

faith that all can be fed

This worship service to support End Hunger UK was compiled by Ruth Wilde, Rach Collins and Paul Parker: staff and volunteers of the **Student Christian Movement (SCM)**, one of the partners in the End Hunger coalition.

gather

Suggested hymns (worship and gathering)

- Come let us sing to the One (Graham Kendrick)
- Father in Heaven (Daniel Thambyrajah Niles)
- God who made the stars of heaven (Ruth Duck)
- God with us (Alan Gaunt)
- God is here as we his people (Fred Pratt Green)
- Jesus calls us here to meet him (John Bell and Graham Maule)
- The trumpet sounds the angels sing (Graham Kendrick)
- Blessed be your name (Matt Redman and Beth Redman)
- Earth's creator, everyday God (Bernadette Farrell)
- Great is thy faithfulness (Thomas O. Chisholm)
- Immortal, invisible (Walter Chalmers Smith)
- My soul proclaims your mighty deeds (Owen Alstott)
- I sing the almighty power of God (Isaac Watts)
- In the darkness of the still night (Margaret Rizza)
- Sing praise to God who reigns above (Johann Schutz, Frances Cox, Honor Thwaites)

Call to worship

Loving God, we come to you, not because we have to, but because we get to. Not because it's Sunday, but because we want our lives to be full of worship. We bring ourselves, everything that we carry, and all that we are to you, this day. Amen

Adoration and confession

God, who created the heavens and the Earth, who placed the stars in the sky and who knows every creature. We come to worship you.

God, who loves each and every one of us. Who cares for us deeply and knows how many hairs are on our heads. We come to worship you.

God, who is just and true, who weeps for our broken world but never turns away from the hurting. We come to worship you.

We come now to confession. We say sorry for the things we have done and the things have not done. The times we saw injustice and didn't stand against it. The times we saw a need and walked by on the other side. The times our words hurt, rather than healed. We pray God of justice and mercy for our broken selves in your broken world. Believing that in Jesus our sins are forgiven, and we start each morning afresh in you. Amen



share the word

Suggested hymns

(food, God's providence, themes from the Gospel reading)

- For the fruits of all creation (Fred Pratt Green)
- Blest are they, the poor in spirit (David Haas)
- Jesus Christ is waiting (John Bell, Graham Maule)
- Jesus the Lord said (Urdhu)
- Bread is blessed and broken (John Bell, Graham Maule)
- I am the bread of life (Brian Hoare)
- A rich young man came seeking (Marjorie Dobson)

First

reading

Amos 5:6–17

Gospel

reading

John 6:1–14
(the feeding of the 5,000)



explore the word

Notes for a sermon:

hungry people but also marginalised people

They followed Jesus 'because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick': this verse implies that many of these people were sick themselves.

The mention of the Sea of Tiberias also implies that these people were outcast and marginalised, as the Sea of Tiberias was thought to be 'unclean' – built on the side of the city of the dead (necropolis) Tiberias.

The mention of the Passover in verse 4 – "the Passover... was near" – is another sign that these people were not included in the mainstream. (If they were, they would have been making their way to Jerusalem for the festival).

How are people who experience food poverty in the UK also marginalised and excluded? How do things work against them in a capitalist society? How does loneliness and isolation affect people who are hungry and vice versa? Jesus cared not only for the physical needs of the people in the "large crowd", but also about whether they were brought together in community and included.

Jesus included even the most marginalised outsiders in his following and never had any doubt that he could feed them. We must have a similar faith that – with the guidance of God's spirit – we can find ways to make sure that all people are fed, cared for and brought into community with others, no matter who they are.



respond to the word

Intercessions

The chorus of 'Beauty for Brokenness' could be sung or said throughout this prayer:

God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;
come change our love from a spark, to a flame.

(Copyright Graham Kendrick b.1950 / Make Way Music Ltd)

We place our planet into your hands, the tides and seasons, the incredible way it sustains life, and the powerful way it affects our existence. We thank you that there is food for all. Help us to ensure that it is shared and not wasted.

We place our leaders into your hands, politicians and monarchs, church leaders and corporations. We pray for a just world, where your love and mercy reign, and all are protected, supported and nurtured.

We place our country into your hands, the people, the institutions and the way of life. We pray for those who are hungry this day, and those who have the power to change that. We pray for all those in poverty and all those fighting to end poverty.

We place our community into your hands, those we know and those we don't. Those who are in a time of great need right now. We pray we may be your hands and feet in this place.

We place ourselves into your hands, trusting that you know our needs, what we hunger and thirst for. We give ourselves to play our part in your plan.

We place this prayer into your hands, in Jesus' name. Amen

Communion

At this point, you can share the Eucharist if this is included in your service – or have a time of quiet reflection.

Dedication

God of Justice, we stand with you and with each other against poverty. Against the oppression and injustice that leads to people not having enough. We commit to doing our part, to make your world a more just place. Here we stand. Amen

Suggested hymns

(response and commitment)

- The Kingdom of God is justice and joy (Bryn Rees)
- When I needed a neighbour (Sydney Carter)
- All the room was hushed and still (Graham Kendrick)
- God's spirit is in my heart (Alan Dale, Hubert Richards)
- There is a new heaven; there is a new earth (Ruth Duck)

sending out

Blessing

We must go, to hunger and thirst for righteousness as your people.