

Order of Service



This Order of Service guide is designed to help you build your own Harvest service. Use this together with our Harvest Prayer Pack to choose prayers, songs and readings for your worship.

Anok's Story

Hear from Anok who lives in South Sudan and is learning new ways to grow crops and face the challenge of droughts and floods. You can find her story at the end of this pack. You can also download slides that will take you through this story for use in your service.

Opening Responses

Sow for yourselves righteousness.

For it is time to seek the Lord.

Break up your fallow ground.

For it is time to seek the Lord.

Bring the first fruits of all your produce.

For it is time to seek the Lord.

Reap steadfast love.

For it is time to seek the Lord.

(Hosea 10.12 and Proverbs 3.9)

Prayer of Penitence & Lament

Let us pray to the Lord, confessing our fears and failings.

The wild beasts wait with you in the desert.
The trees clap their hands in praise of you.
The creatures of the sea fulfil your word.
But we turn away from you.

Gracious Lord, have mercy on us.

The earth is yours and all that is in it.
You declared it good.
In your hand is the life of every living thing.
But we treat the earth as our own possession.

Gracious Lord, have mercy on us.

The land mourns.
The stones cry out.
Creation groans and suffers.
But we listen only to our own interests.

Gracious Lord, have mercy on us.

Silence may be kept as those present call to mind our need for forgiveness and our grief over the climate crisis.

**Gracious Lord, Creator of all,
Hear us and help us.
Amen.**



Responses (based on Psalm 65 and Amos 5:24)

O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

Your righteousness and justice are an ever-flowing stream.

You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it.

The river of God is full of water.

Your righteousness and justice are an ever-flowing stream.

You crown the year with your bounty.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow.

The hills gird themselves with joy.

The valleys shout and sing together.

Your righteousness and justice are an ever-flowing stream.

Praise to you O God,

O you who answer prayer!

You forgive our transgressions.

You make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

Your righteousness and justice are an ever-flowing stream.

O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

Your righteousness and justice are an ever-flowing stream.

Amen.

Readings: Deuteronomy 8:7-18

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Luke 12:16-30

Talk/Sermon

Use our Harvest Sermon Notes Pack to prepare your talk on the readings above or on other suggested texts.

You can also download our ready-to-use All Age Harvest talks.

Prayer for Hope

God of hope,

With you nothing is impossible.

Your promises endure,

Your Spirit sustains us.

Establish in us hope for your world;

Hope that moves us,

Like fire in our bones,

Like a shoot springing up from the soil,

Like an ever-flowing stream.

Nurture in us a vision for change.

Stir in us a desire for justice,

That our hope may become action,

That your will may be done.

Amen.



Your Harvest Offering

If you are taking a collection for Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal during your service - **thank you!** If your church usually gathers food to donate to local charities, we offer a resource that allows you to show your commitment to your global neighbours too. You can download and print a tin can label to be used on any ordinary tin as part of your Harvest offering. Our special label represents your support for Christian Aid's work to tackle food insecurity around the world. Find out more at caid.org.uk/harvest

Praying for our neighbours: local and global



Our local neighbours and ourselves

Pray for causes close to home, such as your local foodbank and people experiencing poverty in your community. Pray for yourself, your family and friends, that God may guide you as you take action for a more just world.



Our global neighbours

Remembering our calling to love our neighbours as ourselves, pray for our global neighbours in places like South Sudan. Pray for those who are enduring the greatest impacts of the climate crisis. Pray for an end to hunger and food insecurity across the world.



The earth, our home

Pray for the earth, the home of humanity and of all living creatures. Pray for those working to repair and heal the harm we have done to the natural world. Pray for those who work to develop environmentally sustainable farming techniques. Pray for action to protect natural habitats and cherish land, water, plants and animals.



Local and global leaders

Pray for those who hold political and economic power. Pray that they would act to tackle food insecurity and the causes of the climate crisis. Pray for wise and just leadership in our communities, governments and institutions in the UK and around the world.

Pray for those excluded from power, that they will no longer be marginalised.





Prayer of Thanksgiving & Sending

God we thank you for the gifts that spring forth all around us,
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.

Harvest Blessing

May God our Creator bless you
And make your days fruitful.
May God our Saviour guide you,
And make your ways just.
May God our Comforter strengthen you,
And make your heart hopeful.
Amen.



Suggested Hymns and Songs

- Everything is Yours (Jake Isaac). A worship song created in partnership with Christian Aid's Black Majority Church Climate Action Group. Music and Lyrics are freely available [online](#).
- If the Fields are Parched (Chris Juby).
- O God of Boundless Hope (Brian Davis).
- Oh the Life of the World is a Joy and a Treasure (Kathy Galloway).
- The Song of Kingdom Come (Paul Field and Martin John Nicholls). Created in partnership with Christian Aid.
- You Made a Universe So Full of Wonder (Ally Barrett).
- Your Great Name (Pete Odera). This worship song was created in Kenya in partnership with Christian Aid's Black Majority Church Climate Action Group

For your all-age or children's service:

- In Our Lives Plant Seeds of Hope (Carol Dixon).
- Let Justice Roll Like a River and Global Neighbours (Fischy Music). Created in partnership with Christian Aid.

Anok's Story

Anok Kon and her family have been facing the dual challenges of droughts and floods, made worse by the climate crisis. She's responded by training with Christian Aid's partners to grow climate resilient crops.

Anok Kon is a farmer living in the Aguat area of South Sudan. For the majority of South Sudanese families life is extremely tough. One in ten children die before their fifth birthday. Most families, particularly in rural areas, don't have access to sanitation and don't have reliable sources of clean drinking water.

Anok lives with her husband Deng and their seven children. The family rely on farming for their food and income. In recent years they have faced the dual challenge of drought and flooding. The situation has been made worse by the effects of the climate crisis. The floods have been especially devastating, washing away crops, destroying farm land, inundating homes and killing cattle.

Anok told Christian Aid that **'life was so difficult'** in the last few years: **'the continuous flooding has led to the destruction of harvests leaving many farmers unable to provide for their families.'** Flooding also increases the spread of disease as water supplies become contaminated. Anok says her children have suffered illness because of this.



Anok is a farmer, chair of her local women's group and mother to seven children.



With support from Christian Aid's partners, Anok and her community have been able to develop methods to grow more climate resilient crops. They can now grow a greater variety of vegetables during the dry season and are learning water saving irrigation methods to combat drought. Christian Aid's partners have also worked with Anok's community to construct a dyke that will divert flood water away from villages and farmland.

Anok chairs her local women's group and looks for opportunities to collaborate with her neighbours. She is growing a wide range of produce including pumpkin, okra, onions and beans and is now keeping chickens. She uses the income she makes to pay for her children's school fees. Her ambition is for her children to be able to go to university one day.

What can you do this harvest to support Anok in making her hope a reality? Every commitment to fundraise, act and pray can make a difference to your global neighbours.



Anok feeding her chickens.

What will you do?

- Hold a collection for Christian Aid's Harvest appeal at your service
- Use our special tin can label to represent your support for Christian Aid when you collect food for local causes
- Host a bring and share meal with a quiz or harvest craft to raise funds
- Use our printable placemats at your harvest supper to get people talking about the challenges in South Sudan.