

Worship Resources -

homelessness
unemployment
Justice

UNEMPLOYMENT SUNDAY 1999

For those of us whose young lives
await space and time to grow and become fulfilled,
we ask blessing and your power.

For those of us whose position or experience
can bestow such time and space
through sufficient, constructive resources,
we ask your blessing and your discernment.

For those of us who witness or have known
the suffocating burden of unemployment,
we ask your blessing and your creativity
to support, to strengthen,
to encourage, and even to inspire
your struggling people.

"Behold, I make all things new,
beginning with you
and starting from today.
Behold, I make all things new
my promise is true
for I am Christ the Way."

written by John L Bell and Graham Maule©
Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Glasgow

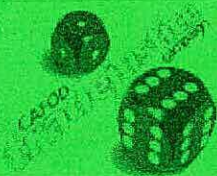


**CHURCH ACTION
ON POVERTY**

Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JT



YMCA England
640 Forest Road
London
E17 3DZ



Prayer for justice in trade

Cry justice!

The harvesters' cries echo hollow

In gold temples of power empty feast

Where rich banqueters dine on the profits

Cry justice!

Crumbs fall from the tables of wealth

Drops of wine from vast jars of excess

Pouring scorn

While rich banqueters feed on the profits

Cry justice!

Generous Lord, as the harvesters' cries

Reach, resound through the arches of
heaven

Show us how to trade places to see

with the eyes of the prophets

your truth, and

Cry justice!



Join CAFOD Supporters from South London, Kent,
Sussex and Surrey at our

CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

10:30 - 15:00

Saturday 27 October 2001

Digby Stuart College
ROEHAMPTON

Tea and Coffee will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

RSVP

(Spaces are limited)

*If you are unable to come please feel free to pass on this
invitation to anyone else who may be interested.*

For more information contact

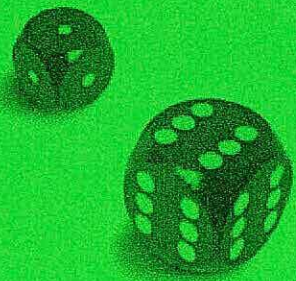
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PLAY a game with friends and family, and you expect the rules to be fair.

But the world trading system doesn't work like this. The dice are loaded against the poor. Rich countries and businesses make the rules and get to be referee through their domination of the organisations that govern world trade.

How can the poor possibly WIN?

CAFOD doesn't think this is right or fair. So, we are doing something about it. And you can too. CAFOD believes that trade can bring lots of benefits, but it wants the rules to be changed.

The poor are NOT fair game.

CAFOD is part of the Trade Justice Movement, which calls for fundamental changes to the unjust rules and institutions that govern international trade so that trade can be made to work for all.

Join us and make trade work for the poor.



CAFOD is a Registered Charity No 285776

CAFOD
tradejustice
campaign

South & Southwark
Joint Launch

Invitation

come and see how you can help
make **trade** work **for all**

Main Speakers

Sergio Cobo
and

Maria Atilano

CAFOD Partners from Mexico
with

Duncan Green

CAFOD Policy Analyst
and

David Murray

CAFOD Campaign Volunteer

ADVENT

SERVICE
FOR
PEACE
&
JUSTICE

Service for Peace and Justice

Introduction

Silence

Prayer

Prayer for the darkness of waiting

For the darkness of waiting
of not knowing what is to come
of staying ready and quiet and attentive,
we praise you O God

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you

For the darkness of staying silent
for the terror of having nothing to say
and for the greater terror
of needing to say nothing,
we praise you O God

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you

For the darkness of loving
in which it is safe to surrender
to let go of our self-protection
and to stop holding back our desire,
we praise you O God

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you

For the darkness of choosing
when you give us the moment
to speak, and act, and change,
and we cannot know what we have set in motion,
but we still have to take the risk,
we praise you O God

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you

For the darkness of hoping
in a world which longs for you,
for the wrestling and the labouring of all creation
for wholeness and justice and freedom,
we praise you O God

For the darkness and the light are both alike to you

Confession

Jesus Christ is raging,
Raging in the streets.
Where injustice spirals,
And real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the kingdom's causes,
Let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing,
Healing in the streets.
Curing those who suffer,
Touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
Let my care be active,
Healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing,
Dancing in the streets.
Where each sign of hatred,
His strong love defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I feel triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard,
Let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling,
Calling in the streets.
"Come and walk faith's tightrope,
I will guide your feet".
Listen, Lord Jesus,
Let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me,
I will follow you.

Dismissal

Go from this place in peace,
and if the walk is long,
praise God – who will walk it with you.
If the wind is cold,
praise God – for the warmth of his touch
If life is hard
praise God – for the arms of his love
attached to you for ever
by the nails that pierced hands and feet
for your sake.

There will be a retiring collection for Christian Aid.

God of justice, encircle the earth
and let the nations live in harmony
 Prince of peace, heal your divided world
And let the nations live in harmony
 Spirit of reconciliation, breathe your gentleness on all creation
And let the nations live in harmony
 Holy Trinity, let justice, peace and reconciliation prevail
and let the nations live in harmony

Pray from Sri Lanka

Oh God, the Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Parent: you who are to us both Father and Mother: we your children draw around your feet to worship you.

Your compassion is as the fragrance of the lotus. Though you are enthroned in the heavens, we may draw near to you: for your feet stand upon the earth where we humans dwell. Your Son, our Lord, was man.

We see your compassion in Jesus.
 He gives content to the Hindu name for the Siva, the Kindly One.
 He gives significance to the Muslim address of the Allah, the Merciful.
 He embodies the Godhead what the Buddhist worships in the Buddha – compassion itself.

God of all the world, let our history teach us that we belong to you alone and that you alone belong to us, and are enough. For in you we sinners find daughtership and sonship again – the one thing we most need.

Peace

Blesséd is the peacemaker for they will be called the children of God. The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other a sign of that peace.

Hymn

Jesus Christ is waiting

Jesus Christ is waiting,
 Waiting in the streets.
 No one is his neighbour
 All alone he eats.
 Listen, Lord Jesus,
 I am lonely too.
 Make me friend or stranger,
 Fit to wait on you.

Reading

Isaiah 35

The desert will sing and rejoice
And the wilderness blossom with flowers

All will see the Lord's splendour
See the Lord's greatness and power

Tell everyone who is anxious
Be strong and don't be afraid

The blind will be able to see
The deaf will be able to hear

The lame will leap and dance
Those who can't speak will shout

They will hammer their swords into ploughs
And their spears into pruning knives

The nations will live in peace
They will train for war no more

This is the promise of God
God's promise will be fulfilled

Reading

Matthew 5 verses 1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went onto the mountain. And when he was seated his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

How blessed are the poor in spirit: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
 Blessed are the gentle: they shall have the earth as inheritance.
 Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted.
 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness: they shall have their fill.
 Blessed are they merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.
 Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall be recognised as children of God.
 Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.

Hymn

To a World so Torn and Tortured

To a world so torn and tortured
Came the voice of one who knew
What it cost to lift oppression,
Challenge the accepted view.

John convicted crowds before him,
Charged hypocrisy with God,
Opened up the way for Jesus
Who would follow where he trod.

Then imprisoned, John was silenced;
Yet a voice more powerful still
Challenged in and out of season
All who heard to do God's will.

Living Christ would lift oppression,
Dying he would seem to fail;
Crying out in desolation,
Yet God's love would still prevail.

Reflection

Taize

Wait for the Lord,
His day is near
Wait for the Lord,
Be strong take heart

(Sing 3 times)

Intercessions

Taize

Wait for the Lord,
His day is near
Wait for the Lord,
Be strong take heart

(Sing 3 times)

Prayer

Justice, Peace and Reconciliation

Holy God,
Our ears are ringing with the sounds of voices crying out in
distress:
people without names yet whose faces stare at us each day;
children malnourished, mothers beyond hope in their grief;
fathers helpless to provide, devastated by famine and trapped by
war.

So we too cry out in despair.
We cry to you,
the God of babies and mothers and fathers.
We cry to you for justice
and for help to know what on earth to do.

When our ears are deaf because the cries are too familiar,
help us to respond with urgency once more.
When our tears have dried up because we have seen it all before,
rekindle our sympathy and our generosity.
When our anger has abated because cruelty is a fact of life,
stir within us a new sense of justice.

Save us from hypocrisy:
speaking words of peace but not making peace;
praying for reconciliation but not daring to build bridges,
criticising politicians but remaining hard-hearted at home.

Save us from apathy:
Leaving the hard work to others.

Save us from insensitivity:
going along with the selfishness of society;
reinforcing the prejudices of our culture,
failing to notice the needs on our doorsteps.

Save us from a comfortable gospel;
designed to save our own souls only,
aimed at the Church rather than the world;
expecting the glory without pain,
the resurrection without the cross.

Save us from making Jesus into a harmless mascot:
a comforter but not a challenger;
a story-teller but not a debater;
a donkey-rider but not a turner-over of tables;
a teacher but not a transformer;
a lover but not a redeemer.

Then may we be better equipped
to be people of your Kingdom
which confronts and challenges
the division and hatred in the world,
to the glory of your holy name.

Confession

Father, we are here this evening to pray for peace and justice.

We may not feel that we can do much about world peace but we can contribute towards a more peaceful and just society beginning with our families, local communities, charities or action groups. We ask for your forgiveness for not taking part and contributing more at those times when we are able to do so.

Father, forgive us.

We ask for your forgiveness for those times when we ourselves have been unjust or unfair towards other people. When we are: quick to judge, quick to anger, slow to forgive.

Father, forgive us.

We ask for your forgiveness when we act out of prejudice. It is easy for us, as Christians, to believe that we are not prejudiced, that we are open minded and accepting, but it is not always so. There are small words, small acts which could make someone feel truly welcome and included but they are often left unsaid or undone.

Father, forgive us.

Lord, by your grace, we ask for that true peace which your forgiveness brings, the peace which is at the heart of a more peaceful and just world.

Amen

OVERCOMING THE *Darkness*

*A service on housing
and homelessness*

Produced by **CHAS** and **UNLEASH** for the **Churches National Housing Coalition**

CHAS

Catholic Housing Aid Society

UNLEASH

Church Action
on Homelessness
in London



cnhc

CHAS and UNLEASH have again co-written a service on behalf of the Churches National Housing Coalition to form the basis for local ecumenical services or Days of Prayer on housing and homelessness. November 27 has been agreed as a Day of Prayer for housing and homelessness in London, and we hope your local service could be on or around this date.

Your own service

Last year many people adapted the service for their own use or to include particular local issues. This year, the service is designed to provide a framework so that your own hymns, readings and prayers can be added. The presentation could be a sermon, a talk by a local project or group, a testimony or it could be mime, dance or discussion - whatever is appropriate for your group or situation. You might like to gather local information and display it.

November 27 is Advent Sunday and the service takes up the Advent themes of light and dark. Reflections on the Christmas story particularly bring homelessness to mind - this service can encourage people to think about homelessness during Advent.

Throughout the service a series of candles are lit. Give some thought as to how you might arrange them - in a particular shape, on different levels or held by different people. It might not be practical to start your service in total darkness, but we would suggest having dimmed lights which brighten as the service progresses.

Around the Christian season of Advent, Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah and Hindus celebrate Diwali. If you have a Jewish or Hindu community locally, you might like to consider contacting them to include them and some of their worship in the service.

OTHER ACTION

Prayer enriches other activity and some of the activities that took place with last year's service were:

- using local media to promote the service and the issues
- using leaflets to raise awareness of the issues
- holding special study or discussion sessions
- letter writing (many people used this as an opportunity to write to their MPs)
- producing posters, displaying material

You might like to take up the light/dark theme further and hold a candle-lit vigil, celebrating your commitment to fighting homelessness in all its forms.

We hope that there will be many services throughout the country, and would be grateful if you could complete the Feedback sheet to let us know what you plan to do.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Prayers of intercession from "Bread of Tomorrow" published by SPCK and Christian Aid. Used with permission of Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness.

Service written by Barbara D'Arcy (UNLEASH) and Christine Allen (CHAS).

TO BEGIN

[with the church dimly lit]

Leader:

Our life is a vigil, waiting for the Lord to be revealed in his glory. We wait with joyful hope for his light to break forth, revealing truth, restoring balance, bringing healing.

All:

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down...

Voice 1

...at your Presence the mountains would melt, as fire sets brushwood alight...

Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down...

Voice 2

...to make known your name and make the nations tremble at your Presence...

Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down...

Voice 3

...to work unexpected miracles such as no one has ever heard of before.

**Come, creator God,
Come, loving God;
Come with the dispossessed,
the broken hearted;
Come with the frightened,
the invisible;
Come with the young,
the unsure, the children;
Come with unexpected miracles.**

Leader:

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of all, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

(John 1:1-5)

The first candle is lit

Voice 1:

We light this candle for women and men who sleep on the streets, enduring heat and cold, wind and rain, day after night after day.

HYMN

LITANY FOR OUR AGE

Leader:

Lord Jesus, whose light cannot be quenched:

From the powers of darkness,

All: deliver us.

Leader:

From the politics of greed and division,

All: deliver us.

Leader:

From the nightmare of homelessness,

All: deliver us.

Leader:

From the gloom of fear and
insecurity,

All: deliver us.

Leader:

From the dispossession of the poor,

All: deliver us.

Leader:

From the despair of this age,

All: deliver us.

The second candle is lit

Voice 2:

We light this candle for parents and
children who have nowhere to call
"home".

Leader:

O God, Light of the world,

All: Show us your face

Leader:

O God, who conquers the darkness,

All: Walk with us

Leader:

O God, who overcomes the shadows,

All: Struggle with us

Leader:

O God, whose flame never falters,

All: Wait for us. AMEN.

PSALM 72

God, give your own justice to the
king, your own righteousness to the
royal son,

so that he may rule your people
rightly and your poor with justice.

Let the mountains and hills bring a
message of peace for the people.

Uprightly he will defend the
poorest,

he will save the children of those
in need,
and crush their oppressors.

Like sun and moon he will endure,
age after age,
welcome as rain that falls on the
pasture, and showers to thirsty soil.

In his days virtue will flourish,
a universal peace till the moon is no
more;

his empire shall stretch from sea to
sea,
from the river to the ends of the
earth.

The third candle is lit

Voice 3

We light this candle for young
people escaping from impossible
situations, who have no one to care
where they are or with whom.

HYMN/SONG

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Jesus came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,

to proclaim liberty to captives

and to the blind new sight,

to set the downtrodden free,

to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down.

And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen'.

(Luke 4:16-21)

The fourth candle is lit

Voice 4:

We light this candle for refugees and asylum seekers, and for all people who experience racial discrimination in their daily lives.

OFFERTORY HYMN

You could offer practical gifts to a local project, or symbols of a commitment to work for justice.

SERMON / TALK

A short period of silence follows the sermon or presentation.

The fifth candle is lit

Voice 5:

We light this candle for those who are called to work for justice

HYMN / SONG / CHANT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father in heaven

Men:

under the bridges,
in bed and breakfast hotels
alone on a park bench.

All: Hallowed be your name

Women:

hallowed by your tenderness for all people.

All: Your kingdom come

Men:

to those who hunger for
righteousness
to those who thirst for justice

**All: Your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven**

Women:

by those with political power and
moral influence,
by those who stand alongside your
wounded people.

**All: Give us this day our daily
bread**

Men:

to share with our sisters and brothers.

All: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Women:

our fear of risk, of loss, of sharing our wealth,
our reluctance to follow where Christ leads.

All: Lead us not into temptation

Men:

into pride, into self righteousness;
into denial of the truth.

All: But deliver us from evil

Women:

from our complicity in the selfish use of power,
in the legislation based on false values, in the destruction of community.

All:

**For yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory**

your people

your cities

your land

your glory which will

transform us all

For ever and ever.

Amen.

The last candle is lit

Voice 6:

We light this candle as a symbol of our commitment to building God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

All:

**The people that walked in
darkness has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of
deep shadow a light has shone.**

(Isaiah 9:1)

[the church is now filled with light]

HYMN / SONG

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

*Take a few moments to read this through
before saying aloud together.*

We believe in God the Father
who created all the world,
who will unite all things in Christ
and who wants all people to live
together as brothers and sisters in
one family.

We believe in God the Son
who became human, died, and rose
in triumph,
to reconcile all the world to God, to
break down every separating barrier
of race, culture, gender or class,
and to unite all people into one
body.

He is exalted as Lord over all,
the only Lord over every area of our
life.

He summons both the individual
and society, both the Church and
the State,
to seek reconciliation and unity
between all and justice and freedom
for all.

We believe in God the Spirit,
the pledge of God's coming reign
who gives the Church power to
proclaim the good news to all the
world,

to strive for justice and peace,
to warn that God judges both the
individual and the nation,
and to summon all the world to
accept God's reign here and now.

INTERCESSIONS

Voice 1

For exploiter and exploited;
for persecutor and persecuted;
for criminal and victim.
God of perfect love, we pray.

Voice 2

As we pray, remove the fear that
makes us strident and vengeful,
and take away the woolliness of
thought that makes us sentimental.

Voice 3

Give us clear eyes to see the world
it is and ourselves and all the people
as we are;
but give us hope to go on believing
in what you intend us all to be.

Voice 1

We pray for children growing up
with no sense of beauty, no feeling
for what is good or bad, no
knowledge of you and your love in
Christ.

Voice 2

We pray for men and women who
have lost faith and given up hope;
for governments who crush people's
spirits, and for governments slow to
act in the cause of justice, freedom
and development.

Voice 3

We pray for the whole church and
the world, giving thanks for your
goodness,
for your love made known in Christ,
for your truth confirmed in His
death and resurrection,
for your promises to us and to all
people,
keeping hope alive...

All:

**Let us go to our work and into
our relationships
stimulated by hope,
strengthened by faith,
directed by love,
to play our part in the liberation
of all people, in the name of
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

...continued overleaf

FINAL PRAYER

Leader:

*Jesus came to unite us all.
Wherever we allow the Spirit to govern
our actions, we renew our faith about this
world, and through faith we find hope.*

All:

**Lord, may we make haste
to promote justice
and to practice compassion,
overcoming divisions
by the strength of your Spirit,
overcoming evil
by the power of good,
overcoming darkness
by the light of your Word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

AMEN

CLOSING HYMN

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Further copies of this service booklet are available from CHAS Despatch, 209 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5QT.
Phone 0171 723 7273 for details of price and to place an order

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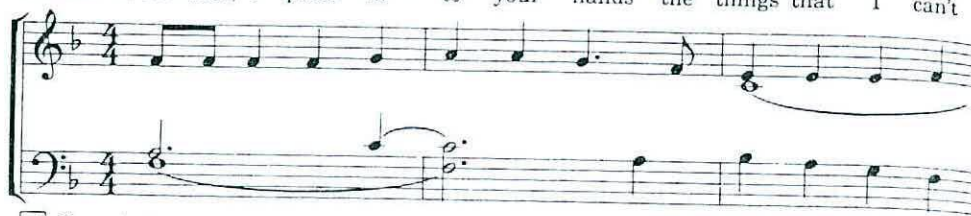
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LONDON SE1 1HW

121 Father, I place into your hands

Unison 1. Fa-ther, I place in - to your hands the things that I can't



✓ Capo 1 E

B7

do.

Fa-ther, I place in - to your hands the



times that I've been through.

Fa-ther, I place in -



E

E7

to your hands the way that I should go, for I



know

I al-ways can trust you.



E

B7

E

A

E

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Music