



Zimbabwean farmer Jane Paeramanzi showing off some of the products harvested from her fields.

Opening Prayer

Creator God, you make us welcome;
We are the work of your hand.
You give us life in all its fullness.
May our hearts and our minds,
Our prayers and actions,
Be shaped by your will
And inspired by your love.
Amen.



A Prayer for Just Leadership

Jesus, you call us to sow the seeds of peace,
And to nurture justice.

Jesus, you call us to lead through service,
And to cultivate humility.

Servant king, direct our steps.

May we act boldly, according to your will,
In the service of those excluded from power.

May we see your kingdom come,
In the green shoots and ripe fruits of a more just world.

May those in power lead, according to your example,
With compassion and selflessness.

In your name, Lord Jesus,

Amen.

(Adapted from a Christian Aid prayer offered at the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast, 2023)

Thanksgiving and Confession

God of creation, we give thanks for the earth:
For its diverse habitats and for the earthly beauty that reflects
your divine glory.

Faith Will

This Harvest is different.

For the first time, Christian Aid is working with churches and Quaker meetings across the UK to ask people to put their faith into action – by considering leaving a gift in their will to their church and Christian Aid.

Visit our website or scan the QR Code on the final page of this pack to find out more.

Additional Resources

This pack offers some additional prayer resources, alongside our Faith Will materials. If Faith Will isn't right for your church or organisation this year, we'd love your support in other ways - a church collection, a Harvest meal, a sponsored challenge, or another event.

Thank you for your support of our vital work.

We confess the ways we have not respected the gift of the earth:
deforestation, species extinction, the climate crisis.

Loving God, move us beyond despair,
turn us towards action.

God of creation, we give thanks for the soil:
For the life it sustains and the abundance it yields.
We confess the ways we have not respected the gift of the soil:
over-cultivation, dumping waste, aggressive mining.

Loving God, move us beyond despair,
turn us towards action.

God of creation, we give thanks for water:
For its cleansing freshness, quenching our thirst.
We confess the ways we have not respected the gift of water:
plastic pollution, overfishing, chemical poisoning.

Loving God, move us beyond despair,
turn us towards action.

God of creation, instil in us a spirit of repentance that we may
act to protect, heal and cherish the earth, the soil, and water.

Amen.

Sending Out

God we thank you for the gifts that spring forth all around us,
Bursting up from the soil,
Flowing from our fellowship,
Growing from our actions in your name.
Inspire us with your Spirit,
Encourage us to seek new ways to stand up to injustice,
And speak up for those in need.
Send us out replenished,
That we may do the work of your kingdom.
We ask this in your name, Lord.
Amen.



Agnes Machona praying inside her house in Chigumira village, Mutoko district, Zimbabwe.

Harvest Festival

Generous God, at this Harvest time, we give you thanks for the bounties of the world you created: for our food and all those who grow, harvest and transport it.

Open our hearts as we consider how to live out our faith and share the generosity we have received with others, that our values might live on and we may leave a legacy that transforms the world.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

(From our Faith Will Resources)

All-age services and children's groups

Dear God, thank you for the small things of the world: the acorn that grows into a mighty oak, the smallest acts of kindness to others.

Sometimes the problems of the world feel too big for us to change. Help us to have faith that even our little actions can make a difference, and that we can make a better world, in our local community and beyond.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(From our Faith Will Resources)

A prayer for transformation

Transforming God, who brought the world into being through your word, making visible what was invisible, hear us as we pray in faith.

In a world where resources are not shared equally, where crops fail and parents go without to feed their children, in a country where too many rely on foodbanks to get by, we ask that our faith will... help us to feed the hungry.

In the midst of wars and conflicts, where neighbour attacks neighbour and the innocent suffer most, we ask that our faith will... bring peace between nations.



In the face of a climate emergency, where land is scorched or flooded, and habitats destroyed, we ask that our faith will... protect God's creation.

In a culture of fear of the other, where the vulnerable are despised and rejected, we ask that our faith will... give sanctuary to the persecuted.

Standing in a long line of people of faith, we pledge ourselves to your service and to working for a transformed world. We ask that our faith will... leave a legacy.

Merciful God, you have promised to hear our requests. We pray for the coming of your kingdom of justice and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(From our Faith Will Resources)



Christian Aid supporters and staff walk together on the way to the start of the COP26 Global Day of Action March in 2021.

Take Action this Harvest

Could you, your church, school or community group join Christian Aid in acting for climate justice and an end to poverty this Harvest?

You can find lots of resources to help you on our website. Will you:

- Donate your Harvest service collection to help smallholder farmers like Mandigona and Taindonzwa? You can read their stories on the next two pages.

- Plan a pilgrimage for Make Polluters Pay Action Day on 23 September?

- Use our Talking Climate Justice pack to kick start a conversation in your church?

- Express yourself artistically using our Letters to Creation guide?

Let us know what you get up to by sharing your Harvest actions on social media.





Janet Zirugo displays the variety of grains that she and family cultivates in Mutoko District, Zimbabwe.

About the BRACT Project

With our partners, Christian Aid has delivered the Building Resilience through improving the Absorptive and Adaptive Capacity for Transformation (BRACT) project in Mutoko and Mudzi Districts of Zimbabwe. These districts are hot, dry, drought-prone areas in the Northeast of Zimbabwe where communities are exposed to an array of shocks and stresses. The climate in these areas is becoming increasingly variable with frequent droughts and dry spells punctuated by torrential storms.

Most people are farmers, but unpredictable weather patterns, water stress and increasing crop and livestock pests and disease have contributed to declining productivity and food insecurity.

The BRACT Project and follow-up work has reached more than 27, 000 people with a goal of ensuring that households and communities' livelihoods are able to become more resilient, leading to greater well-being.

Mandigona's Story:

Mandigona Kapomba lives with her husband and five children in Nyamhimvu village in ward 2, Mudzi. She has been a village health worker since 2011 when she was trained by Ministry of Health and Child Care officers on how to advise other community members on diarrhoea, malaria and other common illnesses.

Mandigona was recruited to the BRACT project by one of the lead farmers in the community and she immediately began training in agricultural diversification. "We learnt about growing different crops which are better suited to the climate here and more nutritious. We also learnt about chicken, goat and cattle

rearing and how to make livestock feeds to help our animals become more productive. This was a real eye-opener to me."

... [For] Mandigona the most life-changing part of the project has been the nutrition resilience training that she and her neighbours received.

The group learned how to make a special type of porridge that involved adding many different ingredients. "This porridge is really good for young children who need a good start in life. If they eat this porridge, they will grow up strong and won't be affected by many diseases. It's also great for pregnant women," extols Mandigona. The porridge is made from different ingredients including finger millet, pearl millet, sorghum, meat, pumpkin leaves, butternut squash, sweet potatoes, peanut butter, and cow peas. These are



Mandigona Kapomba, a participant in the BRACT Project.

cooked separately then mixed together in a big pot and milk, eggs and a little sugar are added. "As a village we try to cook a batch of porridge at someone's household at least twice a week. Then we assemble all of the children aged under 5 and pregnant women, and we share the porridge. We make it more often if the ingredients are available. We all contribute from our fields, gardens and granaries".

Mandigona laughs: "When we were first taught how to make the porridge, we thought it was going to taste disgusting but it's actually delicious and the children love it".

(Extract from the BRACT Storybook)



Taindonzwa Kapfudzaruwa on her farm in Mudzi district, Zimbabwe.

Taindonzwa's Story:

Grandmother Taindonzwa Kapfudzaruwa of ward 3, Mudzi, has a busy time caring for her disabled husband and seven grandchildren whose parents are working in South Africa and Harare. In addition to this important role, she also manages the family farm growing maize, sunflower, groundnuts, finger millet and even rice. She also has a wide range of livestock including cattle, goats, chickens, guinea fowl and turkeys. But her farm has not always been like this. Taindonzwa tells the story of how BRAC changed the way she does things.

"Although I have been a farmer since 1978, I didn't know much about new ways to grow crops and keep livestock. I have always wanted to learn more about farming because it is my passion. ... [Through BRAC] I learned how to grow new crops such as kalahari melon and rosella. I learned how to do conservation farming and use organic methods for soil fertility and pest control management. I also learned how to harvest marketable wild products including nhengeni and marula and found out how to improve my goat production and chicken-rearing".

Taindonzwa says that before BRAC the production from her farm was very low and the changing weather patterns made life really difficult. "No matter how hard we worked we could not improve production and some years the poor rains meant that we harvested nothing" she laments. ... "We didn't realise that the seeds of the [Kalahari] melon could be sold to make cosmetic cream. It's actually a valuable crop and yet it grows very easily in our area". ... Taindonzwa has used the income from various project activities to buy roof sheets for her house and construct a better chicken house. She also wants to expand into fish farming, so she is saving money to build fishponds.

Harvest Activity

How many of the following ingredients can you find amongst your Harvest festival donations or in your cupboards at home?

Farmers trained by the BRAC project learn how to produce these and many more:

- sunflower oil - groundnuts
- eggs - soya
- peanuts - millet
- maize - mango
- chicken



"The project has made a big impact in the community especially on those who are keen to learn new things. We got so much useful training and I wish that I could have attended more. I have been able to change the way I farm, even at my age. This knowledge will be passed on to others and that means that the whole community will continue to improve and one day hunger will be a thing of the past".

(Extract from the BRAC Storybook)

Pray with us for...

Christian Aid's partners in Zimbabwe, including Bio-Innovation Zimbabwe, the Community Technology Development Organisation, Nyahunure Community Trust and Silveira House.

Pray that the impact of the BRAC programme will continue to be felt by communities as they are enabled to become more resilient and more able to respond to the changes arriving due to the climate crisis.

Pray with us for ...

All affected by hunger and by crop failures. Pray for the success of farmers seeking to nourish their families and communities. Pray for those who have power to act for the good of the marginalised.

Pray with us for ...

A stronger response to the climate crisis from richer nations. Pray for more just political and economic structures where the voices of the majority world can be heard and acted upon. Pray for justice to roll on like a river, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5.24)





Mandigona Kapomba sharing porridge with her community.

Prayer Porridge

You will need – a large saucepan, a wooden spoon, sticky notes or squares of paper, pens.

Share Mandigona's story of making a special porridge to feed young children and pregnant women in her community.

Invite everyone present to write down on a square of paper what is on their mind and on their hearts this Harvest time.

Collect up the squares – if there are children present they might like to be in charge of this! – and put them into the large saucepan.

Explain that you are making prayer porridge. It needs lots of different ingredients from different members of your community, each of whom brings their own cares, interests, ideas and questions. Today we can see all these ingredients on the squares of paper but in a way we are mixing up our prayer porridge every time we gather together, simply by being with each other and bringing our concerns before God.

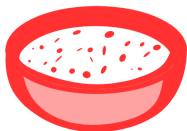
Invite one or two people to stir the prayer porridge. Then pick out a square and use it as a prompt for a moment of shared prayer. Do this two or three times.

You may wish to make the prayer porridge available for people to look at after the service or create a display that allows people to add further ingredients over the whole Harvest period.

If you have a prayer tree in your church you could enlist people to 'harvest' the prayers to add to the pot!

A New Thing

I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43.19)



You will need - two shallow dishes; sunflower oil or Kalahari melon oil (available from various online retailers); water; a couple of towels so people can wipe their hands should they wish to.

Creative Prayer Activities for Your Community this Harvest

There are many more creative prayer and worship ideas, including sermon notes and resources for children and young people in our Faith Will resources pack. Find out more at caid.org.uk or scan the QR code.



This prayer activity works well with a small group.

Set out the two dishes, one filled with oil and another with water.

Share Taindonzwa's story of learning new farming methods and how to grow new crops.

Ask those present to share a time in their life when they took on something new and unfamiliar, perhaps a time when they believed that God was doing 'a new thing' and was calling them to join in.

Reflect together on what it takes to learn something new.

Invite people to come forward and dip their fingers into the oil. Explain as they are doing this that one of the new things farmers in Zimbabwe have been enabled to do through the BRAC project is produce oils for sale, including sunflower, soya and peanut oils. Farmers like Taindonzwa have also been able to grow Kalahari melon and harvest its seeds. These can be sold for various uses, including turning into oil.

Using the oil, those gathered can draw the sign of the cross on their hand as a reminder of the new life God calls us all to in baptism or they can simply rub the oil into their hand as they pray.

Allow a period of silence or shared prayer time. What you can do individually or as a community to try something new? What new thing is God calling you to today?

Now invite people to dip their hands into the water as a further reminder of baptism. Ask them to commit (out loud or in their own minds) to trying something new this Harvest season.

You may wish to close with the prayer for sending out, found on page one of this pack.

To donate or speak to us

You can donate online or by phone. You can also contact us by phone or email if you have any questions or feedback.

We'd love to hear from you!

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