

An order of service

for Christian Aid Week

and climate justice



Jessica, hungry to provide for her children, carries maize grain from the fields to make porridge to feed her family.



Janet and her fellow congregants gather joyfully at church for the Sunday service.

Welcome, Banns of Marriage and introduction

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
'till on that cross as Jesus died,
the love of God was magnified
for every sin on him was laid,
here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand:
'till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.**

Gathering Prayer

All Creator God, you made the world, and it is good.
The trees, mountains, rivers, and seas.
The birds, lions, ants, and bees.
Creator God, you made us to care for the world
and for all people.
Our planet is hurting.
Many people are hurting.
Help us do what we can to bring healing to your creation
and your people. Amen.

Find the clues!

Saying Sorry

Let us sit or kneel as we turn to the God who can transform what we offer. Lord God as we hear about our sisters and brothers who do not have everything that we have and live in very hard conditions, help us to now ask your forgiveness when we have been ungrateful for what we have and not thought of others.

All We confess now our failure in relationship. We have hidden your justice and equity in our greed and selfishness. We have not loved one another. We have not remained in your love. We all need to change. We ask your forgiveness.

May our compassionate God, who makes all things new, forgive you and renew you, draw us all close and warm our hearts.

All Amen.

‘Love is my super-power!’

JESSICA'S STORY

Jessica Mwedzi smiles with love for her children as she stirs a single bowl of porridge for them... ..but she knows they're hungry for more. This one bowl of porridge is all she and her family can eat today: 'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide. We often go to bed on an empty stomach. It pains me to send them to bed hungry.'

'Women are at the mercy of climate change and hunger' says Jessica.

So painful and disheartening.

For Jessica, drought means every day is a struggle for survival. Like many women in rural Zimbabwe - 7 out of 10 rely on farming for income and food - she toils on her farm, but nothing can grow on her ashen, dry land.

Drought starves. Intensified by the climate crisis, and the effects of war in Ukraine on global food production, it drives families into hunger. Jessica recalls that 'One year, we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and disheartening.'

You can help this loving mum turn hunger into hope

It's unjust that drought - exacerbated by the effects of conflict and the global pandemic - robs Jessica of the power to provide for her family. Her husband is unwell, so she's the only breadwinner. Her children look up to her, but she has nothing left to give.

'My children give me the power to go ahead... I pray they have a better future' says Jessica.



As the golden sun fades across the sky, Jessica watches her much-loved sons and daughters sing, dance and play outside. Can you imagine how it feels for her to know her children are hungry, but have nothing left to give?

She finds a ray of hope that she will overcome this tough time - and be able to provide her children with good food, and a full life, free from hunger. Could you give today, and help this loving mum provide food and hope for her family?

How your gift could help

Jessica could grow drought-resistant crops, set up water taps on her farm, learn how to grow food in the harsh climate.

JANET'S STORY

In her village in Zimbabwe, big-hearted Janet Zirugo, 70, has seen firsthand the desperate hunger drought causes. She's the sole provider for the children in her family, many of them orphans. Love is Janet's superpower – it gives her the strength and courage to keep going, even in the hardest times.

'In my family, children look up to me and I must give them food. I am more than glad to share what I have.' says Janet.

An 'unbearable' situation

Janet reflects on a particularly painful time:

'One year, there was so little food. Rains had not fallen. We ate things which we wouldn't eat in normal times. I made porridge and gave it to the children, then removed a portion and put it down for the dogs. The children picked up the dogs' share because they weren't full. When I saw this, I knew the situation had become unbearable... My heart was so painful thinking that my family would die. By God's grace we did not die. We soldiered on.'

God gives me the power to plough my field to help my family.'

God gives me the power to plough my field to help my family.'

With faith, hope and love, Janet brought her family through this time. With all her strength, and with her husband John at her side, she works on her farm so her family - and her neighbours - never again go hungry.

Janet's Prayer

God be with me and my family. Please look after them, Lord. Look after my livestock, my husband, and me too. Give me strength to fend for my family. Amen.



'This project is lifting us up. We are thankful.' says Janet

Through our local partners, our BRACK programme empowers the most vulnerable communities in Mutoko and Mudzi districts of Zimbabwe to prepare for, and adapt to, the harsh and changing climate.

Janet - and other women like her - knows when changes are coming, and can adapt before crisis hits.

With you by their side, women can provide enough food for their families, and live with hope.

How changes like this became possible

Janet now has the power to provide food and hope for her whole family. As she reflects on how her life has changed, she sings with joy.

Through the work of Christian Aid Jessica and Janet can live fruitful lives. This is a phrase used throughout the Bible. Bearing fruit that is good and that will last is something we are called to do as followers of Jesus.

What does this mean to you to bear fruit, in today's world? In a world where 44 million people face the challenge of daily food shortages and chronic hunger, what does 'fruit that will last' mean to all our lives?

In our prayers those who have fruit will consider a good act or service that they can promise to do in the world to make a lasting difference. As you talk in your groups you might like to think about this question for yourselves.

Those who have axes in our prayers will think about an injustice that needs to be cut down or cut back so all of creation can flourish. In your groups you might like to think and talk about this question for yourselves.

Baptism Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N and N, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

**All We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

You are now invited to bring up the front of church your financial Donation to the work of Christian Aid. With your order of service you were given an envelope for your donation and please complete the information if you are UK tax payer and want Christian Aid to claim the tax from your donation. This gives them an extra £0.25p in every pound you donate.

Hymn

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

Prayers

For our prayers when they came in everyone was given either a leaf, a fruit or an axe shape. You are now invited to think about those things below and write your response on the shape.

Leaf – a prayer and a hope for healing for a situation in your heart and for all who hunger in Zimbabwe and around the world.

Fruit – a good act or service we promise to do in the world to make a lasting difference.

Axe – an injustice that needs to be cut down or cut back so all of creation can flourish.

When you are ready, please come and fix your leaf and fruit to the branches and lay the axe at the foot of the tree.

We lay the axe at the base of the tree – not to cut it down but to make clear that there is still time for repentance.

When we have finished we pray together

**All God of all the earth, we offer with our gifts, these leaves
of our compassion this fruit of our promises and the axe
of our aspirations, for the healing of the nations
and the transformation of the world. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer to be prayed by different people around the Church.

Hymn

**You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace,
and the mountains and the hills
shall break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy
and the trees of the field
shall clap, shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field
shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field
shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the field
shall clap their hands,
and you'll go out with joy.**

Blessing

In the name of God who plants the seed of justice:

All Be hungry for justice.

In the name of Christ who hangs on the tree of love:

All Be fruitful.

And in the name of the Spirit who inspires
God's will in our hearts and our lives:

All Be celebrated.

You are Christ's people, here and throughout the world
now and forever.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you, and with those
whom you love and pray for, this day and always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All in the name of Christ. Amen.

NOTICES

REFRESHMENTS - Please do join us for refreshments after this service. There will also be an opportunity to buy some Fairtrade products and also we have some Easter eggs which weren't taken at the Easter Egg Hunt. Free to a good home!!



PARISH PRIZE DRAW – We are so excited to announce the launch of our Parish Prize Draw. It's your chance to win big cash while also helping us maintain and develop our church buildings, and work towards being carbon neutral by 2030. It's

easy to play – just head to www.ParishofBaildon.uk/prizedraw. Play one number for £10 per month and depending on how many people join, you could be looking at a £120 prize from the monthly draw or £1420 from the annual draw. Play as many numbers as you like to increase your chances. The monthly draw will be called on the first Sunday of each month in St John's Church Hall after the service and, if you sign up now, you will automatically be entered into the annual draw which will be called at the Christmas Market.

QUIZ AND CHEESE NIGHT – Put your thinking caps on and join us for a Parish Quiz night with a Bread and Cheese Supper on Saturday 21st May at 6pm in St John's Church Hall. The bar will be open. Book tickets at SocialFundraising@ParishofBaildon.uk or 07860 889766 - Adults £6, children £3. Please book by 7th May and advise any special dietary needs.

OUR NEXT FAMILY SERVICE will be on Sunday 5th June at 10am.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE - You will be aware that the weekend of 4th/5th June sees celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. To mark this event we are inviting everyone to tea and cake on Sunday 5th June at St James's Church starting at 2.30pm. Everyone is very welcome but we also need some help in, firstly bringing some cake (homemade or bought) and help on the day to serve. If you are able to serve please could you let Canon Sandra know. There will also be an area for children to make some crafts.

MESSY CHURCH - Messy Church this month will be on Sunday 15th May at 4pm. Our theme will be Jesus's Ascension and as always we have some wonderful crafts for the children to enjoy.

UKRAINE APPEAL - I am delighted to say that we raised, with Gift Aid, a amazing total of £3763.58. Thank you to everyone.

SIDESPEOPLE AT ST JOHN'S 10AM SERVICE - Now that we returned to worship every week, it would be great to welcome more people onto the rota as a Sidesperson. The role is not difficult, it just involves being in Church at about 9.30am, welcoming people into Church and handing out the service sheets. If you would like to know more or to join the rota, please see Canon Sandra after this service.

Giving to the Parish

You can help to **make a difference** to support the work of our parish. We've made it easier for you to help, you can now donate in more ways to suit you:



VIA THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME

You can now set up easy and safe regular giving which provides maximum benefit to the Parish. Join the Parish Giving Scheme by calling: 0333 002 1271 quoting the Parish Reference: 460646042, Baildon St John, Diocese of Leeds. Alternatively ask for a form in church.



PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME



VIA JUST GIVING

Hover over the code with your phone camera to reach our Just Giving page. You can donate this way, or maybe even start your own fundraising campaign for us?

BY TEXT

You can donate up to £20 by text:

To donate £20 text **BAILDONPARISH 20** to **70085**

To donate £15 text **BAILDONPARISH 15** to **70085**

To donate £10 text **BAILDONPARISH 10** to **70085**

To donate £5 text **BAILDONPARISH 5** to **70085**



You can Gift Aid your donation using the link in the confirmation text you will receive later. Texts cost the value of the donation plus one standard rate message.

The donation platform is provided by donr.com – they take 5% commission from each donation (25p from £5).

BY BACS:

Account name: Baildon Parochial Church Council
Account number: 80028819 Sort code: 20-11-81

BY CHEQUE:

Send to: Parish Treasurer, Richard Nicholas,
11 High Fold, Baildon, BD17 6LE.

For BACS and cheque, please add reference:
Donation or Planned Giving

Thank you for your support