



Church Action  
on Poverty  
**Sunday**

# **bread broken for ALL**

raise money to help us end  
the scandal of UK hunger  
with a soup lunch on  
**7 February 2016**

**Food is a gift from God. But today, in the world's sixth richest country, thousands of people are being denied access to that gift and made to go hungry.**

**Break bread with us on 7 February – and be part of the movement for food justice!**

## **GIVE**

Host a soup lunch in your church, home or community.

Charge a small fee and donate the proceeds to Church Action on Poverty. Your money will support concerted action to tackle food poverty and hunger.

*See page 2*

## **ACT**

Share stories and spread the word.

Use videos and multimedia resources to tell others about the reality of poverty and hunger – and how they can make a difference by supporting Church Action on Poverty.

*See page 4*

## **PRAY**

Reflect on food as a gift from God.

Use our suggested prayers, Bible readings and hymns in your church service, house group or event.

*See page 6*

# hold a soup lunch..

A simple soup lunch is a great way to bring people together and raise money. It can also spark discussions about the injustice of food poverty, and ways of ensuring everyone has access to adequate food.

- **Choose a date.** You could hold a soup lunch on Church Action on Poverty Sunday itself, or any time during that week (or through Lent).  
If you choose the Sunday, why not use some of our prayers, resources and worship materials in your church service too? (See page 4 and page 6.)
- **Choose a venue.** It might be your church hall, but you could also hold a soup lunch at home, at work, at school, or in a local community project.
- **Invite people.** If your lunch takes place after a church service, this is easy. If it's a stand-alone event, you could send out emails, use social media, or make an announcement in your church newsletter.
- **Plan your meal.** You can get creative and make your own soup; just use simple pre-prepared bread and soup; or ask people to bring their own food.  
If you can, download and print our special **placemats** from [www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday), and lay one at each place. They will tell people about Church Action on Poverty's work to tackle food poverty, and allow them to make a Gift Aid declaration alongside their donation.
- **Tell a story.** Make sure your guests are aware of the scandal of food poverty, and understand the difference that their donations to Church Action on Poverty will make. You could play one of our video clips if you have the equipment to do so (see page 4).
- **Raise as much money as you can!** Ask your guests for a donation per bowl of soup, but this should be entirely voluntary. You could even offer extras – bread rolls, croutons and soft drinks – for people who make an extra donation.  
Don't forget to ask each person to sign the Gift Aid declarations on their placemats, to make sure that every pound raised really does count.
- **Use the money you've raised to support action for food justice.** You can donate the proceeds at [www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/give](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/give) by card or PayPal. Or make out a cheque for the full amount from your collection, payable to Church Action on Poverty, and post it to **Church Action on Poverty, Freepost RSHB-TUGR-RAGU, 35 Dale Street, Manchester M1 2HF**.  
Be sure to include any signed GiftAid declarations along with your cheque.



## ... Or give in other ways

Don't have time to organise a soup lunch? An even simpler way to raise funds for Church Action on Poverty is simply to donate the proceeds of a collection taken during a church service.

- Use our **prayers and worship materials** (see page 6) to get people thinking about food as a gift from God in your service on 7 February.
- If you can, **show one of our videos or invite a speaker** (see page 4) to tell the congregation about the difference they are making by supporting Church Action on Poverty.
- As well as taking your collection, make sure every member of the congregation receives one of our **prayer cards**. The cards include the Church Action on Poverty Sunday prayer for them to use in their own meditations, and details of how they can give online or take action in other ways.  
You should have received some prayer cards with this booklet - just call 0161 236 9321 if you need more!

- Use the money you've raised to support action for food justice. You can donate the proceeds by card or PayPal at [www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/give](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/give). Or make out a cheque for the full amount from your collection, payable to Church Action on Poverty, and post it to Church Action on Poverty, Freepost RSHB-TUGR-RAGU, 35 Dale Street, Manchester M1 2HF.



# tell a story

Church Action on Poverty Sunday is about celebrating the hope and transformation that our work brings to communities. We want to show churches how they really do make a difference when they support Church Action on Poverty. At your soup lunch or service, please include time to tell a story and share that vision.

The easiest way to do this is to **play a video clip**. We've worked alongside people who face food poverty to make two short videos – one about the campaign to secure the right to food, and one sharing personal stories of the difference Church Action on Poverty makes in people's lives. You can stream or download the videos from [www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday).



If you don't have the technology to play a video, you could...

- **Give a presentation or talk** about Church Action on Poverty's work for food justice. You can download a set of notes for this – or a *PowerPoint* presentation if you prefer – at [www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday).
- **Invite a speaker.** If we have one available, Church Action on Poverty is always happy to send a volunteer or staff member to talk about our work. Just call Liam on 0161 236 9321 to enquire.

However you tell the story, it is crucial to make the congregation understand how their donations will make a difference:

- Your donations will help people like Letitia and Martin, who are affected by stigma and food poverty (see our videos) to **make their voices heard**, building their confidence and helping them speak out for justice.
- Your donations will support Church Action on Poverty's **campaigns to tackle the root causes of the UK's growing hunger crisis**, working towards a UK where no one is made to go hungry.
- Your donations will provide **resources that help churches to tackle food poverty in their communities** – and to join in prophetic action to tackle its root causes.

**When finances were bleak  
and I felt isolated,  
Church Action on Poverty  
made my voice heard and  
showed me I wasn't alone**



*A six-month benefit sanction left Letitia's daughter without money for food*



*Martin went without food due to problems in the benefits system*

**Church Action on Poverty  
opened my eyes to injustice  
and gave me the confidence to  
speak out for my right to food**

**I thought Church Action on Poverty Sunday  
was 'a nice thing to do' for years. Then I lost  
my nice middle-class job and slid into poverty,  
mental chaos, homelessness. Please, please  
work hard to bring hope back to us again,  
in the name of Jesus, friend of the poor**

*'John' (not his real name) is a supporter of Church Action on Poverty*

# worship and pray

Use this collection of prayers, Bible readings and creative activities to get people thinking about food as a gift from God – and the church's calling to ensure all have access to that gift.

There is enough material here to organise a whole church service around the theme if you wish. If that's not possible in your church, just pick and choose whatever ideas work for you. You could also use the ideas in a house group or elsewhere.

Don't forget to include some stories about Church Action on Poverty's work (see page 4) and to take a collection or hold a soup lunch after your service (see page 2).

---

## Gather

### A call to worship

There is a great hunger in creation,  
**a hunger for justice, a thirst for righteousness.**

There is a spiritual poverty that abandons relationships,  
**broken community, fractured values, systems of indifference.**

So we are called to be faithful,  
**faithful in sharing the abundance that is Creation.**

© 2014 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence (see <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>).



### An opening prayer

Holy One, there are times when loaves and fishes do not satisfy hunger.

The emptiness in people's bellies is not the only hunger that there is.

As we crave food so must we crave nurture.

Embarrass us into breaking cycles and systems of indifference and disempowerment.

In the name of Jesus, your living bread, we pray.

**Amen**

© 2014 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence (see <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>).

## Confess

### A prayer of confession

You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purposes.  
I gave them for a moment then withdrew them for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.  
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.  
I closed them for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life that you might work through me.  
I gave you a small part that I might not get “too involved.”

Lord, forgive me for calculated efforts to serve you  
only when it is convenient for me to do so,  
and only in those places where it is safe to do so,  
and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Lord, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument,  
that I may take seriously the meaning of your cross.

*By Joe Sereman, South Africa. Permission sought.*

### Declaration of collaboration

Food of life, we confess that we have not done enough to break the cycle of poverty.  
We confess that we have not demanded more from ourselves, our communities of  
faith, our governments.

Too often we have put our comfort over the needs of those who are hungry, homeless,  
hopeless.

Give us courage to be the  
people of faith you have called  
us to be.

Give us the tools to share  
power, the resources to re-tool  
structures that oppress, the  
nurture we need for the  
journey that awaits us.

We ask for the gift of empathy,  
so that we will not be content  
offering sympathy.

© 2014 The United Church of Canada/  
L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed  
under Creative Commons Attribution  
Non-commercial Share Alike Licence  
(see <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>).



# bread broken for ALL

---

## Intercessions

### A collect

Generous God

Once you created a Garden, teeming with life,  
where roots and plants and fruit from the trees were good for food:  
feeding birds and beasts, and men and women made in Your likeness:  
show us how your image is marred  
when we let greed, personal gain, and waste  
deny our sisters and brothers their share in Your abundance.

Give us the overflowing energy  
that filled the world with nourishment and beauty —  
energy to live out Your justice,  
so that all may take their rightful place at the table of your generosity.

*Tony Phelan*

### Speak again

Creator God

You said,

Let there be light where the spirit brooded.

**Speak again, and stir us to reform your earth**

You said,

Let there be land

and water gathered in its place

**Speak again, and let justice flow like a stream**

You said,

Let there be fruit and seed as food for all.

**Speak again, and move us to share our plenty**

You said,

Let there be birds of the air and fish of the sea.

**Speak again, and inspire us to respect your creatures**

You said,

Let there be sun and moon to mark our time.

**Speak again, and give us hearts to change the future**

You said,

Let us make them in our image to partner and help one another.

**Speak again, and make us more like you**

You said,

Let us rest and enjoy this good earth.

**Speak again, that we might embrace your peace.**

© Marie Pattison, Katherine House

([www.katherinehousefcj.org](http://www.katherinehousefcj.org))

## Share the word

The Bible has a great deal to say about food and the need to ensure nobody goes without. Here are some passages which you could share in your service, or use for personal reflection:

### Exodus 16

God provides the Israelites with manna from Heaven during their time in the wilderness. Note that God provides just enough to meet people's needs, and they cannot hoard the food or keep it from one another. It's also significant that in the Exodus narrative, God ensures that the Israelites have adequate food and water before giving them the Ten Commandments. People's basic need for sustenance must be met before we can think about anything else.

### Deuteronomy 15:7–11

"If there is among you anyone in need ... do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbour." This passage has some powerful messages for a society which increasingly views anyone in need as a scrounger or a fraud.

### Psalms 136

"It is God who gives food to all flesh, for God's steadfast love endures forever."

### Sirach 34:24–27

"The bread of the needy is the life of the poor; whoever deprives them of it is a murderer."

This Deuterocanonical book includes strong statements about the importance of a Living Wage and our responsibility to ensure those in poverty are fed.

### Matthew 14:13–21

Jesus feeds the 5,000. As with the Israelites in Exodus, ensuring that people have enough to eat is a fundamental priority before teaching or anything else can take place.

### 2 Corinthians 9:6–15

"The one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." A reminder of the need to be generous as God is generous.

## Lectionary readings

The readings for 7 February 2015 in the Revised Common Lectionary are:

- Exodus 34:29–35 (Moses' face is shining after speaking to God)
- Psalm 99 (God's holiness and power)
- 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2 (openness and boldness)
- Luke 9:28–36, (37–43a) (the Transfiguration)

If you are using these readings in your service, you could focus in your preaching on the fact that every human being is made in the image of God – and this means we need to share food and other resources equitably and fairly.

# **bread broken for ALL**

---

## **Give thanks**

### **An all-age prayer of thanksgiving**

For food, glorious food, and those who provide it  
**let us praise God**

For potatoes and pasta, crumbly cheese and juicy tomatoes  
**let us praise God**

For the smell of freshly baked bread, for butter and honey, jam and cream  
**let us praise God**

For colourful carrots and bendy bananas, for peppers and peanuts and perfect pears  
**let us praise God**

For sizzling sausages and bacon strips, for crunchy apples and seedless grapes  
**let us praise God**

For milk and for juice. for fish and for chips  
**let us praise God**

For chocolate and for biscuits, for cornflakes and toast  
**let us praise God**

For food, glorious food, and those who provide it  
**let us praise God**  
**Amen**

*Reproduced from Harvest Resources: for use with Children or Young People  
(The Arthur Rank Centre): [www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk](http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk). Permission sought.*

---

## **Commitment and action**

### **An offering prayer of dedication**

Holy One, we know that money alone cannot solve the pain of poverty. We confess that there is a spiritual poverty that can only be overcome by changing people's minds and changing the systems that disempower many of us. So we offer our treasures and offer up the prayers of our hands and our hearts so that all of your children may live in dignity. In the name of Jesus, himself poor, we make this prayer.  
**Amen**

*© 2014 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence (see <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>).*

### **We cry out**

We cry out against all that kills life:  
hunger, poverty, unemployment, sickness, repression, individualism, injustice.  
We want to announce fullness of life: work, education, health, housing,  
bread for all.

*Written by a group of Brazilian young people – abridged  
Reproduced from Recipes for Change (Christian Aid Scotland, 2014). Permission sought.*

## Send out

### A closing prayer

Lord Jesus,  
 You came that all might have life in abundance.  
 When you fed hungry people, everyone ate and had enough.  
 May we never become accustomed to the scandal of hunger in a world of plenty.  
 Rather, may we live in accordance with your justice and equity.

**Amen**

*By Kathy Galloway. Reproduced from Recipes for Change (Christian Aid Scotland, 2014).  
 Permission sought.*

### Another closing prayer

Lord God,  
 instil in us a sense of your justice.  
 May we never take for granted the food that we have,  
 nor tell ourselves that hunger is not our problem.  
 Help us to use the voices that we have to speak up against the many injustices  
 that make hunger an ever-present problem.

**Amen**

*Christian Aid Scotland. Permission sought.*

---

## A hymn

### If we claim to love our neighbours

*Meter: 8.7.8.7.D. The tune 'Bethany' is recommended for this text.*

If we claim to love our neighbours while the hungry queue for food,  
 are we prey to self-deception, is perception quite so crude?  
 If we sit beside our neighbours, begging for the things they need,  
 we might share their own injustice in a world that thrives on greed.  
 If we punish those with nothing, blaming them for where they stand,  
 is this love of friend or neighbour, do we still not understand?  
 Love of neighbour is not easy, cuts us till we feel the pain,  
 sharing hurt that they are feeling till they find new life again.  
 Love of neighbour sets us squarely in the place where they now sit,  
 till the richness God has given builds a pearl around the grit;  
 till each person shares the comfort of the love of which we preach,  
 till we live as fact the Gospel: none can be beyond love's reach.

*Used by permission from More Than Hymns – words for a lyrical faith by Andrew Pratt (Stainer & Bell, 2015). © Copyright 2015 Stainer & Bell Ltd, 23 Gruneisen Road, London N3 1DZ.*

*Telephone: 020 8343 3303 Fax: 020 8343 3024 Email: post@stainer.co.uk Website: www.stainer.co.uk  
 Local churches reproducing the text must include this use on their returns to CCLI (if they have a  
 current Church Copyright Licence) or alternatively, prior to use, pay a fee of £6.50 + VAT to Stainer &  
 Bell. For any other use please contact Stainer & Bell.*



# **bread broken for ALL**

**a prayer for  
Church Action on  
Poverty Sunday 2016**

Creator God,  
you made this good earth and gave us enough  
that all could delight  
in bread and wine, milk and honey, story and song.

As Jesus sat by lakeside and table  
and shared bread,  
and said that his body was broken for all,  
he showed us a glimpse of your Kingdom.

Inspire us  
with a vision of a society beyond the scandal of poverty  
where bread is the birthright of all your children.

Give us hearts that yearn for it,  
voices to call for it,  
strong hands to build it together.

*Marie Pattison, Katherine House ([www.katherinehousefcj.org](http://www.katherinehousefcj.org))*