



Materials for a Fair Trade Service

Call to Worship

I will give you thanks, O lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praise to you among the nations.

**For your loving-kindness is as high as the heavens,
And your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. (Ps 57:10-11)**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
Let the whole earth tremble before him.

**Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king.
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
He will judge the people with equity. (96: 9-10)**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
Those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
Their hearts shall live forever. (Ps 22:26)

Calls to Repentance

You have created earth's abundance and given us companions with whom to share it,
But we use it carelessly, endangering ourselves and our neighbours. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy

You have called us to pay fair wages to all who labour and to be honest in all our transactions,
But we take part in systems that exploit the powerless. Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy

You have called us to speak up for people who are being treated unfairly,
But we are too often silent or quiet in the face of injustice. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy

or

Where our habits have reflected our sin and not your love,
Have mercy, Lord – forgive us our sins.

Where we seek help to form habits that conform to your ways,
Grant us grace, Lord – your will be done.

Where new habits of righteousness transform unjust structures,
We praise you, Lord – your kingdom come!

Readings

Some churches use the Revised Common Lectionary to set the readings for their Sunday services. Others decide on the readings themselves.

If you are preparing a service in a church which has more flexibility to choose readings, there are many readings that relate to the principles of love and justice that inspire Christians to engage with Fair Trade . Here are some passages you might want to look at:

- Isaiah 3:14-15
- Ezekiel 28:5, 14-15
- Amos 8:4-7
- Luke 4:16-19
- James 4:13-14, 5:4

Sermon

Take a look at our section on preaching, which contains points based on the Revised Common Lectionary, suggestions for interactive sermons, and links to some sermons for inspiration.

Reflections

You might want to use this after the sermon, as a time for reflection

Just a moment

It starts with a change
So outwardly insignificant
That no one would notice
Except the person
Behind you in the aisle.

Just a moment
When instead of seeing
Rows of labels
On a supermarket shelf
You imagine the people
Behind them,
Tilling the earth,
Sowing the seed,
Gathering the crops.

And you pause,
Wondering,
What their names are,
Where they live,
What difference it will make
If your hand picks up
This box instead of that,

Wondering: how do I
Love these neighbours?
Can I help change
This child's long journey for water,
Her mother's lack of healthcare,
The prospect her father faces
Of another year unable
To feed his family well?

Just a moment.
And the person behind you,
Their impatient baby
Squirming in the trolley,
May never realise
That in that brief hesitation
A life hung in the balance.

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer points for people engaged in Fair Trade

Dear Lord, we ask your blessing on all who are involved with Fair Trade, lifting before you:

- producers as they grow their crops and craft their works. Bless them, we pray, in their endeavours and grant them wisdom and discernment as they make decisions about how to use the benefits of Fair Trade.
- people who transport Fair Trade goods to market. Grant, we pray, that they, too, may be fairly treated.
- those who import and retail Fair Trade goods. Grant them, we pray, a genuine commitment to fairer trade for all.
- all of us who shop where Fair Trade goods are for sale. Grant us an understanding of the impact of our choices.

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers for Inspiration

Choices

O Lord,
You revealed your Kingdom in parables
That spoke of simple things —
Yeast in a loaf of a bread,
A woman sweeping her home.

Grant that the simple choices we make —
What tea to drink, what fruit to eat —
May honour your Name
And reveal your Kingdom present among us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Based on Proverbs 13:23

Lord God,
In the fields of the poor
Even when abundant fruits ripen,
Injustice sweeps them away,
And families hunger.

Help us to share
The fruits of your bounty
So that all your family may benefit
From your gracious gifts. Amen.

Taking the next step

Dear Lord,
You call us to a neighbourly love
That is generous in practical ways,
That doesn't leave by the roadside
Those harmed by sin and greed
But goes out of its way
To bring healing.

Help us to see
How neighbours near and far
Are suffering, their resources stolen
By unjust people and systems.
And fill us, we pray, with your Spirit,
That we may be inspired
To go further each day in using our gifts
Of time and money and talent
Lovingly
In ways that redress injustice
And renew life. Amen

Responsive Prayer

This material is based on Amos 8:4-7, Micah 6:6,8; Matthew 22:35-40; 1 John 3:18

Almighty God, you have created and redeemed us, freely giving us the gift of your love. We grieve that, despite this, selfishness and greed so often rule our decisions. Forgive us our acceptance of unjust structures of trade.

Help us to do justice, love kindness & walk humbly with you

Almighty God, lover of justice and kindness, you command all your children to love their neighbours in deeds and not just words. We thank you for Fair Trade – for the way it helps us to live out love and justice in daily life. May we continue steadfast in our support for all that makes trade fairer.

Help us to do justice, love kindness & walk humbly with you

Almighty God, who longs for all your children to live together in peace, we thank you for the ways in which Fair Trade binds us together in this community as we seek to follow your commands, and for the ways it binds us together with brothers and sisters around the world. Strengthen the bonds of trust and affection between us.

Help us to do justice, love kindness & walk humbly with you

Almighty God, in whose Kingdom Justice and mercy, peace and righteousness meet. We pray for the transformation of the rules of our world. Transform and renew the hearts of all in authority, that as they negotiate trade agreements.

Help them to do justice, love kindness & walk humbly with you

Loving and righteous Lord,
Grant us the prophets' vision and strength, that hearing Your call,
We may speak out and work for justice and for love. Through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hymns

There aren't a lot of hymns that directly address Fair Trade – the exception being Graham Kendrick's *Beauty for Brokenness*, which was written for Tearfund's anniversary and has a reference to "work for the craftsman, trade for their skills". There are, however, many hymns that have themes of praise, repentance, renewal, God's power to transform, and Christians' call to live in love and to seek justice ... all appropriate themes for a Fair Trade service.

We've put a selection below, drawn from a range of traditions. There are quite a few – but that's because we know how important it is to find something that speaks to your congregation.

Beauty for brokenness (God of the poor) (Graham Kendrick)

God's gifts in creation – and our response

Creating God, your fingers trace (Jeffery Rowthorn)
For the fruits of all creation (Fred Kaan)
God in his love for us lent us this planet (F Pratt Green)
Now join we to praise the creator (Fred Kaan)
[The Doxecology Album by Resound Worship](#)

The call to love and serve

Brother, sister, let me serve you – (Richard Gillard)
For ourselves no longer living (Fred Kaan)
Kneels at the feet of his friends (Tom Colvin)
Make me a channel of your peace (St Francis and Sebastian Temple)
New every morning is the love (John Keble)
O Jesus, I have promised (J E Bode)
Seek ye first the Kingdom of God (Karen Lafferty)
Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands (C W Humphreys and Percy Dearmer)
This little light of mine (Harry Dixon Lord?)

Repentance

Forgive us when our deeds ignore (Martin Leckebusch)
Now join we to praise the creator (Fred Kaan)
Out of our failure to create (Fred Kaan)
Son of God, eternal Saviour (S C Lowry)

Focus on justice

Creating God, we bring our song of praise (Jan Berry)
Extol the God of justice (Martin Leckebusch)
How shall we sing salvation's song when justice stands denied (T Dudley-Smith)
I dream of a church (Kevin Snyman)
Inspired by love and anger (John L Bell/Graham Maule)
The Kingdom of God is justice and joy (Bryn A Rees)
This we can do for justice and for peace (Brian Wren)
We bring you, Lord, our prayer and praise that every child of earth (Timothy Dudley-Smith)

God's love for the world – and our response

Christ's is the world in which we move (John Bell/Graham Maule)
From heaven you came, helpless babe (Graham Kendrick)
God is Love: let heav'n adore him (Timothy Rees)

God in his love for us lent us this planet (F Pratt Green)
Great God, your love has called us here (Brian Wren)
In Christ there is no East or West (John Oxenham d 1941)
There's a spirit in the air (Brian Wren)

God's power to transform

Christ is the world's true light (George Wallace Briggs)
Come down, O Love divine – (Bianco da Siena, RF Littledale)
Come, Holy Spirit, come! (Michael Forster)
Creator of the earth and skies (Donald Wynn Hughes)
God of grace and God of glory (H E Fosdick)
Lord, as I wake, I turn to you (Brian Foley)
Make me a channel of your peace (St Francis arr Sebastian Temple)
O breath of life, come sweeping through us (Bessie Porter Head)
O Lord, all the world belongs to you (Patrick Appleford)
O the mercy of God, the glory of grace (Geoff Bullock)
O Thou who camest from above (Charles Wesley)
One more step along the world I go (Sydney Carter)
Our hunger cries from plenty, Lord (Colin Thompson)
Shine, Jesus, shine (Graham Kendrick)
Spirit of flame, whose living glow (A H Driver)
Take my life and let it be (Frances Ridley Havergal)
Teach me, my God and King (George Herbert)
The Church of Christ, in every age (F Pratt Green)
Thy Kingdom come, O God (Lewis Hensley)
To you, O Christ, the Prince of Peace (Richard Sturch)
Touch the earth lightly (Shirley Erena Murray)

Praise (with an emphasis on God's creation, love and justice)

Creating God, we bring our song of praise (Jan Berry)
From heaven you came, helpless babe (Graham Kendrick)
God is unique and one (Fred Kaan)
God who spoke in the beginning (Fred Kaan)
O for a thousand tongues to sing (Charles Wesley)
Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer (AF Bayly)
There's a spirit in the air (Brian Wren)

Sent out to serve

Forth in the peace of Christ we go (James Quinn)
Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go (Charles Wesley)
Go forth and tell! O Church of God awake! (James Seddon)
Go forth for God: go forth to the world in peace (J R Peacey)
Go peaceful, in gentleness (Paul Field)
I the Lord of sea and sky (Daniel L Schutte)
Lord, you give the great commission (Jeffery Rowthorn)
Now let us from this table rise (Fred Kaan)
This little light of mine (Harry Dixon Lord?)
Thuma mina (S African traditional, adapted Anders Nyberg)
We are marching in the light of God (SA traditional, Anders Nyberg/Andrew Maries)

For more materials on Fair Trade and other topics, visit www.ccow.org.uk.