

Prayers

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of holiness and compassion, we give you thanks for your beautiful and bountiful world and your amazing love for all you have created.

Thank you that you continue to be Creator Redeemer and Sustainer through whatever choices humans make, never turning away but always travelling with us.

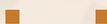
Thank you that you have chosen through the centuries to reveal your love to and through those most in need.

Thank you that you chose to enter into our humanity in Jesus as poor and vulnerable, a victim of injustice and an asylum seeker.

Thank you that you make hope possible when there is so much oppression and despair.

Thank you that you make courageous action possible when there is so much apathy and fear.

Thank you that you work with us when human greed and selfishness undermine the fair sharing of earth's resources.



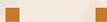
Thank you that we are invited to be generous,
compassionate and loving in all we are and do.

Thank you that your love never fails, even when your
followers fail to live your love in all its fullness.

In our thankfulness, we recommit ourselves to care for
all creation, seek economic justice and enable all to
enjoy your gifts in justice and peace.

Amen

Revd Alison Tomlin (former Methodist President)



Prayer of Confession

Holy God, Jesus promised and proclaimed your Kingdom governed by Justice, equality and inclusion.

When Jesus turned over the tables of the money changers in the Temple He revealed your anger at human sin, which establishes and enshrines unjust and oppressive economic systems So easily exploited by those who have power and knowledge.

Jesus taught people to give to Caesar what is due to Caesar, And to give to God what is due to God - We know that actually everything belongs to God.

Forgive us and all people where we fail to follow the way of Christ, And for all the ways in which we betray the values of your Kingdom, Act in unjust and oppressive ways, And fail to prevent others doing so.

Have mercy on us, bring us to true repentance, And strengthen us, to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. In the Name of Christ.

Amen.



Prayers of Intercession, Solidarity and Commitment

Leader Let us pray for all those affected by tax avoidance and evasion, the poor in developing countries and the poor in our own, who do not get the services they need because tax is not paid. Lord, we are upset...

Response **Lord, hear our distress.**

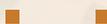
Leader Let us pray for all those who strive, sometimes desperately, to provide public services, in education, health, social care, housing, water and energy, that they may feel support and encouragement as they seek to provide adequately for those in need. Lord we are troubled...

Response **Lord, hear our distress.**

Leader Let us pray for all those with wealth, both individually and collectively, earned or unearned, who are tempted to retain their wealth at the expense of the powerless and the poor. Lord we are angry...

Response **Lord, hear our distress.**

Leader Let us pray for those who have responsibility for political and economic policies in our nation and among the nations, that they may resist self-interested pressures from the powerful,



and develop their policies for the common good. Lord, hear our prayer...

Response **And help us make it happen.**

Leader Let us pray for those who seek aggressively to avoid their taxes, as individuals or representing corporations, and those in the legal, accountancy and financial professions who advise them, that they may comprehend the deceit they sustain. Lord, hear our prayer...

Response **And help us make it happen.**

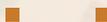
Leader Let us pray for all those with leadership responsibilities in our Churches, especially in the financial sphere, that they may be eager to engage with issues of economic inequality and speak out actively despite any criticism, to challenge all injustice. Lord, hear our prayer...

Response **And help us make it happen.**

Leader In the Name of Christ, who always brings good news to the poor,

Response **Amen**

Revd David Haslam



A Creed for Justice in the 21st Century

We believe God seeks a world where all shall be included in the feast of life,

and that Christ shows us how costly it is to bring that about;

We believe God's hope is we put the poorest first,

and that our calling as God's people is to bring good news to the poor;

We believe everyone can be generous, wise and creative,

because all are made in God's image, and all become poorer when anyone is left out;

We believe loving our neighbours means working continually for justice,

including tax justice, so all receive a fair share of God's good gifts;

We believe this earth was made to sustain and delight us all,

and that we are called to both enjoy and care for it;

We long for a time when the meek shall inherit the earth, and those who hunger and thirst for justice shall be satisfied,

and we believe that, despite the persistence of greed, now is always the time when more good can be done, and when we can make a difference.

(from the 50th Anniversary resources for Christian Aid, amended)

