

The Local Church Joint Worship

Christian Aid Sunday

17th May 2026



Welcome & Gathering

Call to worship

One: The Risen Christ is amongst us

ALL: Breathing new vision into our imaginations

One: Breathing new hope into our hearts

ALL: Breathing new purpose into our actions

One: Risen Christ, with all that is in us,

ALL: we raise our voices to praise you...

Hymn: Lord for the years CH4 159

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

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Prayer with movement

ALL: From deep within us (hands at stomach))
To the farthest reaches of space (hands up)
The Risen Christ is present.

We unite our prayers together in The Jesus' Prayer or Lord's Prayer,
using the form or words which are most worshipful for us...

Source of Life,

Father and Mother of us all:

Creation honours you!

May your Realm of Justice & Joy

Sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen

Time for all ages: Christian Aid 2026 Mustard Seed Video

Hymn: The Song of Kingdom Come

Remain seated and join in as you pick up the melody.

Chorus:

I have a voice

You have a voice

We have a voice and when we sing together

A line is drawn; and hope reborn

This is the song, the song of Kingdom come.

Written and composed for Christian Aid by Paul Field and Martin John Nicholls

Readings

Ruth 1:1-22 read by a member of St Columba's by the Castle

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. 2 The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. 3 But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, 5 both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

6 Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. 7 So she set out from the

place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. 8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. 10 They said to her, 'No, we will return with you to your people.' 11 But Naomi said, 'Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, 13 would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.' 14 Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' 16 But Ruth said,

'Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

17 Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,

if even death parts me from you!'

18 When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

19 So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, 'Is this Naomi?' 20 She said to them,

'Call me no longer Naomi,
call me Mara,
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

21 I went away full,
but the Lord has brought me back empty;
why call me Naomi

when the Lord has dealt harshly with[d] me,
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?'

22 So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Matthew 14: 13-21 read by a member of Greyfriars Kirk

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' 16 Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' 17 They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' 18 And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Reader: In this is the Word of God.

ALL: Amen

Reflection by Val Brown - Head of Christian Aid Scotland

Hymn: The life of the world CH4 141

O the life of the world is a joy and a treasure,
unfolding in beauty the green growing tree,
the changing of seasons
in mountain and valley,
the stars and the bright restless sea.

O the life of the world
is a promise of blessing,
in the rain that renews,
in the heat of the sun;
in the heart that confesses and the act that expresses
all things and all people are one.

O the life of the world
is the breath of our being,
it is fragile and precious
and offers a choice;
shall we share the earth wisely,
can we touch the earth gently,
will we listen to earth's silenced voice?

So, give thanks for the life
and give love to the Maker,
and rejoice in the gift
of the bright risen Son,
and walk in the peace
and the power of the Spirit,
till the days of our living are done.

*CH4 141 Kathy Galloway, John Galloway & John L. Bell.
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Prayer for Christian Aid Week 2026

ALL: Gracious God,
when we stand on the plains of uncertainty,
with no path before us,
we look to you.
We remember what you have done before
and our anxious hearts are comforted.
Showing mercy, you delivered us then;
in your love and faithfulness, you will do it again.
Give us the strength to step forward in hope.
Give us faith that changes us,
hope that feeds us,
love that moves us.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

*By Bob Kikuyu,
Christian Aid's Global Theology Advisor, Nairobi.*

Offering & Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessing flow
Praise God all creature here below
Praise God above, You heavenly host
Praise Maker Christ and Holy Ghost

*Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.
Words: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711*

Communion

Hymn: Come to the table of grace

Come to the table of grace
Come to the table of grace
This God's table it's not yours or mine
Come to the table of grace.

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Fiona: We unite in prayer with followers of Jesus since the earliest times as we say:

God be with you

ALL: And with your spirit

Fiona: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God

Fiona: Let us give thanks to God

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise

Juliet: Holy Loving God,

For the universe you have crafted in all its variety and mystery

ALL: We praise and thank you

Juliet: For the gift of Christ Jesus; vulnerable healer & guide

ALL: We praise and thank you

Juliet: For your Salvation; love crucified and resurrected.

ALL: We praise and thank you

Juliet: With people everywhere, past present and yet to come

ALL: We praise and thank you.

Hymn: God bless to us our bread CH4 763

God bless to us our bread,

And give bread to all those who are hungry
and hunger for justice to all who are fed.

God bless to us our bread.

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Fiona: Holy One,

As we gather to celebrate the richness of your table, we cannot forget the poverty in our lives and world and so we join in prayer with our partners in Christian Aid across the world.

Response:

One: In your mercy

ALL: Hear our prayer

Song: This is the body of Christ CH4 799

Broken that we might be whole.

This cup as promised by God,

True to God's Word,

Cradles our Lord

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Food the good of us all.

Peace

Closing Response

One: Together we are nourished by Jesus' life.

ALL: We go to share his life and love.

Notices

Hymn: For your generous providing CH4 655

For your generous providing which sustains us all our days,

for your Spirit here residing, we proclaim our heartfelt praise.

Through the depths of joy and sorrow, though the road be smooth or rough,

fearless we can face tomorrow, for your grace will be enough.

Hush our world's seductive voices tempting us to stand alone.

Save us then from siren noises calling us to trust our own.

For those snared by earthly treasure, lured by false security,

Jesus true and only measure, spring the trap to set us free.

Round your table, through your giving, show us how to live and pray

till your kingdom's way of living is the bread we share each day:

bread for us and for our neighbour, bread for body, mind, and soul,

bread of heav'n and human labour – broken bread that makes us whole.

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Blessing & Sung Amen

What's on @ AUC this week?

Event	Date	Time	Location	Notes
Sunday Worship	Sun 17 th May	11am	AUC & Online	Blended worship with Fiona leading and preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 17 th May	12 noon	Online	
Disability and the Bible	Mon 18 th May	7:30-8:30 pm	Online	A series of online discussions where we'll read a short Bible passage together and share a discussion on disability in the Bible. Contact Mike Holroyd for more information and the Zoom link mike.holroyd@augustine.org.uk
Contextual Bible Study	Wed 20 th May	7.30-8.30 pm	Online	1 Peter 3:13-22 Email centre.manager@augustine.org.uk for the Zoom link
Contextual Bible Study	Thu 21 st May	12-1pm	Online	1 Peter 3:13-22 Email centre.manager@augustine.org.uk for the Zoom link
Sunday Worship	Sun 24 th May	11am	AUC & Online	Blended worship with Fiona leading and Val preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 24 th May	12 noon	Online	
Belonging: Exploring Membership	Sun 24 th May	12.45-2.45 pm	AUC	A session about membership of Augustine and the URC more widely. Contact Fiona on minister@augustine.org.uk or Moira on secretary@augustine.org.uk to find out more (and please let us know numbers to expect for a sandwich lunch!)
NDAS (Neurodivergent Affirming Space)	Sun 24 th May	12.30-3pm	AUC	A space to meet other neurodivergent people, to be heard and feel supported.

Zoom ID for worship: 84317815003

Zoom ID for all social events: 3140057633

Password: 1861AUC

Zoom Telephone number: 0131 4601196

Greyfriars Kirk Notices

Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's Union Vote

Both Greyfriars and St Cuthbert's Kirk Sessions have agreed the vote on the prospective Union will be held on Sunday 31 May, following the usual Sunday Service at 10:30am. Members and Adherents of Greyfriars Kirk should attend the vote in person where possible. There will be the option to join the vote online. Anyone who wishes to check their membership status at Greyfriars ahead of the vote or knows they will need to vote online, should contact Deborah via email at communications@greyfriarskirk.com. Further communications from the Greyfriars Kirk Session Clerk on the topic of the vote will be published early next week.

St Columba's by the Castle Notices

A date for your diary

St Columba's Congregational Away Day
Saturday 27th June 10-3pm at St Mark's Portobello
The Theme 'WE ARE FAMILY' save the date!