



# Prayers and Readings for Worship

[Christian Aid U.K. has initiated a Trade for Life campaign. These prayers and readings are used by permission from the Christian Aid Action Packet and web page, [www.christian-aid.org.uk/](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk/)]

## Divine Exchange

Jesus, we thank you. In Your generosity, You became poor for us. In Your giving, You became empty for us, In Your grace, You became nothing for us. You became poor, for us to become rich, You became empty, for us to become full, You became nothing, for us to become something. Jesus, we thank you.

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## Prayer of Confession

**One:** God in the market place  
we confess that we are trapped in sin  
We know that the products we buy  
exploit the poor and destroy the earth.  
We spend too much on things which do not satisfy.  
God of the poor,  
we confess that we profit from injustice

**All:** sometimes only half knowing,  
sometimes only half caring,  
always half hoping not to know.  
(Keep silence)

**One:** God of all nations and people  
we ask your forgiveness

**All:** You, who are always close to  
us following all our ways  
may we be always close to you  
following all your ways.

Adapted from Ronald Sider, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger*, p. 145 and Isaiah 55:1-11.

## Our Hands Are Not Machines

Our hands are not machines in the factories of profit, our bodies not just robots for production of wealth.

Our lives are given dignity by God not by possessions, our dreams achieve their quality in freedom not control.

Our job is joy, our labour creation, our business peace, our task to be. Be with us, Lord, in rest and work. Our hope is to live life and live it to the full.

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## The Trade Pledge Prayer

I dare to pray: Lord, let the world be changed, for I long to see the end of poverty;  
I dare to pray: Lord, let the rules be changed, for I long to see trade bring justice  
to the poor;

I dare to pray: Lord, let my life be changed, for I long to bring hope where good  
news is needed.

In the strength of your Spirit and inspired by Your compassion, I make this promise  
to work for change, and wait confidently for the day when You make all things new.  
Amen.

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## In Our Hearing: A Responsive Reading

**Refrain Leader:** Generous Lord, show us how to trade places to see with the eyes  
of the prophets Your truth.

**All:** In Your mercy, forgive us. In Your grace, help us to hear Your word. (**Continue  
repeating the refrain after each scripture reading.**)

**Reader:** Isaiah said, 'Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands at a distance,  
for truth stumbles in the public square.' (Isa. 59:14)

**Reader:** Jeremiah said, 'Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and  
his upper rooms by injustice, who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and  
does not give them their wages.' (Jer.22:13)

**Reader:** Amos said, 'Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin  
the poor of the land saying,... 'we will practice deceit with false balances, buying  
the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweeping  
of the wheat.' (Amos 8:4-6)

**Reader:** Malachi said, 'See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before  
me.' (Mal. 3:1)

**Reader:** Mary said, '... The Lord has shown strength with his arm, and scattered  
the proud in the imagination of their hearts.' (Luke 1:51)

**Reader:** Jesus said, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to  
bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim  
the year of the Lord's favor.' And he said, 'Today the scripture has been fulfilled  
in your hearing.' (Luke 4:18-19, 21)

**All:** In our hearing, God's word will be fulfilled.

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