

From darkness to light



A service of thanksgiving

The Chapel, King's College London

19 November 2018

6.45pm

Led by the Rev Tim Ditchfield

Chaplain of King's College London

Sermon by Dr Rowan Williams

Chair of Christian Aid



We welcome you to this service of thanksgiving

Tonight, we remember and celebrate the lives and faith of people loved by their families, friends and communities – people whose kindness and passion for justice brings hope to the lives of our neighbours across the world.

Also tonight, we remember family and friends, in whose loving memory we offer gifts to Christian Aid. We give thanks to God for their lives and for the ways in which their memory and example have inspired generosity, bringing new hope to poor communities.

Thank you for joining us as we remember people who heard and acted on the words of Jesus, as they understood what God required of them:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39)

Amanda Mukwashi, Chief Executive of Christian Aid

Opening music

In The Beginning Was The Word – Carson P. Cooman

Welcome

Opening response

The Rev Tim Ditchfield, Chaplain of King's College London

Come among us God.
You who cast the planets into space
and cradle the sparrow in her nest,
come, God and meet us here.

Come among us God.
You who bless the poor and the broken
and stand by the sad and the strong:
come, God and meet us here.

Come among us God.
You who dance in the silence
and shine in the darkness:
come, God and meet us here.

Our God is a God
who longs to be with us:
in our deepest places,
in our sadness and tears.

Our God is a God
who holds us compassionately:
bringing us comfort,
sharing our pain.

Our God is like a rock:
unmoved from love,
firm beneath our feet.
Let us worship God.

(Saying Goodbye by Ruth Burgess)

Give thanks for life

Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Give thanks for those whose lives shone with a light
caught from the Christ-flame, gleaming through the night,
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Give thanks for all, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time or death or dread:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Give thanks for hope that like a seed of grain,
lying in darkness, does its life retain
to rise in glory, growing green again:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

(Shirley Murray and Vaughan Williams)

From darkness to light

We gather in darkness. But we proclaim that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

Alison Linwood, Christian Aid's Legacy Manager, will introduce Maggie Bridge, whose husband David remembered Christian Aid with a gift in his Will.

Tis only we who grieve

Read by Amanda Mukwashi

Tis only we who grieve
they do not leave
they are not gone
they look upon us still
they walk among the valleys now
they stride upon the hill
their smile is in the summer sky
their grace is in the breeze
their memories whisper in the grass
their calm is in the trees
their light is in the winter snow
their tears are in the rain
their merriment runs in the brook
their laughter in the lane
their gentleness is in the flowers
they sigh in autumn leaves
they do not leave
they are not gone
tis only we who grieve.

(Anonymous)

Litany of remembrance

We give thanks for those whose lives have reflected the light of Christ and brought it into the world.

For those who lit our lives with joy,
for those who have touched us with tenderness,
for those who have loved the world,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.

We celebrate those who have loved us for ourselves,
looking with acceptance on all that we are,
and cherishing us without condition or constraint.

**Holy God, within and among us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

We celebrate those who have recognised all people
as being made in God's image,
who have lived lives of compassion and love,
who have hungered after peace, justice and reconciliation.

**Holy God, within and among us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

We celebrate those who have loved the world,
who have had the courage to see past conflict and disaster
and believed that change is achievable.

**Holy God, within and among us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

We celebrate those who have challenged us to grow,
perceiving all that we have within us to become,
and daring us to dream that a better world is possible.

**Holy God, within and among us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

We celebrate those who have travelled before us,
showing us in their persistent courage and tenderness
how to live in love, and die in faith and hope.

**Holy God, within and among us,
we give thanks in glad remembrance,
for those who lit our lives with joy,
for those who have touched us with tenderness,
for those who have loved the world,
we give thanks in glad remembrance.**

(Slightly adapted from 'A Service for Samhain from Iona Abbey' by Carole Birley and Philippa Pearson, from *Acorns and Archangels*, edited by Ruth Burgess)

Readings

Psalm 139:1-12 – read by Jo Dallas, Legacy Coordinator

John 14:1-6 – read by Dionne Gravesande, Senior Ecumenical Relations Manager

Prayer of thanksgiving

God of grace and truth,
we give thanks for all who bear witness to the light shining out through
the darkness,
who kindle your light in our hearts and breathe it into flames of hope.
We give thanks for all who dare to live out your story of love;
who, in loving one another, recognise the image of God in all people.
We give thanks for all who speak tirelessly against injustice in this
world,
who dream of justice rolling down like waters, and righteousness like an
ever-flowing stream,
whose legacy is the conviction that change and transformation are
possible,
whose gifts, in life and in parting, inspire us to work for justice for all.
May their faith and perseverance shine through us like light,
so that all may see beyond the darkness to a world free from poverty.
Amen.

(Imogen Tate)

Thank you from Christian Aid

Alison Linwood
Christian Aid Legacy Manager

Longing for light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Chorus

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Chorus

(Bernadette Farrell)

Sermon

Dr Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid

Anthem

Hail, Gladdening Light – Charles Wood

The anthem provides a moment for reflection. During this time, you are invited to write the name of anyone you would like to remember on the card you were given with your service booklet. At the end of the service, you may wish to light a candle and place it at the front of the chapel with your card.

Prayer of intercession and the lighting of candles

Leader: Jesus said: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'
(John 8:12)

God of life,
in the darkness, help us to see light; where there is poverty,
help us to see possibility.
May your hope shine in us and burn as a light in our lives.
We pray for all who labour under the burden of poverty
and despair.

All: **In the darkness, we light a candle of hope.**

The first candle is lit.

Reader one: In a world filled with pain and injustice,
let us be touched by the flame of compassion.
We pray for all Christian Aid partners around the world,
whose commitment inspires our own.

All: **In the darkness, we light a candle of faith.**

The second candle is lit.

Reader two: We remember those who have loved us,
who have moved us to love and to reach out to others.
We pray that all may be warmed by your living flame of love.

All: **In the darkness, we light a candle of love.**

The third candle is lit.

Reader three: We have seen the miracle and mystery
of change and transformation
made possible through your grace
in the lives and work of ordinary people everywhere.
We pray for all who give their gifts, time, talents and prayers
to Christian Aid to make a fairer world.

All: **In the darkness, we light a candle of praise.**

The fourth candle is lit.

Enlivened by your Spirit, O God,
may our separate small lights burn brightly as one,
that together we may be energised and sent out renewed
to serve the world with courage, faith and cheerfulness.
In the name of Christ,

All: Amen.

Praise my soul

Praise, my soul, the king of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like thee his praise should sing:
praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise the everlasting king.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same forever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him,
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him;
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him,
praise with us the God of grace.

(Henry Francis Lyte)

Sending out

In living and dying,

the blessing of God.

In singing and praying,

the blessing of God.

In giving and acting,

the blessing of God.

In strength and vulnerability,

the blessing of God.

In seeking justice and peace,

the blessing of God.

On our sisters and brothers throughout the world,

the blessing of God.

This day and every day,

Amen.

After the candles have been lit, we invite you to please join us in Chapters, found on the first floor next to the chapel, for some refreshments.

We are very grateful for the support of King's College London in making this service possible.

Director of Music – Joseph Fort

Organ Scholar – Michael Butterfield

Tonight, we give thanks for the lives of those we love, and for their many stories of inspiration.

Their love not only leaves memories that will remain with us forever, but also brings hope to families and communities across the world.

At the heart of all the legacies and gifts that we receive are seeds of change.

To find out more, please visit caid.org.uk/gifts-in-wills



Service of thanksgiving at King's College.

Front Cover photo: Bokiya Gooloo lives in Ethiopia. When she was just 13 years old, she was nearly forced into early marriage. But Bokiya refused, because she wanted to go to school. Thanks to our partner HUNDEE, Bokiya now has hope for the future.



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