Pray with us

Introduction
Welcome to the December prayer sheet. This is a temporary resource replacing the prayer diary until April 2021. Do print or forward to anyone you think would be glad to receive it so as to aid them in their prayers.

This December, we highlight prayer requests from our country programme in Ethiopia and pray for those affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

There are also points for prayer on upcoming UN International Days that were once a feature of the monthly prayer e-mail.

You can sign up for the prayer e-mail using the link available on the prayer diary page: caid.org.uk/prayerdiary

Thank you for joining with us in prayer.

Reflection on prayer
‘God speaks to us through other good people, through sermons, or through the reading of good books. Sometimes he calls through our sicknesses and our trials as he bids us to pray. However feeble such prayer may be, God values them highly.’ Teresa of Ávila, The Interior Castle

Praise and petition
Give thanks for supporters coming up with inventive ways to connect with one another and raise money remotely, like the group in Nottinghamshire who raised over £3,500 doing a virtual pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Pray that online tools will continue to build community and solidarity across the world.

Give thanks for the huge difference that UK Aid has made to communities in poverty. Pray that the reduction to 0.5% of GNI will be short-term and that this will provide even more impetus for the UK to be bold in reaching goals for climate justice.

Give thanks for all those working tirelessly for peace across the world, especially as we send Christmas cards and sing of ‘peace on earth’. Pray for all those living under occupation, dealing with conflict and struggling with the effects of Covid-19 in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Lament and confession
Join with us in lament for the devastation communities are experiencing in the wake of hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America.
Bring before God all those who have lost their homes and livelihoods to the wind, rain, floods and landslides. Mourn alongside those who have lost family and friends, and pray for those living with the threat of malnutrition and famine.

We confess that we have all played a part in the injustice created by climate change. We are complicit in the effects of extreme weather and have contributed to the suffering of those who have done the least to cause this climate crisis.

Lord God, have mercy on us all and bring us together to bring change and hope to your suffering creation.

**Prayer requests from Ethiopia**

Pray for the work that Christian Aid is doing to address the climate crisis causing drought and food insecurity; the support that we provide for internally displaced people; and for the eradication of disease outbreaks and desert locusts so that our communities can live decent lives.

Pray for our country so that peaceful coexistence will prevail, and people displaced will get back to their normal lives.

Pray for the work Christian Aid is doing to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, and the communities we are serving so that their families know about the disease and will be resilient to its impacts.

Prayer requests provided by Yitna Tekaligne (Ethiopia Country Manager, Christian Aid).

**International days in December**

1 December: Pray for all those living with HIV/AIDS and for greater access to prevention and treatment on World AIDS Day.

2 December: Pray for all those living through modern slavery, or suffering from the effects slavery still has on our world, on International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.

3 December: Pray that everyone will have access to healthcare and opportunities on International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

4 December: Pray that financial institutions will fund a greener and more just future on International Day of Banks.

5 December: Give thanks for all those who give their time and skills on International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development.

7 December: Pray for all those who have been bereaved and are experiencing grief as today marks the end of National Grief Awareness Week.

10 December: Pray for justice, dignity and equality for all on Human Rights Day.

12 December: Pray that all will have access to the care they need on International Universal Health Coverage Day.

18 December: Pray for all those who seek safety, refuge and opportunity on International Migrants Day.

20 December: Pray that we will find strength and unity in our diversity on International Human Solidarity Day.

**A prayer for Advent and Christmas**

‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’ Romans 15:13

May you abound in the hope of the prophets, imagining another way.
May you abound in the hope of a mother, singing revolution.
May you abound in the hope of an infant, the incarnation of love.
May you abound in the love that builds hope this day and evermore.
And may you have a hopeful Advent and a comforting Christmas.
Amen.

**Love builds hope**

Dr Paula Gooder has written a sermon full of hope for Advent as part of Christian Aid’s Advent and Christmas resources. You can find a video of the sermon and the text, as well as many other prayer and worship resources at caid.org.uk/hope

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