



From darkness to light: a service of reflection

Tuesday 2 November, 5.30pm

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 our service of reflection

These last 18 months have brought such change and loss to so many lives, here in the UK and around the world. In our service, we take time to reflect on the loss that each of us feels. We hope that our service is a time for us all to come together in a moment of comfort, hope and solidarity.

Tonight, we remember and celebrate the lives and faithfulness of people loved by their families and communities – people whose kindness and passion for justice touched the lives of their brothers and sisters around the world.

Also tonight, we remember family members and friends in whose loving memory gifts have been given 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 and opportunity to poor communities.

Thank you for joining us as we remember people who heard and acted on the words of Matthew, as they understood what their God required of them. They gave life to the words of Jesus: “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)

Opening music

Fugue in D Major (BWV 580) – Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, Chief Executive of Christian Aid

Opening response

Revd Tim Ditchfield, Chaplain of King's College London

For those who long for peace and justice,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

When the night is darkest, and hope feels lost,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

When we feel alone, abandoned, and afraid,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

When our hearts are heavy, and the way is hard,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

When we least expect it,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

With a gentle touch, and with burning love,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe,
that we may be one,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

Within us, without us, behind us, before us, in this place,
in every place, for this time, for all time,
Christ is coming to make all things new.

Thine be the Glory

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.

Refrain

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing;
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

(Refrain)

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life;
Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conqu'rors, through Thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.

(Refrain)

Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4 and 10-11 (NRSV) read by Christian Aid supporter, Revd Maggie Roderick.

Remembering Anna

Ernie and Mary Whalley will share stories about their daughter Anna, and how their family have remembered and celebrated Anna's life through their support of Christian Aid.

Thank you from Christian Aid

Alison Linwood, Legacy and In Memory Giving Manager

Sermon

Dr Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid

Anthem

'Hail, gladdening Light' – Charles Wood

The anthem allows us a moment of reflection. During this time, we invite you to join us in lighting a candle at home for those you are remembering.

Affirmation of Hope

Wesley Koskei, Christian Aid Kenya

We believe in God who has created our world in infinite variety, full of colour, grace and gifts.

And when we stand together with our sisters and brothers, we find new strength and new hope.

We believe in Jesus Christ, gathering the little and the least, inviting all to the table of joy and walking with us on the way.

And when we join with those who work for justice and peace, all may have life.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, life of God within our life, moving in every moment, offering wisdom and newness and dancing with new possibilities.

And when we least expect it, we can be the answer to prayer and all things can be made new.

Prayer of intercession and lighting of candles

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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 joy.
In the name of Christ,

All: Amen.



Sending out

Walk with those who stumble.

Stand with those who fall.

Weep with those who grieve.

Feel for those who mourn.

Stay awake with those who cannot sleep.

Sit with those who cannot weep.

Listen to those who need to speak.

Speak to those who need to hear.

Understand the fearful.

Comfort the anxious.

Reconcile the angry.

Bring peace to the troubled.

Sing, dance, rejoice, remember, smile. Love all God's creation.

Let God's Kingdom come!

Thanks and acknowledgements

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has helped make our service possible this year and a special thank you to the Whalley family for sharing their memories and stories of their daughter, Anna.

Our thanks to the Director of the Chapel Choir, Dr Joseph Fort, and members of the Choir of King's College London for sharing their talents and voices at our service.

Organ Scholar: Mitchell Farquharson

Prayer of intercession readers: Katie Walker and Paige Broadhurst of the Choir of King's College London and Wesley Koskei, Christian Aid, Kenya.

To the clergy and staff at the Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling, Eglwys Dewi Sant in Cardiff; King's College London and Rhu & Shandon Parish church for their support in the recording of our service.

Our service was recorded following government COVID-19 health and safety guidelines and protection measures at all times.



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