Hear our prayer

April - July 2021
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Week beginning 28 March
Palm Sunday

‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’
Mark 11:9

Give thanks for the work of our Nigerian partner Community Links, as they deliver health and sanitation packs to help protect communities from the spread of Covid-19.

Give thanks for children who are now able to wash their hands after playing together and who are finding fun in the midst of difficult times.

May the joyful sound of hosannas be heard around the world.
Amen.

Week beginning 4 April
Easter Sunday

‘The Lord has risen indeed’
Luke 24:34

Give thanks for the great gift of hope this Easter. Hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hope of renewal, new life and unconditional love, as families and communities celebrate.

Give thanks for the hope we feel when we look at all we have achieved together as Christian Aid over the last 75 years. Pray for hope to be renewed this Easter and for real change to continue.

God of new life, raise in us a new hope and determination to bring about real change in your world.
Amen.

Week beginning 11 April
Prophetic Activists

Speak out for those who cannot speak’
Proverbs 31:8

Give thanks for all the young people whose values and vision are bringing about change. Give thanks for the challenge they bring to the status quo and the urgency they feel about issues of justice.

Pray for Christian Aid’s Prophetic Activist Scheme, which is equipping those aged 18-30 to put their faith into action by campaigning for change and building community.

Living God, may your spirit ignite in us all a passion to see your kingdom come and to work for your glory. Amen.
Week beginning 18 April

Earth Day

‘God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good’

Genesis 1:31

On Earth Day on 22 April, give thanks for the wonders of creation and our planet that sustains life in abundance.

Hold in your mind all those who face extremes of weather on the front line of climate change, such as those affected by Hurricane Iota last year in Guatemala.

Pray that this Earth Day will bring about more commitment to take action to reverse the climate crisis.

God of creation, may we be inspired by your creation to create a just and sustainable world for all.

Amen.

Week beginning 25 April

World Immunisation Week

‘I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul’

3 John 1:2

Give thanks for vaccinations, which protect billions of people every day. Give thanks that vaccinations have the power to change the world.

Take some time to reflect on the way that access to vaccinations and medical treatments often highlight the inequalities and injustices in our society.

God of all life, who values all people, help us to ensure that everyone has access to life-saving vaccinations.

Amen.

Week beginning 2 May

Preparation and determination

‘The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord’

Psalm 22:26

Give thanks for all those preparing for Christian Aid Week. Pray for people to have a sense of anticipation and excitement as they pull together the practical and logistical plans.

Pray that the story of Rose Katanu Jonathan walking miles to collect water and provide for her grandchildren will give us a renewed determination to tackle climate change and raise vital money this Christian Aid Week.

Rose said: ‘I believe God gives me strength and helps me persevere. I pray that God will help people to help me.’

God of strength, May your spirit help us to persevere in our efforts this Christian Aid Week.

Amen.

Week beginning 9 May

Christian Aid Week

‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you’

John 15:12

Pray for all the events and services happening this Christian Aid Week, face to face and online. Pray that they will create a sense of connection and joy for churches and communities here in the UK and across the world.

Pray that the generosity of Florence Muthiani, whose community in Kenya was transformed by a dam, will inspire others to give and act. ‘I am thankful to people who have donated to build this earth dam. I am praying God will increase their giving,’ said Florence.

May the spirit of joyful giving transform communities across this nation and the world this Christian Aid Week.

Amen.

Week beginning 16 May

Renewed hope

‘Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path’

Psalm 119:105

Give thanks for all those who work tirelessly in Christian Aid’s country programmes to reach those whose needs are greatest.

Pray for a renewed hope for those who have found the past year exceptionally challenging.

Pray for resources to be found to meet the difficulties of today and for a refreshed spirit to find God’s goodness amid so many stories of darkness.

God who never forsakes us, light our path through the darkness and bring us new hope to face the day. Amen.

Week beginning 23 May

Pentecost

‘All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit’

Acts 2:4

Give thanks for the work of God in the world today and the places where we see the Holy Spirit moving.

Give thanks for the different ways that we see and understand God and the ways we can share this with one another.

Pray for Just Scripture, Christian Aid’s intercultural biblical dialogue, which seeks to bring people together to read God’s word from different contexts and viewpoints.

Pray for opportunities to listen to what God is saying to us through the Holy Spirit.

God of Pentecost, renew your spirit within us so we may show your love to one another and see your kingdom come.

Amen.
Week beginning 30 May
Volunteers Week

‘Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms’
1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Give thanks for volunteers whose time and skills contribute so much to the cause of social justice. Volunteers Week starts on 1 June in the UK. Pray that the celebrations help volunteers to feel valued this week.

Pray for all the work that relies on volunteers, both here in the UK and around the world. Pray for all those who have stepped up during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pray for all the volunteers with whom Christian Aid partners work, particularly community champions sharing essential health messages with those living remotely.

May the Holy Spirit renew all those whose actions are building God’s great kingdom of justice and peace. Amen.

Week beginning 6 June G7 Summit

‘Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well’
1 Timothy 2:2 (The Message)

This week, the leaders of the G7 nations will meet in Cornwall. As they consider how to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, pray that they meet in a spirit of cooperation rather than self-interest.

Pray that they seek a path out of the pandemic that promotes climate justice and tackles inequality rather than returning to business as usual.

Pray that marginalised people around the world, whose lives are impacted by such meetings but whose voices are often ignored, are heeded and valued.

Pray that our campaign for climate justice has impact on the leaders at this meeting. Lord, grant great wisdom to those with great responsibility.

May our leaders be moved by compassion and justice to build the common good for all your people. Amen.

Week beginning 13 June
We cannot walk alone

‘If you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others?’
Matthew 5:47

Give thanks this Refugee Week for our partners in Syria responding to the double threat of violence and Covid-19.

Give thanks for the centres providing education, vocational training and psychosocial support online and helping children not to become further isolated during the pandemic.

Give thanks for the young people training in specialist nursing skills and those who are forming volunteer first response committees to help with the pandemic and any escalation in violence.

God of peace, whose son was displaced and forced to flee to safety, be with all those far from home and give them hope of an alternative and safe future. Amen.

Week beginning 20 June
Hope in soap

‘O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth’
Psalm 96:1

Give thanks for the access we have to soap and water to keep ourselves and our families clean and protect us from illness.

Give thanks for Christian Aid partners in Ethiopia working to help communities affected by drought to find new ways to make money.

Pray for Kumana Kurasho, whose aloe soap business is helping the community to practise good hygiene and bringing much-needed income to her family. Pray that her business goes from strength to strength in 2021.

God of creation, thank you for providing new ways to use the variety of your creation to sustain and protect communities around the world. Amen.

Week beginning 27 June
Indigenous opportunities

‘But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruit.’ James 3:17

Give thanks for the opportunity provided through the variety of creation and those who strive to understand and use it to help others.

Pray for Christian Aid partners in Central America who are working with indigenous communities to tackle malnutrition. Give thanks for their knowledge of plants, which is helping farmers to plant traditional seeds better suited to the climate and provide more food for poor communities. Pray for this knowledge to be passed on and bring greater food sustainability to communities who experience a hungry season.

God of wisdom, grant us the openness to see opportunities to help others flourish and to pass on what we know for the benefit of our communities. Amen.

Week beginning 4 July
Supporting those often left behind

‘You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free... serve one another humbly in love’
Galatians 5:13 (NIV)

Give thanks for the progress made by people with disabilities to have their voices heard and share their experiences.

Pray for Christian Aid partners in Nepal as they work on projects in rural areas to distribute vital equipment to those living with disabilities. Pray for Ramesh Waiba, who is hoping to learn new skills now he has a prosthetic arm.

May God help us to be open in responding to the needs of others and giving space for their voices to be heard. Amen.
Rage and Hope: 75 prayers for a better world

The world is broken. All around us, we see a world full of injustice and inequality – systems that keep people in poverty. We mourn the recklessness with which we have treated the Earth, Creation groaning and longing for healing. All over the world, people made in the image of God are treated with a lack of dignity, facing conflict, health inequalities and humanitarian disasters.

And yet. We hope. Despite it all.

The people of God cry out in lament, raging at the injustice we see in the world, and yet look hopefully towards a kingdom where all things will be made new. In the meantime, we have prayer. Rage and Hope brings together voices from different contexts and cultures around the world, providing a tapestry of prayers of lament and hope for the world we want to see.

Commemorating 75 years of Christian Aid, this is a handbook of defiant prayers for a better world, with contributions from Rowan Williams, Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, Rhidian Brook, Robert Beckford, John Bell, Rachel Treweek, Walter Brueggemann and many more.

Rage and Hope can be purchased at: spckpublishing.co.uk/rage-and-hope

Week beginning 11 July
Prayer for COP 26
‘Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances’
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

In November, the UK will host the postponed United Nations climate talks, COP 26. This is a crucial moment on the road to climate justice and progress must be made if we are to meet the targets that we have committed to as part of the Paris Agreement. As host of the talks, and the sixth biggest emitter of greenhouse gases historically, the UK must show leadership and commit to ambitious action.

In such an important year, we want to underpin every day in prayer. Prayer that will amplify prophetic voices and transform us and the actions that we take. Prayer that will help us to understand God’s care for those who are most affected by the climate crisis. Prayer that will act as a deep source of energy for the struggle ahead.

Join our prayer chain and help make climate justice a reality at caid.org.uk/prayerchain

Pray that preparations for the conference are going well, and particularly that those who are most affected by the crisis will be given a central role.

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.
Amen.

(From ACT Alliance)

Week beginning 18 July
A legacy of hope
‘One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts’
Psalm 145:4 (NIV)

Give thanks for those who leave gifts in their wills and create a legacy of generosity which lives on in their memory.

Give thanks for Christian Aid’s legacy-funded project in Burundi, which ran for three years and significantly improved malnutrition rates among communities living on the shoreline of Lake Tanganyika.

Pray for all those who received training and started kitchen gardens as part of this project. Pray that they continue to have enough to eat and that the savings and loans groups go from strength to strength. Pray that this work brings a legacy of hope for a generation.

God whose son died to bring life in abundance, be with those suffering bereavement and bless all gifts which help to bring life before death.
Amen

Week beginning 25 July
Generating a future
‘For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope’
Jeremiah 29:11

Give thanks for technology and the many ways that it can provide innovative new opportunities.

Give thanks for Christian Aid partners in Honduras working to help women set up small businesses and promote gender equality.

Pray for Alma, Domitila and Rosa, who set up a business selling solar panels and have doubled their monthly income and started being involved in household income decisions. Pray for continued success and confidence.

May God open our eyes to the opportunities technology brings to build communities and to work towards social justice.
Amen.