] You grow us into community.

[Men] You grow us into community.

[All] You grow us into community.

We confess those frequent times when we have been stony ground, too hard to see beyond our selfish desires and for tacitly accepting a world that smothers the dreams of those with less power and wealth.

Creator God, once again, you have planted the seed of love in our hearts, in our souls, in our lives. We draw near today in the knowledge that your forgiveness waters the seed and nurtures us with the power of your Spirit to grow, to flourish and to bear the fruit of your justice now and forevermore. **Amen**

Broadcasting from Malawi 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8hDdi37DLg&t=44s>



Opening Prayer

Global poverty continues to rise. The combined effects of pandemics, conflict, greed and drought have robbed communities of the power to provide for their children. It's unjust.

We stand with the resilient women who are determined to lift their families out of hunger.

- We raise our voices to call for climate justice.
- We pray that families will stay strong during times of drought.
- Together, we hope to restore justice to our world, and protect the future for our children and grandchildren.

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done in 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,
for ever. Amen.*

Hymn: Second Service

When out of poverty is born

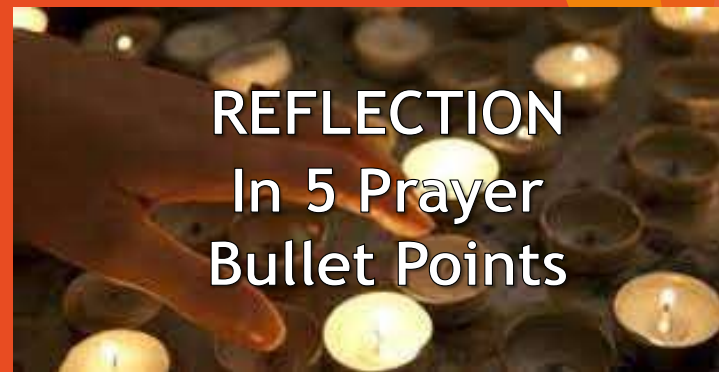
(Tune: I had a voice of Jesus say)

1. When out of poverty is born
a dream that will not die and landless,
weary folk find strength to stand with heads
held high, it's then we learn from those who
wait to greet the promised day:
'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart.
Be blest: prepare the way!'
2. When people wander far from God,
forget to share their bread,
they find their wealth an empty thing,
their spirits are not fed
For only just and tender love
the hungry soul will stay.
And so God's prophets echo still
'Be blest: prepare the way!'
3. When God took flesh and came to earth,
the world turned upside down,
and in the strength of woman's faith
the Word of Life was born
She knew that God would raise the low,
it pleased her to obey.
Rejoice with Mary in the call
'Be blest: prepare the way!'

Kathy Galloway, ChristianAidCarol

³⁴“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷“Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’



REFLECTION In 5 Prayer Bullet Points

Song: We lay our broken world

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

Offertory prayer

God, our Farmer, You plant the seed. You water the seed. You nourish the seed. You value the widow's mite. You value Esther's peas. You value what we bring today. What we bring today is already yours. Accept these, our offerings and use them to help dreams come true. In this community, through this church and in your world through Christian Aid. Amen.

Prayers for others

Esther Saizi told Christian Aid: 'When my husband passed away last year, it was a difficult period. I was heartbroken by his passing. Eventually as I knelt down and prayed to God, I knew he was with him and I had to move forward. I knelt and prayed that God would help me.' Rejoicing in the answer



Read together

John 13: 34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Bible Reading:

**Parable of the
Sheep and the Goats**

(Matthew 25:34-40)



to prayer that Esther received, and confident in the power of prayer to change the world, together we pray for people throughout the world suffering from poverty and injustice.

- The challenge of soaring inflation making it difficult to afford everyday essentials.
- People affected by natural disasters such as drought, famine and flood.
- The impact of climate change, particularly when it destroys essential crops.
- Esther Saizi and women like her who bring their communities together.
- Farmers who provide essential food for their communities.
- Cooperatives which give people more power over their own lives.
- An end to the economic exploitation by big businesses.

Closing hymn: Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall rise and set no more
2. People and realms of every tongue
Declare his love in sweetest song
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name
3. Blessings abound where Jesus reigns
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains
The weary find eternal rest
And all who suffer want are blessed
4. Let all creation rise and bring
Distinctive honours to our King
Angels descend with songs again
And earth repeat the loud Amen

CCLI Song # 5902349

Sending and blessing

We go into the world
working together for change
so that everyone can thrive
and share life in its fullness.

And in all we do
let us show the love of Jesus.

Let us treat everyone with dignity.
We will show the love of Jesus.

Let us stand up for equality.
We will show the love of Jesus.

Let us fight for justice.
We will show the love of Jesus.

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit





The story of Esther and her pigeon peas



I'd like you to meet Esther Saizi and her wonderful family. This is Esther with her grandson Nespo.

There is something magical about Esther's warm heart and everyday acts of kindness.



Esther lives in Malawi, which is in the south-east of Africa.

Its people are so friendly that Malawi is sometimes called the 'Heart of Africa'



Malawi is a beautiful country of cooler mountains in the north, the shimmering waters of Lake Malawi in the east, and sun-drenched lowlands to the south.



Esther grows something on her farm. Can you guess what it is? What is this story about?



It's pigeon peas! But these are no ordinary peas...



...by selling these pigeon peas, Esther can pay for her grandson to go to nursery and to help her children's dreams come true.



...because with these peas, Esther can bake delicious bread. And that's not all...



I bet you didn't know peas could do all that!



But in Malawi, the costs of everyday essentials, such as food and fuel, are going up and up, just as they are here.

In addition, the climate crisis means it is increasingly difficult to grow many of the foods Esther and her family used to eat and sell.



Often crops are lost to cyclones or droughts, or seeds are too old to grow well.

Many farmers like Esther are exploited by big companies and don't receive a fair price for their peas.



But Esther is working with Christian Aid and others in her community. Together they have:

- formed cooperatives to secure a fairer price.
- boosted the quality of the seeds they use.
- added value by baking and selling bread made from pea flour.
- built warehouses to keep peas safe from weather events.
- even produced a pigeon pea recipe book!



Esther says: 'We are a community that helps one another a lot... if people face a problem, we do not allow them to suffer alone.'

So, when we give to Christian Aid, we become part of Esther's community of people who help one another and help make dreams come true.



In the Bible, Jesus tells a story:

'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

(Matthew 13:31-32)



For Esther and her community, pigeon peas are like the tiny mustard seed, growing the hopes and dreams of their children and grandchildren:

- to go to school.
- to start their own businesses.
- to help their friends and their neighbours.



Together, we can help dreams come true



The image features a dark grey oval background. On the left, the Christian Aid logo is displayed in white text on a red arrow-shaped background, with 'christian' in a smaller font above 'aid'. To the right of the logo is a red rectangular button with the word 'Donate' in white text. A large red arrow points downwards from the bottom center of the oval.

christian
aid

Donate

www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate