

Love unites us

Prayer sheet

Thank you for downloading this resource to guide you in your prayers.

This resource includes points for prayer, which can be used in individual devotion or in corporate prayer, including online groups. And you will find written prayers, so that together we might pray with one voice, united in our love for God and for our local and global neighbours.

Points to guide your prayers

Gratitude for community

Picture in your mind's eye the community you live in, your street, your neighbours, your family and your church community. Reflect on how you have been with and for each other during the exceptional times of 2020. Thank God for the love known and shown in your community during the coronavirus pandemic. Give thanks that love can and does unite us all, despite these challenging times.

Lament for the loss

Now, take time to bring before God the things that burden your heart, including any concerns you carry for communities across the world. Communities who were already facing the challenges of violence and conflict, of hunger and thirst, of inequality and injustice, even before coronavirus was added to their troubles this year. Pour out your concerns for the world and the grief for the losses you have known, to the God of all comfort.

Confessions

With humility and honesty, we take time to confess the moments, known and unknown, of when we have not always loved God with our heart, mind, soul and strength, and when we have not always loved our local or global neighbour as ourselves.

We remember that: 'He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities... as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.' Psalm 103:10,12. Thanks be to God.

Petition

Read Angela's story

Angela's coffee farm used to provide a good living for her family. But now she's facing a crisis. The changing climate in Nicaragua means her coffee harvests are shrinking every year. Coffee farmers used to lose only 5% of their crop. Now it is 30%. At the same time, coffee prices have fallen globally. Angela is worried: 'It will be a total disaster and failure for us because as farmers, growing crops is how we survive. Where will we get our incomes?'

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in Latin America. It is also one of the countries most affected by climate change. Some 80% of the population depend on agriculture for survival. Many grow coffee as their main source of income. As the climate crisis rages on, their future looks more and more uncertain.

But there is hope. With your support, Angela's community is coming together as a local cooperative to share resources and knowledge, and urgently protect their livelihoods.

The cooperative is supported by Christian Aid's local partner, Soppexcca. They help Angela's community come together with different initiatives and projects, from school vegetable gardens to gender workshops.

One of the main ways they are helping farmers protect their livelihoods is by shifting from coffee production to climate-resistant cocoa.

'I feel proud to be part of a cooperative and we have the opportunity to share ideas and learn from each other,' Angela said.

Read Angela's story in full here: caid.ie/AngelaStory

Pray for our global neighbours

Pray that Angela's story would help us connect with the reality of the climate crisis facing communities across the world.

Bring Angela and her community before God in prayer – and communities like theirs who are facing the crisis of a changing climate devastating their livelihood and means of income.

Pray that the world will build back better from the coronavirus pandemic, enabling all to flourish with the support and opportunities they need.

Pray that our community spirit would continue beyond the pandemic and would include reaching out to our global neighbours.

Pray that the love of God would so infuse our hearts, minds, soul and strength that we would love our neighbours as ourselves.



Cocoa has given Angela and her daughters Ariana and Johaira hope for the future.

Blessing

Find a map of your neighbourhood online, place your hand on the map or screen and pray a blessing of God's love and peace on all who are lonely, on those who are facing big decisions, on all who are anxious about today and the future, for those struggling to make ends meet. Now find a picture of the earth and do the same for us all. Pray a blessing on this beautiful planet, on the world that God loves so much. And may you also know the blessing of God's love and care in your life and in the lives of those you love.

Prayers that can be said together

A prayer from Nicaragua

May it come soon
To the hungry
To the weeping
To those who thirst for your justice,
To those who have waited centuries
For a truly human life.
Grant us the patience
To smooth the way
On which your Kingdom comes to us.
Grant us hope,
That we may not weary
In proclaiming and working for it,
Despite so many conflicts
Threats and shortcomings.
Grant us a clear vision
That in this hour of our history
We may see the horizon,
And know the way
On which your Kingdom comes to us.
Amen

Bread of Tomorrow: Praying with the World's Poor, edited by Janet Morley.

Autumn Appeal prayer

Loving God.
Come now and make us
into a global neighbourhood
looking out for each other
through struggle and crisis
reaching out to strangers
who become sisters and brothers,
shape us into a caring community
strengthening each other
through every challenge
standing together
until justice comes for all.
In your name we pray,
Amen.

Christian Aid

A prayer over coffee and cake

Creator God, we give thanks
for the touch of many hands
that have harvested, processed,
transported and supplied this coffee/tea,
bringing the aroma from across the world
into our kitchen, filling this moment.

And we are grateful for the feeling of
community
and comfort that is shared in having
a brew and banter or a cuppa and some craic
with friend and neighbour, online or in person.
Connecting, supporting and sharing in this
moment.

We take this moment to pause, giving thanks
for our global neighbours
who share in our dream of a better world
where all know the joy of belonging
the security of acceptance
and the fullness of abundant life.

Create between us a bond
that goes beyond niceties and cake
and makes a lasting connection
that enables genuine solidarity
and changes the world.

So help us, God.

Amen.

Christian Aid

An alternative Lord's Prayer from Central America

Our Father

Who is in us here on earth

Holy is your name

In the hungry who share their bread and
their song,

Your kingdom come,

A generous land where confidence and
truth reign.

Let us do your will

Being a cool breeze for those who sweat.

You are giving us our daily bread

When we manage to get back our lands

Or to get a fairer wage.

Forgive us

For keeping silent in the face of injustice

And for burying our dreams.

Don't let us fall into the temptation

Of taking up the same arms as the enemy,

But deliver us from evil which disunites us.

And we shall have believed in humanity
and in life

And we shall have known your kingdom

Which is being built for ever and ever.

Amen.

From Christian Aid Central America



Angela is now diversifying from coffee farming so that she can continue to provide a good living for her family.

Find out more about supporting your global neighbours with Christian Aid at caid.ie/AutumnAppeal

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