

March Prayers:

Fair Trade Fortnight

God of justice, we thank you for the fair trade movement, and the difference it has made to countless people throughout the world.

We thank you for work well done, for wages fairly paid, for products getting a fair price.

For the life and hope that the fair trade movement brings to whole communities.

We pray also for justice in the way that goods are bought and sold between countries.

Where those in power still pay the lowest prices to the poorest peoples in order to boost their own profits.

Where the demand of cheap goods for the wealthy, makes life impossible for the poor.

Where large companies seek fair trade in a few of its products, but continue to act unjustly in their wider trade deals, we pray for justice.

As the fair trade logo becomes a marketable commodity, we pray that its integrity will hold and that fairness will continue. Especially, we pray for producers of chocolate, coffee and clothes: that through the work of fair trade they will not only receive a better deal than they currently have, but a fair deal.

Lord, we thank you for the way that fair trade promotes healthy relationships between buyers and sellers, and pray that their work will be blessed. May fairness and justice mark all of our relationships, and speak of the righteousness by which your people are to be known.

Stories:

Lord, we thank you for the stories that shape us, and serve as lenses for seeing and understanding the world.

We thank you for the stories in which you invite us to live. And we thank you for drawing our story and your story together.

We look at the story of our world as it is today, with scripts of economic disaster, or violence and of greed.

We pray for those whose faith or nationality or skin colour mean that their stories are not even heard.

We pray for those across the Middle East whose story of injustice has turned into a script of violence and fear.

We pray for those whose futures are shaken by the economic crisis; through job loss, through benefit cuts, through loss of legal aid.

All whose stories are slowly turning into dark tales.

Lord, by your grace, draw our stories into yours. Help your people to live the story of Jesus. Re-write our script, re-shape our lives, make us a living, breathing story that tells the truth of who you are, to the glory of your name.

Longing for Change

Exodus God, we pray for those who long for change.

For those living under political regimes where justice and fairness seem beyond hope.

For those caught in cycles of violence, habits of addiction, lack of self belief where no escape seems possible.

For those stuck at home, lonely or sick or frightened, who feel themselves imprisoned.

For those trapped in poverty, for whom forthcoming benefit cuts only worsen the situation.

Exodus God, we place ourselves alongside those who long for change.

We are tired of waiting. We long for you to act. Act now.

Exodus God, part the waters before us.

Lead us into the future you have planned for us.

Mother's Day

Creator God, we worship you as one who loves us with a mother's love, and comforts us as a mother comforts her child.

In Christ we see you as the vulnerable child of a teenage mother: loved and treasured, nurtured and protected, fed and clothed.

And so we thank you for the calling of motherhood, and pray that you would encourage all mothers as they live out their calling. We thank you for the memories they create in our hearts and the selfless devotion they offer. We thank you also for the commitment they show, the compassion they feel and the comfort they bring.

Today we pray for those countless mothers in our world who cannot care for their family as they would wish. For those who feel defeated in the call to motherhood. We think of those who have been unable to provide their children with food, and watch helplessly as poverty and malnutrition take their toll.

We think of those who have been unable to protect their children from the ravages of violence and war.

We think of those who have failed to provide a stable home, and must take to the road to live as refugees for the sake of their children's safety.

Lord we praise you for the unspeakable love that so often flows from mothers even in these darkest of situations, because it points us to the love you show to us.

Move us we pray, to appreciate and support the mothers who live in our home or town, as well as to appreciate and support those who struggle in dangerous, poverty stricken and hungry places. Move us to action, that we might truly be committed to seeing your heavenly love ever-shining through the faces of all you have appointed to represent you as mothers.