



www.oneworldweek.org

HOPE IN ACTION

A Christian Worship Anthology



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One World Week

18 - 25 October

A Christian Worship Anthology of Hope in Action.

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Order of Service – Notes for leaders.

The following are notes to guide you through the Order of Service found below. Bible passages throughout the service are drawn from both the set readings for 18th and 25th October and from non-lectionary sources. It is hoped that it might suit a variety of worship service styles and congregation sizes and as such has been written to be used selectively.

Call to Worship

Hymn and Song suggestions (linked to sources)

[All my hope on God is founded.](#)

[Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair.](#)

[Christ, be our light!](#)

[God of Justice](#)

[If the war goes on](#) from [I will not sing alone.](#)

[Immortal, invisible, God only wise.](#)

[Inspired by Love and Anger.](#)

[Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.](#)

[The Peace of the Earth be with you.](#)

[Whole World in His Hands.](#)

More songs on the themes of justice and poverty are available at [The Sanctuary Centre.](#)

All age talk:

[Aliyah's story: A story of refuge from Syria.](#) Please note that due to the rapidly changing nature of the conflict in Syria the numbers used in the introduction to this story are now out-of-date. More up to date information on the Syria conflict can be found [here.](#)

There are more stories of hope in action to choose from below.

Sharing the Word:

There are two options to choose from for the readings.

1. Lectionary readings for 18th October.
2. Readings from Jonah and Luke not based on the lectionary.

Notes for sermon/ talk. Notes for a sermon based on the lectionary readings:

1. **Looking back.**

Both of the suggested readings come from the Old Testament. This was in part intentional. There is hope to be found by looking back to what has happened in order to sustain our hope for the future. What stories of hope can we reflect on as we reach the 38th year of One World Week? Christian Aid has been reflecting on stories of overcoming in this its 70th anniversary year. The refugee crisis is as pressing now as it was when and because Christian Aid began. There are other stories of overcoming: the end of political apartheid in South Africa, the achievements of the Drop the Debt campaign and the setting up of the Fairtrade Foundation to name a few. One World Week provides us with an opportunity to reflect on inspiring stories of hope in action from the past.

2. **Patient but not passive hope.**

In the story of Job we encounter one of the oldest stories of patient hope. The patience of Job as referred to in James 5 vs 11 is a familiar phrase. On closer inspection we may be relieved to see that Job's patience was not retiring or passive. Job was far from silent as he insisted on a response from God. At the very beginning of today's reading Job finally gets the encounter he has waited for and he finally gets the assurance that despite how everything looks to the contrary, God is for him, God is present and God is very much in control.

As we consider our world this One World Week and see the chaos of conflict that seems to be escalating may we draw hope from Job that God is indeed in control and present even in the severe suffering. In South Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo and all the forgotten places where the battles rage on, let us also trust in our God who is in control of this incredible and wonderful One World.

3. **The suffering servant.**

If we find our doubts assuaged a bit by the glimpse of God we are given in Job, we are given an even deeper sense of God's presence in suffering in the Isaiah passage. Long associated with the suffering of Jesus on the Cross, this passage conveys how God is not only present in suffering but knows fully the experience of suffering. During this One World Week, as we consider those whose lives and families are torn apart by violence and conflict, may we find hope in the action of a God who understands.

Alternative non-lectionary reflection/ talk: The sign of Jonah

What could that be? Let me remind you briefly of his story. A grumpy and judgemental prophet, whose name could scarcely have suited him less (it means 'dove') was once given a strange and unwelcome commission by God: to go to the city of Nineveh and warn the people to change their evil ways. Now Nineveh, the pagan capital of the Assyrian empire, scourge of Israel, was the last place any self-respecting Jew would wish to go to, and Jonah, in a great huff, immediately sets off in the opposite direction, hoping to get away from the Lord. But he finds there is no escape from the insistent demand of God. After a series of unusual experiences, which included some business with a very large fish, Jonah is back where he started, listening once more to the requirement of God: *'Go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to the people the message I have given you.'*

So Jonah went off to Nineveh in high dudgeon, no doubt comforting himself with the thought that the message he had for it was one of coming doom and destruction. To his dismay, the people of Nineveh took his message seriously, renounced their evil ways and threw themselves on the mercy of God. To his utter disgust, God saw that the people of Nineveh had changed, decided not to punish them, and showed mercy upon them.

Jonah didn't like this at all. Later on in the book, you can hear him grumbling: 'Lord, didn't I just know that this is what you'd do! That's why I tried to get away. Didn't I know that you are a loving and merciful God, always patient and kind, always ready to change your mind and withhold punishment? I might as well be dead!' And as he sat outside the city waiting to see what would happen next, (no doubt hoping that some evidence of bad conduct would be discovered so that he could say to God, *'look, I told you so'*) God, trying to cheer him up a bit, caused a plant to grow up and shade him from the fierce heat of the sun. Well, Jonah was delighted. But his delight was short-lived. The next day, it withered and died. Back in the huff again, God spoke sharp words to him. Why are you so upset about this plant, Jonah? It came and went, you didn't expend any labour on it. And yet you feel pity for it. Have I not much greater cause to pity this city of more than 120,000 innocent people, and animals besides?

In the story, Jonah is brought firmly to an understanding of what is at stake here. The issue is not Israel's dignity or pride in being the people of the covenant, the chosen ones, but something far greater -the compassionate outreach of God's concern for all people, even pagan oppressors like the Assyrians. As God had compassion, so must they. To fail to embody this divine compassion for, and solidarity with, the world was to miss their calling as God's people. God has no time for Jonah's intolerance and lack of human sympathy. The deepest instinct of God is love: a love that does not keep a record of wrongs, that never gives up, whose faith, hope and patience never fail. The sign of Jonah Jesus refers to is compassion.

Kathy Galloway



Response to the word.

You may wish to set up four candles and get members of the gathering to light these with the responses.

Interactive Intercessions

Depending on your group size, you may wish to provide newspapers for those participating to browse for a few moments in silence and identify local and global issues for prayer.

You could provide scissors for the issues identified to be cut out and pinned to a noticeboard.

Preparation: Local and national newspapers, noticeboard, pins, scissors.

We hope you can make these ideas work for your context and your congregation. May you have a meaningful, inspiring and hope-full time of worship this One World Week. Peace to you.

One World Week Order of Service 'Hope in Action.'

Words of welcome and introduction

Welcome to this service of worship to mark the beginning of One World Week 2015. One World Week provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our identity as global citizens and to inspire us to keep living out hope in action throughout the year. This One World Week we celebrate the action of individuals and projects bringing hope in so many places! And so we gather together in prayer and praise, to share and to listen, and to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Call to Worship *(From Psalm 34)*

O magnify the Lord with me,
Let us exalt his name together.

Look to him, and be radiant;
So our faces shall never be ashamed.

O taste and see that the Lord is good:
Happy are those who take refuge in him.

Hymn of Praise

Prayer of Approach

Creator God,
We come to this place,
Remembering your presence.
We come with our failings,
Knowing we are welcome.

We come with our gifts,
Offering them for your purpose.
We come with our dreams,
Hoping you will make them new.
In your name we pray.

Amen.

All-Age Talk

Hymn or song

Prayer of Confession...

Merciful God,
We have not always inspired hope.
In a world where rising temperatures and increasingly unpredictable weather threatens livelihoods,
where droughts and floods hit the poorest hardest,
where natural resources are under extreme pressure from over-exploitation we confess:
we have made idols of our own comfort and convenience,
we have resisted the change that could bring life to others,
we have sought to make offerings that cost us nothing.
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Merciful God,
We have not always shown love.
In a world where millions still live with food insecurity, with no reliable ways to feed their families,
Where the movement of refugees into already poor countries deepens long-term poverty and malnutrition,
Where lack of access to clean water and sanitation are a major cause of preventable illness,
We confess:
We have settled for injustice when we might make a difference,
We have given a little when we could give more,
We have refused the claims of community in favour of the demands of self.
Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Merciful God,
You know our weakness and still you are faithful,
You know our despair and still you inspire hope,
You know our need and still you show love.

You are life for our souls,
You are the life of the world.

Give us the courage and persistence of those who are strong but still need our help.

...and absolution

Merciful God,
As we accept your assurance of forgiveness,
Let us know once more the dawn of life
That we may bring hope to the hopeless,
Courage to the fearful
And peace to those in distress,
Through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
who taught us to pray...

Our Father ...

Sharing the Word

First Reading: Job 38: 1-7, (34-41) **OR** Jonah 3:1-10

Hymn or Alleluia

Second Reading: Isaiah 53:4-12 OR Luke 11:29-32

Sermon or Talk

Hymn or song

Responding to the Word

A candle may be lit with each response.

In the midst of hunger and war
We celebrate the promise of plenty and peace.

In the midst of doubt and despair

We celebrate the promise of faith and hope.

In the midst of sin and decay

We celebrate the promise of salvation and renewal.

In the midst of death on every side

We celebrate the promise of the living Christ.

(Words from the Asian Women's Resource Centre for Culture and Theology)

Prayers of Thanksgiving

God of hope, thank you,

For the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus,

For the hope that you are making all things new,

For the hope that another world is possible and is on its way.

For the hope that remains steadfast in chaos

and is sustained through action.

Thanks be to God. Amen

and Intercession

God of the impossible,

We pray for justice, peace and reconciliation;

When the challenges seem too many,

Remind us of your resurrection power;

When the task seems overwhelming,

Remind us of the miracle of love;

And when apathy threatens us,

Remind us of your vision of a world made whole.

Help us to hope that the impossible can happen

And live as if it might do so today.

Amen.

Christian Aid - adapted

OR Interactive Intercessions:

Ask participants to identify stories or images that they would like prayed for from the available newspapers, add these clippings to a cork notice board and invite participants to reflect on the images/ stories and spend time in prayer for the situations that caught their attention.

Prayers of intercession are offered using this form including the stories identified in the clippings where appropriate:

We bring our needs and the needs of the world, so that all may be ordered to your perfect will.

We pray for the world...

We pray for the Church...

We pray for those whom we love...

We pray for those we struggle to love...

We bring these needs before you....

Silence

Let your hand rest upon your people,
Widows and orphans, aged and children,
Strangers and wanderers.
And join us also with them,
Protect and strengthen us,
from all evil works keep us apart,
And in all good works unite us.
You are life for our souls.
You are the life of the world.
Amen.

(From the church in Ethiopia - adapted)

Hymn *(with offering)*

Closing Responses

In the face of poverty and injustice

We will put our hope into action.

With communities around the world

We will put our hope into action.

Empowered by the Spirit

We will put our hope into action

Blessing

Go out into the world and take with you,
the hope of God our creator who in love
created a world where all would be whole
and longs for that wholeness to be restored,
the hope of Jesus who touched and ate with the broken
and offered them healing as he offers us now,
the hope of the Spirit who inspires and guides and energises us
in times of apathy and despair
to work to bring all God's people into oneness and health.

Amen.

(Diakonia Council of Churches, South Africa)

Stories of Hope in Action in places of conflict.

The Tree of Life: A sculpture made out of decommissioned weapons powerfully symbolized the end of the war in Mozambique. This film, just under 10 minutes, shows what happened to the millions of guns left at the end of Mozambique's civil war in 1992. Many guns were exchanged for tools and sewing machines in an innovative 'swords into ploughshares' scheme, and others were broken up and turned into dramatic sculptures by Mozambican artists. The film talks to the artists behind 'The Tree of Life' sculpture and follows its journey from Southern Africa to the British Museum in London.

Made in association with Christian Aid for BBC's Africa Lives season, and broadcast on BBC 4.

Show film: <https://vimeo.com/34371643>

While Shepherds watched: Ahmad Jundiya is an 18 year old shepherd, and lives in Tuba, in the south Hebron hills. He was given a video camera by Christian Aid partner, B'Tselem, to help prevent attacks from settlers that live nearby and have harassed his family for years.

He calls himself a 'part time student, part time shepherd'. Ahmad and his family suffer daily harassment from settlers living in the nearby settlements of Ma'on and Karmel. This includes verbal and physical abuse, and also the stealing of their property – including Ahmad's sheep.

Christian Aid partner, B'Tselem, a leading Israeli human rights organisation, has been helping Ahmad fight back against the settlers through non-violent resistance. Every day Ahmad heads out to herd his sheep armed with his most powerful weapon: his video camera.

In this clip we see him film an incident involving a settler stealing one of his sheep. Because of the video evidence that Ahmad had, the settler was later forced by the police to return the sheep. <https://youtu.be/oEuqxNftTL8>

In this film he explains how the camera has helped protect him and help him act on his hope of living in peace. <https://youtu.be/INQlpZuC8MM>

A twenty minute film on the work being done by many partners in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories with an accompanying discussion / reflective resource is available here: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo/middle-east/iopt-film.aspx>

Colombian hope for a home without harm:

'In 1997, we fled our land: a day we will never forget. It's etched out on the insides of our eyelids, so even when we sleep, the memories flood our dreams, and turn them to nightmares.

I see them every night, the paramilitaries, marching towards us, guns in hand. They want to take our land and sell it to people in suits - people with money, money to pay for their guns and their violence - money to pay for more death, more terror.

A sports hall is where we called home for four years, so many of us - over 250 - babies, children, mothers and fathers, grandparents. We were cramped, stinking. It was bright, too bright.

Not the good bright like the sun that shines down on you, but a brightness that strips you down to see your imperfections, that maximises your discomfort and illuminates it for everyone to see.

But they weren't looking.

Averting their eyes from our ugliness, they ignored the cries of our children; their hunger. Our country, our people, they did not want to know. They did not want to see our pain.

They looked from afar through peeking fingers, not wanting to see too much in case our pain caused them a torment so profound that they would have to change their ways.

But we were not alone.

Hands reached out from faces we did not recognise, comforting our young and standing beside us as we fought. And they fought too, kicking and screaming until our case was heard.

They were the Inter-Church Commission for Justice and Peace (CIJP)*. They were our brothers and sisters, fighting in international courts for our land.

And here we are. In this home, in this land we call a humanitarian zone, guarded only by words and a simple fence.

Our stories are not over, our voices are not yet respected and we are not safe.

But our lives will continue on this land we have returned to. Our dignity cannot be bought and our rights will not be sold.

We will stand tall, with hope in our hearts.

*Amin was displaced at the age of 10. His brother was killed by paramilitaries. He is now a youth community leader and a rapper in the humanitarian zone.*Christian Aid partners in Colombia – you can find out more about our work in Colombia [here](#).*

Quotations on the theme of hope.

‘Hope is a function of struggle.’

C R Snyder

‘It is easy to mistake the character of hope. Hope is all too easily reduced to a sensible reaction to the evidence. Things look promising so hopes are raised. Things look bleak – poverty persists – so hopes are dashed. Too easily we only hope because things look promising. But that is not the hope of the God we know in Christ. This is the God who chooses to hope despite the evidence. This God takes on the unpromising waters of primeval chaos. This God takes on the violence and injustice and fearfulness of women and men. This God takes on our unpromising indifference and coldness of heart. This God looks out from a cross. Without any good reason to have faith in us at all, God has confidence in us and hopes in us as a mother has confidence and hopes in her child – and so God fills the unpromising with promise and we and the world have a future. We must celebrate the hope of God.’

Michael Taylor, former director of Christian Aid.

‘That is why faith, wherever it develops into hope, causes not rest but unrest, not patience but impatience. It does not calm the unquiet heart, but is itself this unquiet heart in man. Those who hope in Christ can no longer put up with reality as it is, but begin to suffer under it, to contradict it. Peace with God means conflict with the world, for the goad of the promised future stabs inexorably into the flesh of every unfulfilled present.’

Jürgen Moltmann

“Hope has two beautiful daughters: their names are anger and courage. Anger that things are the way they are. Courage to make them the way they ought to be.”

St Augustine of Hippo, 354 –430 AD

HOPE

Deep in ourselves we carry hope;
if that is not the case, there is no hope.
Hope is a quality of the soul, and
does not depend on what happens in the world.
Hope is not to foretell or foresee.
It is a directedness of the mind,
a directedness of the heart,
anchored beyond the horizon.

Hope in this deep and powerful meaning
is not the same as happiness because all goes well,
or readiness to devote yourself to that which has success.
Hope is to work for something because it is good,
and not only because it has a chance to succeed.
Hope is not the same as optimism
neither is it the conviction that something will end well.
Rather it is the certainty that something is meaningful,
irrespective of the outcome, the result.....

Vaclav Havel

Additional prayers and poems.

O Lord, God of life,
who cares for all creation, give us your peace.
May our security not come from arms, but from respect,
May our force not be of violence, but of love.
May our wealth not be in money, but in sharing.
May our path not be of ambition, but of justice.
May our victory not be from vengeance, but in forgiveness.
Open and confident, we want to defend the dignity of all creation,
sharing, today and forever, the bread of solidarity and peace.
In the name of Jesus, your holy son, our brother,
who, as victim of our violence, even from the heights of the cross
gave us all forgiveness.
Amen.

*A prayer from an ecumenical conference in Brazil,
calling for an end to poverty as the first step
on the path to peace through justice. [CAFOD.](#)*

Lord.
May we be the peacemakers.
Not compassion fakers
Or passive partakers
But injustice shakers.
And Government wakers.
May we be the peacemakers.

Claire Jones/[Christian Aid Collective.](#)

I have a dream

I dream of a world
filled with peace and harmony
where humans and creation really live as one
where the sun of justice shines
on all the children of the Creator Father and Mother Earth.

I dream of a world
where there are no exploiters and exploited,
no slaves and masters,
no very rich and very poor,
no oppressors and oppressed.

I dream of a world
where governments are on the side of the poor, those without land,
the homeless and the unemployed;
those in society who are
not considered to be children of God and Mother Earth.

I dream of a world
where chemicals, herbicides, fungicides, pesticides
and other deathly substances
disappear from the earth forever.

I dream of a world where the richness of forests,
the fresh air, fields and rivers
can, with humanity, live life to the full and praise God the creator.

I dream of a world where the reign of God
would also be a reign of justice and peace and love for the whole of creation.

If we all dream
The dream will become a reality...

Caritas El Salvador, Diocese of Zacatecoluca - CAFOD

We pray for the Church throughout the world,
that she may be a voice for those who lack even the basic necessities of life,
tirelessly serving them and calling for change.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for the world's leaders,
that they may not hide behind their power or abuse it,
but work for the good of all humanity,
particularly the poor throughout the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for our local community,
that we may show our love through our respect for each other
and for our environment, gladly sharing what we have with those in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Linda Jones/CAFOD

Franciscan blessing (5 mins) - Invite the group to pray aloud together this four-fold Franciscan blessing. Then spend some time reflecting on the words as background music is played.

May God bless you with discomfort: discomfort at easy answers, half-truths,
and superficial relationships; so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger: anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation
of people; so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears: tears to shed for those who suffer from pain,
rejection, starvation and violence; so that you may reach out your hand to
comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with foolishness: enough foolishness to believe that you
can make a difference in this world; so that you can do what others claim
cannot be done.

Amen

From : <http://www.church-overtly.org.uk/pray/worship/pentecost2015/rootspdf>

Links to worship resources on specific themes of inequality and injustice.

European Refugee Crisis:

Christian Aid began 70 years ago in response to the refugee crisis.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/current/refugee-crisis-appeal/prayers-and-vigils.aspx>

Climate justice:

Fast for the climate resources:

<http://www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/resources/> The Big Shift

campaign worship resources: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/climate-justice/resources.aspx?Page=2>

Conflict and child-soldiers in Uganda:

Recovering from the trauma and the consequences of conflict in Northern Uganda:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/in-konys-shadow/>

Climate change and Pilgrimage:

Resources on the theme of creation care and pilgrimage were produced by Eco-congregation Scotland for Creation Time.

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time/>

Gender justice:

Prayers prepared for International Women's Day but can be used all year round.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo/in-focus/gender/prayers-for-international-womens-day.aspx>

Hunger:

Reflections prepared by CAFOD, Tearfund and Christian Aid on the theme of Our Daily Bread for the IF Campaign 2013.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/prayer/daily-bread/reflections.aspx>

Including a reflection on hope for refugees:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/prayer/daily-bread/reflections.aspx>

Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory:

A new film with accompanying Bible-based discussion resource highlighting the stories of partners working to bring peace to all in the Middle East:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo/middle-east/iopt-film.aspx>

Nepal Earthquake :

Prayers to remember those who grieve and those who are working to rebuild their lives in Nepal after the earthquakes in April.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/current/nepal-earthquake-appeal/nepal-earthquake-appeal-prayers.aspx>

Tax Justice :

Worship resources to empower and inspire the call for financial transparency and accountability.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/trace-the-tax/resources/?Page=2>

Trade Justice:

Justice campaign worship resources from Traidcraft.

<http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/media/e5e6094c-2fce-4cba-b360-08eb8cb67ed1>

Stories and activities for youth and children: Stories and discussion starters for young people on issues of poverty and injustice from the [Christian Aid Collective](#). Stories about young people from all over the world for younger children can be found on [Global Explorers](#).

[Children in church resources](#)