

Christ Church, Ipswich
Sunday 17th May 2026
All-age Church Parade and Christian Aid Service

Hello. I hope all is well. Let us worship God together:

Call to worship

Creator of all, you are faithful to the world you have made.

I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.

Giver of abundant life, you long for our flourishing.

I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.

Good Shepherd of the sheep, you know us and love us.

I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.

Lord, as we gather in prayer and praise,

we ask that you renew our faith,

and form us into one body,

ready to serve you. Amen.

R&S 289 To God be the glory, great things he has done!

1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,

who yielded his life in atonement for sin,

and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;

and give him the glory - great things he has done!

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,

to every believer the promise of God!

And every offender who truly believes,

that moment from Jesus a pardon receives:

3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,

and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;

but purer and higher and greater will be

the wonder, the beauty, when Jesus we see:

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) altd.

A prayer

Faithful God,

we come before you with our gifts and strengths,

and with our faults and weaknesses,

knowing your unfailing love for us.

Open our hearts and our minds,

that we may hear your word and act on it.

Foster in us boldness and perseverance.

Transform us into your likeness,

and inspire us to build your kingdom of justice and love on earth. Amen.

A prayer of confession

God of mercy and grace,
 your steadfast love extends to the heavens,
 your faithfulness to the clouds.
 Yet still we turn away from you.
 We give up in the face of challenges.
 We allow division to deepen.
 We tell ourselves that you have deserted us.
 When we lose faith, loving God,
 in your mercy: **Forgive us and help us.**

Jesus, you call us to love one another
 and share our good gifts with our neighbours.
 But too often we say: 'Am I my brother's keeper?'
 We hold tight to what is ours.
 We do not listen to cries for justice.
 We tell ourselves that there is nothing we can do.
 When we fail to turn our faith into action, loving God,
 in your mercy: **Forgive us and help us.**

Holy Spirit, your fruit is faithfulness, love, joy and peace.
 Too often we fear the growth and change that comes with being guided by you.
 We would rather pursue our own way.
 We do what is wrong and we neglect to do what is good.
 When we fall short as faithful followers, loving God,
 in your mercy: **Forgive us and help us.**

We are assurance of God's forgiveness

A prayer for Christian Aid Week

Gracious God, when we stand on the plains of uncertainty,
 with no path before us, we look to you.

We remember what you have done before and our anxious hearts are comforted.
 Showing mercy, you delivered us then; in your love and faithfulness, you will do it again.

Give us the strength to step forward in hope.
 Give us faith that changes us, hope that feeds us, love that moves us.
 In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Bob Kikuyu, Christian Aid's Global Theology Advisor, Nairobi.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Choir Anthem *Day by Day*

Words: from Prayer of St Richard of Chichester
 Music: Martin How

Day by day, dear Lord, of Thee three things I pray.
 To see Thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
 follow Thee more nearly, day by day.

Christian Aid Video

Action Song**Lord, I lift our name on high****(Neil - Guitar)**

Lord, I lift Your name on high,
 Lord, I love to sing Your praises;
 I'm so glad You're in my life,
 I'm so glad You came to save us.

*You came from Heaven to earth
 to show the way,
 from the earth to the cross
 my debt to pay;
 from the cross to the grave,
 from the grave to the sky,
 Lord, I lift Your name on high.*

Rick Founds © 1989 Maranatha! Music / Copycare

Gospel Reading**John 17:1-11****NT page 103****(Scouts Reader)***Jesus Prays for His Disciples*

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people,^[a] to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Family Talk***A moment for reflection*****Hymn Inspired by love and anger****Tune : Salley Gardens**

1 Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
 Informed of God's own bias, we ask him once again:
 "How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
 How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity blind?"

2 From those forever victims of heartless human greed,
 Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
 "Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?
 When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?"

3 From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy,
 The fear of lost advantage provoke the bitter cry:
 "Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!
 Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!"

4 To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,
 We offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:
 "When will the wronged be righted? When will the kingdom come?
 When will the world be generous to all instead of some?"

5 God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?
 And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?
 And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?
 And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?"

6 Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,
 Attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and wrote,
 A saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools
 Has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.

John L Bell and Graham Maule c. Wild Goose Publications, c/o The Iona Community

Our prayers of intercession

Let us pray together.
 Lord, you are faithful and just.
 In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear us as we pray for our global neighbours in Kenya.
 We pray especially for the residents of Dagoretti.
 We hold before you all people forced to live in inadequate housing,
 without reliable access to running water, sanitation or electricity.
 We pray for those who live with uncertainty and the threat of hunger each day.
 Help us to hear clearly the voices of our neighbours when they share their experiences.
 Inspire us to action, as we respond to your command to love one another.
 Lord, you are faithful and just.
 In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear us as we pray for those with power: for governments, leaders, lawmakers,
 and those who speak with loud voices on the public stage.
 May those who have power and influence love mercy, act justly and walk humbly.
 We pray for governments to take action to end economic inequality.
 We pray especially for countries like Kenya, who are carrying an unjust debt burden.
 Instil in us the prophetic voice that speaks truth to power.
 Lord, you are faithful and just.
 In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear us as we pray for an end to conflict.
 Strengthen those working for peace and justice across the world.
 We pray especially for...
 [Pray for places and people affected by war, violence and injustice. You could pray for:

- peace in the Middle East
- an end to the war in Ukraine
- those affected by conflict in Sudan
- Christian Aid's partners working to address gender-based violence in Kenya.

Show us how to seek peace and pursue it in our lives.
 Lord, you are faithful and just.
 In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear us as we pray for all those known to us who are sick or suffering.
 We pray for all those who are grieving. We pray for people living in poverty who have lost loved ones.
 We pray for those who face unimaginable challenges on top of their grief.
 Bless those who mourn and give them your comfort.
 Fill us with compassion for all those in need of support.
 Lord, you are faithful and just.
 In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear us as we pray with thanksgiving for changemakers.
 We are thankful for bold and courageous urban farmers like Fridah and Belinda,
 who show us what is possible.
 We pray for Beacon of Hope, Christian Aid's partner in Nairobi.
 We ask that you sustain and guide urban farmers
 as they grow food, protect their children from hunger, and nurture hope.
 We thank you for all who are giving, acting and praying this Christian Aid Week.
 May we see your image in these acts of generosity and love,
 and may we find new ways to live out our faith through service to others.
 Lord, you are faithful and just.
 In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Great is your faithfulness, Lord.
 You have promised to hear us when we call upon you.
 Receive these prayers, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

R&S 96 Great is thy faithfulness

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
 there is no shadow of turning with thee;
 thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
 as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
 great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
 sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
 blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960)
 © 1923 renewal 1951, Hope Publishing Co.

A sending out prayer

Almighty God, we love one another because you first loved us.
 Send us out to act in loving service,
 strengthened by the knowledge that the one who calls us is faithful.
 We give thanks for the vital work of Christian Aid
 and for all those who pour themselves out for the cause of justice.
 May our actions and offerings plant seeds of change that grow and flourish.
 Guide us as we seek a world where every person can live a full life, free from poverty. Amen.

The Blessing

May Jesus, who is the way,
 guide you.
 May Jesus, who is the truth,
 speak through you.
 May Jesus, who is the life,
 fill you with purpose.
 And may God's blessing go with you
 today and always. **Amen**

**The Grace - May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Resources taken and adapted from Christian Aid, Nick Fawcett's *Prayers for all Seasons*, *ROOTS for Churches Limited*,
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