

Materials for Prayer and Reflection on Fair Trade

from Christian Concern for One World



Just a moment

It starts with a change
So outwardly insignificant
That no one would notice
Except the person
Behind you in the aisle.

Just a moment
When instead of seeing
Rows of labels
On a supermarket shelf
You imagine the people
Behind them,
Tilling the earth,
Sowing the seed,
Gathering the crops.

And you pause,
Wondering,
What their names are,
Where they live,
What difference it will make
If your hand picks up
This box instead of that,

Wondering: how do I
Love these neighbours?
Can I help change
This child's long journey for water,
Her mother's lack of healthcare,
The prospect her father faces
Of another year unable
To feed his family well?

Just a moment.
And the person behind you,
Her impatient baby
Squirming in the trolley,
May never realise
That in that brief hesitation,
A life hung in the balance.

Prayer Points for All Involved in Fair Trade

Dear Lord, we ask your blessing on all who are involved with Fair Trade, lifting before you:

- producers as they grow their crops and craft their works. Bless them, we pray, in their endeavours and grant them wisdom and discernment as they make decisions about how to use the benefits of Fair Trade.
- people who transport Fair Trade goods to market. Grant, we pray, that they, too, may be fairly treated.
- those who import and retail Fair Trade goods. Grant them, we pray, a genuine commitment to fairer trade for all.
- all of us who shop where Fair Trade goods are for sale. Grant us an understanding of the impact of our choices.

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Simple Things

O Lord,
You revealed your Kingdom in parables
That spoke of simple things —
Yeast in a loaf of a bread,
A woman sweeping her home.

Grant that the simple choices we make —
What tea to drink, what fruit to eat —
May honour your Name
And reveal your Kingdom present among us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Taking a Step Further

Dear Lord,
You call us to a neighbourly love
That is generous in practical ways,
That doesn't leave by the roadside
Those harmed by sin and greed
But goes out of its way
To bring healing.

Help us to see
How neighbours near and far
Are suffering, their resources stolen
By unjust people and systems.
And fill us, we pray, with your Spirit,
That we may be inspired
To go further each day in using our gifts
Of time and money and talent
Lovingly
In ways that redress injustice
And renew life.
Amen

Based on Proverbs 13:23

Lord God,
In the fields of the poor
Even when abundant fruits ripen,
Injustice sweeps them away,
And families hunger.

Help us to share
The fruits of your bounty
So that all your family may benefit
From your gracious gifts. Amen.

Change Our Habits, Lord

Where our habits have reflected our sin and not your love,
Have mercy, Lord – forgive us our sins.

Where we seek help to form habits that conform to your ways,
Grant us grace, Lord – your will be done.

Where new habits of righteousness transform unjust structures,
We praise you, Lord – your kingdom come!

Responsive Prayer

The material is based on Amos 8:4-7, Micah 6:6,8; Matthew 22:35-40; 1 John 3:18

Almighty God, we grieve that in Your world despite all the riches You have given us so freely, selfishness and greed so often rule our decisions in trade as in so many other areas of our lives. Forgive us our acceptance of unjust structures of trade and help us to

Do justice, love kindness & walk humbly with you

Almighty God, lover of justice and kindness, You command all your children to love their neighbours and tell us that love must be shown in deeds and not just words.

We thank you for Fair Trade – for the opportunity it gives us to declare our intention to live out love and justice in our daily life.

May we continue steadfast in our support for all that makes trade fairer, seeking to

Do justice, love kindness & walk humbly with you

Almighty God, who longs for all your children to live together in your peace,
We thank you for the ways in which Fair Trade binds us together in this community as we seek to follow your commands,
And for the ways it binds us together with brothers and sisters around the world.

Strengthen the bonds of trust and affection between us, that together we may

Do justice, love kindness & walk humbly with you

Almighty God, in whose Kingdom Justice and mercy, peace and righteousness meet. We pray for the transformation of the rules of our world.

Transform and renew the hearts of all in authority
That as they negotiate trade agreements
They may seek to

Do justice, love kindness & walk humbly with you

Loving and righteous Lord,
Grant us the prophets' vision and strength,
That hearing Your call,
We may speak out and work for justice and for love.
Through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

For more materials on Fair Trade and other topics, visit www.ccow.org.uk.