



Farmer and community leader Aurelia holding the fertiliser that she learned how to make with the support of Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop.

## Opening prayer (Based on Ephesians 1)

Gracious God, you gather all creation together in love.

As we meet today, enlighten our hearts, so that we may perceive the hope to which you have called us.

As your children, may we grow into your likeness, filled with compassion and desiring justice.

Embolden us to live out our calling, and put faith, hope and love into action.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of confession

Merciful Father, you challenge us through the words of prophets.

We confess that we have failed to listen, or pretended not to hear.

'Let justice roll down like water,' you tell us.

But we block the flowing streams and drain the rivers dry.

In your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

Loving Lord, you came not to be served but to serve.

We confess that we have buried our talents, and turned away from those who need our gifts.

'Love your neighbour as yourself,' you command us.

But we worry that such love will cost us too much.

In your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

Holy Spirit, you empower us with abundant hope.

We confess that we have given in to cynicism, and declared that the world cannot change.

When we despair, you are there to comfort us.

But we try to rely on ourselves alone.

In your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

## A prayer for Christian Aid Week 2025

Lord, you are faithful to your promises.

Through the Spirit, you bless us with abounding hope.

When power seeks to silence justice, give us the courage to raise our voice.

When an end to poverty seems far off, renew our faith in your kingdom come on earth.

When our neighbour reaches out, inspire us to respond with overflowing love.

In Jesus' name,

**Amen.**

## Prayers of intercession (Responses based on Micah 7:7)

Let us pray together.

We watch in hope for the Lord:  
**our God will hear us.**

Lord, hear us as we pray for your creation.  
We pray for an end to the destruction of the natural world.  
We hold before you communities who are watching their land become parched and their rivers dry up.  
We pray for farmers like Aurelia who carefully tend their crops, only to see them wither and die.  
We grieve for what has already been lost and damaged. Show us how to act now to help those most affected by the climate crisis.  
Energise us, that we may use our power to make change happen.

We watch in hope for the Lord:  
**our God will hear us.**

Lord, hear us as we pray for all people living in poverty.  
For children who will not be able to eat a nutritious meal today, or cannot afford to attend school.  
Fill us with a fierce determination to end the outrage of poverty.  
May we hear the cries of those who are marginalised in our world.  
May we speak up with them for a more equal and just society.

We watch in hope for the Lord:  
**our God will hear us.**



Aurelia's grandchild, Andy, carrying water.



Lord, hear us as we pray with thanksgiving for peacemakers and changemakers.  
We give thanks for community leaders like Aurelia, whose hope is her power.  
We pray for Congcoop, Christian Aid's partner in Guatemala, who support communities through training.  
Strengthen those working for peace and protecting human rights.  
We pray for a just peace wherever there is conflict, thinking especially of...  
*[Pray here for places and people affected by war and violence. You may wish to include prayers for:*  
Peace in the Middle East.  
An end to the war in Ukraine.  
Those affected by conflict in Sudan.  
Christian Aid's partners working in Guatemala to ensure every person is protected from violence and has access to a robust justice system.]

We watch in hope for the Lord:  
**our God will hear us.**

Lord, you welcome us when we are heavy laden with sorrow or pain, in you we find rest.  
We pray for all those known to us who are sick or suffering.  
*[Remembering particularly...]*  
We pray for all those who are grieving.  
*[Remembering particularly...]*  
We pray especially for communities living in poverty around the world who have suffered great losses: the loss of homes, the loss of access to clean water, the loss of family members.  
Bless those who mourn and give them your comfort.

We watch in hope for the Lord:  
**our God will hear us.**

Lord, hear as we pray for those whose hope overflows into action.  
We give thanks for all those giving, acting and praying this Christian Aid Week.  
May each of us seek to serve our global neighbours.  
Help us to see the value of our loving service, whether we make cups of coffee, shake collection buckets, step out on sponsored walks, or offer support in other ways.  
Make us your witnesses, proclaiming your kingdom.

We watch in hope for the Lord:  
**our God will hear us.**

We offer these prayers in Jesus' name.  
**Our God will hear us.**  
**Amen.**

## Prayer prompts

Offer prayers for:

- The people of Guatemala, particularly Indigenous communities who are often among the most marginalised groups in the country.
- Christian Aid's partner in Guatemala, Congcoop. Pray for the success of their training programmes, their staff and their work in 2025 and beyond.
- Anyone living in poverty.
- Households surviving on one meal a day. Parents who worry about feeding their children. Children whose growth is stunted due to malnutrition.
- Farmers across the world feeling the impact of the climate crisis.
- Communities who don't have access to clean water or have to travel long distances to collect the water they need.
- Large corporations running plantations in Guatemala. Pray that they take responsibility for the impact they have on the environment and Indigenous communities.
- Governments and those with power. Pray that they work for justice and prioritise tackling poverty.
- The work of Christian Aid and their partners. Pray for all who support this work by giving, acting and praying together.

## Prayer of thanksgiving and dismissal

God of all, you have abundantly blessed us.

As we go out from this place, help us to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you.

We give thanks for the vital work of Christian Aid and for all who support this work.

May your compassion flow through our actions and offerings.

Loving and faithful God, give us hope and send us out to serve you, this day and every day.

**Amen.**



## Creative ways to pray

There are lots of creative ways to pray in our all-age service pack:

- Create your own cacao prayer tree.
- Discover different ways to pray using your hands and hold up your hopes to God.
- Practise reflection with the help of some chocolate! Find out more at [caweek.org/Worship](http://caweek.org/Worship)

## Meditative prayer activity

Sit in a circle. Place a large bowl of water on a table in the centre of the circle.

You could add some drops of fair trade essential oil to the water. Some fair trade oils such as lemongrass are often produced in Guatemala. Listen to a recording of *La Paz de la Tierra* (The Peace of the Earth), a traditional Guatemalan song, translated by Christine Cardon and arranged by John Bell.

As the music plays, go to the table one by one and dip your fingers in the water. Make the sign of the Cross on the back of your hand.

When you return to your seat, think of Aurelia and other women in her community walking long distances every day to collect water. Pray silently for these women and for all the people of Guatemala. End by saying these words from the song together:

**'The peace of the rivers be with you, the peace of the oceans too, deep peace falling over you. God's peace growing in you.'**

## Blessing

God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

