

Hear our prayer

April – July 2020



**Sing to the Lord all
the earth.** Psalm 96:1



Faith Muvili with her son Hilary.

Week beginning 12 April Easter Sunday

'Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.'
Psalm 96:2

Give thanks for the stories of new life and celebration in Sierra Leone. Praise God for our partner RADA and their work building health clinics, training nurses, and setting up savings and loans groups so women can afford to get to hospital and buy medical essentials.

Give thanks for the healthy babies that have been born in Sierra Leone because of the support of Christian Aid Week last year, and pray for these stories of good news to inspire us in our planning and preparing for Christian Aid Week this year.

Risen Christ
Fill us with the hope
of resurrection and
of life before death.
Amen.

Week beginning 5 April Palm Sunday

'O sing to the Lord a new song'
Psalm 96:1

Pray for this final week of the Lent Count Your Blessings journey. Give thanks for all who have taken part and that they will be truly blessed. Pray that by their generosity, communities facing the sharp edge of the climate emergency will be strengthened and supported as required.

Give thanks for how sand dams have made such a positive difference to Faith (pictured above) and her community. Find out more at caid.org.uk/lent

On World Health Day (7 April), pray for the day when all will have access to good healthcare.

Let our hosanna songs
herald the coming
Of creation restored
Amen.

Nurse Neimato Songa (pink dress) and other women dance with their savings boxes, Sierra Leone.



Week beginning 19 April Earth Day

'Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples.'

Psalm 96: 3

Take time this week to remind yourself of when you have been filled with awe and wonder at the beauty and magnificence of the Earth. Let that memory guide your praise and prayer.

Give thanks for fifty years of Earth Day (22 April) raising awareness and action for creation care. Pray that this year the theme of climate action would galvanise even more support and energy for the cause of climate justice. Pray for justice for the communities most affected by – but least responsible for – global heating.

Lord of all the earth,
Let the wonder and power of nature
inspire us to hope and work
for the healing of creation,
Amen.

Crab farmer Shikha Rani, Bangladesh.



Week beginning 26 April Thriving in Bangladesh

'For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.' Psalm 96:4a

Give thanks for the work of our partner NGF in Bangladesh, training and providing grants to farmers to start crab hatcheries or crab fattening schemes so they can run profitable businesses. Give thanks for the independence and empowerment this project is giving to women like Shikha (pictured, left).

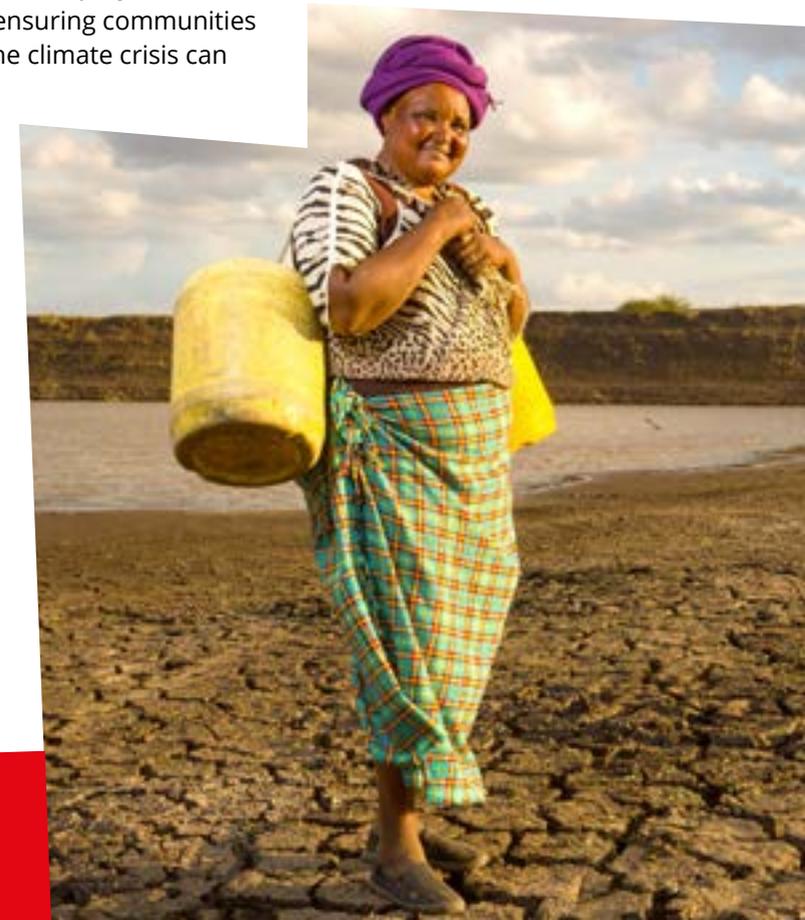
Pray for more creative projects like this to flourish, ensuring communities threatened by the climate crisis can

find a way to thrive and not just survive.

This World Malaria Day (25 April) pray for protection and resources for communities threatened by increased incidence of malaria due to climate change.

Let there be life
and flourishing
Despite the risks
and challenges.
Amen.

Florence Muthiani
at the Mikuyuni
earth dam, Kenya.



Week beginning 3 May

Strength and power

'For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens'
Psalm 96:5

Give thanks for all the preparations taking place for Christian Aid Week this week. Pray for all the logistics and event plans to come together, for there to be a sense of excitement and anticipation for Christian Aid Week, and for encouragement through the stories of those like Florence Muthiani (pictured, previous page), who's already known the benefit of a dam transforming her community in Kenya:

'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.'

Lord of the heavens
may our faces shine
with the strength
and power of your love.
Amen.

Week beginning 10 May

Christian Aid Week

'Honour and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary' Psalm 96:6

Pray for all the activity and opportunity of Christian Aid Week to run smoothly in communities across the United Kingdom and Ireland and around the world.

Pray that the story of Rose (pictured, right) having to walk many miles to collect water – while in her late sixties – will evoke a compassionate and generous response. Pray that, through Christian Aid Week, many churches will

get to connect in a meaningful way with their local community.

Pray for the call for climate justice to be clearly heard through the prophetic voice of our partners being amplified this Christian Aid Week.

May the strength
And beauty of your will
be at work through
Christian Aid Week.
Amen.

Rose Jonathan,
from Itukisya earth
dam project, Kenya.



Week beginning 17 May Song of the Prophets

'Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength' Psalm 96:7

Pray for the Song of the Prophets: A Requiem for the Climate concert, happening in St Paul's Cathedral this week (20 May). Give thanks for Chineke Orchestra – Europe's first majority BME orchestra – who will perform new pieces of music written by seven composers from around the world.

Pray that this event, along with the republishing of our Song of the Prophets theology paper just ahead of

it, will inspire and move many to take increased action for climate justice.

Find out more at caid.org.uk/song-prophets

*Glorious Creator,
Help us to actively listen
To the song of the prophets
To lament and to grieve
Yet to respond with renewed hope
to stop this climate crisis.
Amen.*

Week beginning 24 May Christian Aid

'Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.' Psalm 96:8

Pray for Christian Aid in this time of significant change as we seek to implement and live into our new Standing Together strategy. Pray for the country programmes and staff most impacted by these changes and pray for an assurance of God's guidance and direction.

Pray for a clear vision and renewed resolve for all who will take forward the work of Christian Aid into the future.

Pray for strong partnerships and effective fundraising that will unlock the potential of communities around the world to experience life in all its fullness to the glory of God.

*Creative God
May your vision
of creation healed
mobilise a movement
to do your will on earth
as in heaven.
Amen.*

Week beginning 31 May Prayer Chain

'Worship the Lord in holy splendour; tremble before him, all the earth.' Psalm 96:9

This Pentecost, give thanks for the coming together of partners and supporters across the world to pray for climate justice in this significant year of talks and decisions. Join this movement at caid.org.uk/prayerchain

Give thanks for the partnership between Christian Aid, CAFOD and Tearfund, and pray that together they would mobilise many communities, churches and individuals to pray.

Pray that this prayerful movement will sustain those who are weary, and inspire action from those who are not yet involved. And pray that it will orientate us all towards the Creator who loves the world; that through prayer the hearts and minds of decision makers will be softened to hear the cries for justice from those most affected, yet least responsible, for this climate crisis.

May we lift up our voices in many different languages but united in our call for climate justice. Amen.



Dr. Rowan Williams leads a Walk of Witness at The Time is Now event, 2019.

Week beginning 7 June

A new deal for climate justice

'The Lord is King!' Psalm 96:10

Pray for a new deal for climate justice:

Pray for fair share of finance and technology to be transferred to poor and climate-vulnerable countries.

Pray for an end to fossil fuel expansion and for clean, renewable energy to be invested in instead.

Pray for renewable energy to be developed without people being exploited or the environment being destroyed.

Pray for a recognition of the underlying spiritual hunger that is driving the consumerism causing climate breakdown.

Pray for a future of decarbonisation that leaves no one behind.

May your vision
of a new creation
inspire our action
for a new deal
for climate justice.
Amen.

Week beginning 14 June

Campaign kick-off

'The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.' Psalm 96:10

Pray for the series of climate justice kick-off events happening across the UK and Ireland this year. Pray that all who attend these will feel equipped and connected to others to take action together. Pray these events; that they will root our campaigning in the faith that the world is indeed firmly established. May that assurance sustain and inspire us to do all we can to advocate for the Earth and all God's creatures.

You can find all the events and dates at caid.org.uk/campaignkickoff2020

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 blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, rest upon us and on all creation, this day and for the future to come.
Amen.
(From ACT Alliance)



Dagoberto Pretelt,
a returned person
from the Cabecera
community, Colombia.

Week beginning 21 June

Peace with justice

'He will judge the peoples with equity.' Psalm 96:10

Give thanks for the ongoing work in Colombia to forge a peaceful future for everyone living there. Thomas Mortensen, the country manager, has asked that we pray for protection for human rights defenders since there are many who have been killed.

Join in the ecumenical prayer vigil across the globe on the 24th of

every month, a vigil that will continue until we all can celebrate an end to occupation, and a just and lasting resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Resources are available at caid.org.uk/vigil-gaza

God of peace
Lead those who engage
in violence
to put down their weapons
and
to live in peace with
one another.
Amen.



Donald Badar, fishing by solar light in his grandmother Virginia's boat, Philippines.

Week beginning 28 June

Trekking

'Let the heavens be glad, and let the Earth rejoice.' Psalm 96:11

Pray for all those taking part in the Christian Aid trekking events that have started this weekend and continue throughout the year until September.

Pray that everyone taking part would be safe and find the experience lifegiving and rewarding. Pray that their efforts would encourage generous giving.

Read more at caid.org.uk/trekking

And pray for all those who have no choice but to walk for water, for safety, for shelter in too many places across the world.

Pilgrim God,
Guide us all
on the long trek
to justice.
Amen.

Week beginning 5 July

Seaside stories

'Let the sea roar, and all that fills it.' Psalm 96:11

Pray for Virginia, her grandson (pictured above) and her community in the Philippines, who catch and sell fish through sustainable methods. Pray for them as they strive to overcome the challenges of climate change: 'Fisherfolk have become more observant of the weather and we have a hard time getting a catch. But we still fish and carry on with daily life because we don't have a

choice. If we stop doing it, how can our children survive?'

Christian Aid exits its work in the Philippines this year; give thanks for and pray with all those whom we had partnered to be protected and resourced for a flourishing future.

Light of the world
Guide our way
through endings
and new beginnings.
Amen.

Week beginning 12 July

Fields of hope

'Let the field exult, and everything in it.' Psalm 96:12

Give thanks for the labourers working in the fields across the world; for the women spending their days together planting, growing and selling organic vegetables in India (pictured).

Pray for provision and support for the farmers in Malawi, who worry that when the rains finally come they will submerge fields and crops, wiping out the harvest.

Pray for the end of empty fields. Empty because a farmer has been taken in the process of a land grab, or because the legacy of landmines has left the land too dangerous to cross, or because the community that once worked these fields was moved on because of genocide or displacement.

O God, where fields have fallen silent
let them exult again.
Amen.



A collective of women farmers at the EcoVeg programme, India.

Week beginning 19 July

Trees and forests

'Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord.' Psalm 96:12

Praise God for trees, the lungs of the planet. Give thanks for our partners in Kenya, Burundi and across the world who are planting trees to preserve soil, prevent flooding, and absorb carbon dioxide in response to the urgency of climate change.

Pray for protection for the forests of the world, where trees have become the

victims of consumerism and treated as a commodity, rather than as the precious lungs of the planet that they are.

Oh! God in full love
hand to hand we raise our lives in
prophecy:
in solidarity, strength and bravery of all
creatures,
sons and daughters of the Amazonia.
(From a Brazilian prayer)

Week beginning 26 July

Just Scripture

Read Luke 1:68-79

'He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.' Psalm 96:13

Pray for the future of our Just Scripture initiative, which connects communities across the world around Scripture, in real time online. Pray that it would deepen solidarity and motivate or sustain a faithful response against injustice in all its forms.

Pray for this experience to be transformative for all who participate. Pray for partners to have time and

support to participate, and for logistics and technology not to get in the way of a meaningful encounter in this digital age. Find out more at caid.org.uk/just-scripture

Pray that the insights gained from these sessions would help us to amplify the prophetic voice of partners in their struggle for climate justice across the world.

Guardian God,
Give us ears to hear
Hearts to connect
And the courage to do your will.
Amen.

A prayer based on the hymn 'How Great Thou Art'



**Michael Junior
Mungoki holding
fruit saplings in the
village of Kyeng'e**

Our souls sing out a joyful song,
Our souls sing out how great thou art.
We consider the works you have made
The stars of the night, the leaves
of the trees
The birds of the air the oceans
and streams.

Our souls sing out a mournful song,
Our souls grieve before our God.
We consider the works our hands
have made;
The warming of the planet,
the rising of seas
The wilting of the harvest,
devastating communities.

Our souls sing out a contrite song
Our souls bow down low.
We regret the works our hands
have made
The impact on the poorest,
the livelihoods lost
The deepening of poverty, the
environmental and human cost

Our souls sing out a penitent song,
Our souls turn back to what is right.
We consider the good works our
hands can make;
The words of justice we can speak,
the acts of love we can give
The hand of solidarity we can extend, for
others to fully live.

Our souls sing out a hopeful song
Our souls look to the Lord, where
our hope comes from
We consider the works you call us to;
The love of our neighbour,
the stewardship of the earth
The flourishing of all creation,
the wonder of its worth.

(Christian Aid/ Jess Hall)

Find more climate justice worship
resources at **caid.org.uk/churches**

Cover photo: Florence Muthiani says a prayer outside of her home in the village of Kyeng'e, Kenya.
Photographer: Christian Aid/ Tom Pilston

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