



“BUT I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS...” JOHN 15:15B

FAIR TRADE WORSHIP RESOURCES 2012

Love is the very heart of Jesus’s teaching. Those who follow him are commanded to love one another—awareness of the other is not a duty but an essential part of being Christian. Such love draws our focus away from ourselves and invites us to enter new relationships with others. In John 15 Jesus calls his followers friends because they have come to know God. Such knowledge carries with it the responsibility to live a life of love—where concern for our friends and neighbours is paramount. Through the food we eat and the resources we consume, our lives are inextricably linked to neighbours throughout the world. Knowing that we can choose to drink coffee and eat chocolate or bananas, with the guarantee that no one has been exploited in their production, makes the fair trade choice an expression of the faith we share.

Deciding to buy something with the fairtrade logo or Trade Aid brand, is a shopping choice that guarantees small producers and workers will get fair prices, and a fairtrade premium for local community projects. Farmers are supported to grow sustainable crops, expensive middlemen are cut out of the sale and children are not exploited. Products carrying the fairtrade label are independently checked to make sure they meet international standards. Goodness is guaranteed. In Aotearoa New Zealand the market for products carrying the Fairtrade label continues to increase. Fairtrade sales grew by 24% in 2011, reaching \$45.4 million. Many more New Zealanders know the difference that a good choice makes and there is still room for the message to spread.

Christian World Service is inviting you to do something special for Mother’s Day this year. Focusing worship on the mothers in your midst and the mothers in many developing countries who struggle to provide food for their families in near impossible situations makes the love that is the core of our faith visible.

This year’s resources use the lectionary readings for May 13 as a basis for a fair trade focus, but there are plenty more available from our website. Mix and match or use something from these resources for your service. Holding A Fair Cuppa after the morning service is a popular way of putting the spotlight on fairtrade and making morning tea special. Using fairtrade tea, coffee and maybe sugar are the basics. To do something special try fairtrade chocolate brownies or other goodies to celebrate the importance of mothers. Raise funds to help CWS partners make real differences for mothers struggling to provide enough food and a decent life for their families and communities.

WHY FAIR TRADE?

Fairtrade ensures a better deal for impoverished producers in developing countries through:

- ◆ A fair and stable price for their products
- ◆ Long term trading relations and advance payments
- ◆ Investment in local community development
- ◆ Environmentally sustainable farming methods
- ◆ Support in gaining the knowledge and skills needed to operate successfully in the global economy





OPENING PRAYER

God of Love

We come together as people of faith

We come as people with songs to sing and words to proclaim

We come in hope and expectation

Give us the vision of a world made new

Where love abounds and compassion flourishes

Where your promises are made real in our broken lives

Where new songs of praise and words of peace are on our lips

We come in the name of the one who loves us all.

Amen

TEA TIME

Create a tea bag costume to cover your trunk—perhaps you have a large white sack that you can cut holes in or an old sheet—you may need a long stick to give the tea bag shape. Adding a string with the label may also help. Have some tea leaves and a fairtrade logo that you can produce from inside your costume.



Begin by inviting people to guess who you are—make this fun and offer clues to help.

Adapt the story to suit your audience. Shake hands and greet each child with the words: I am Tea Bag. Do you like tea? Hmm. Did you know that 70,000 cups of tea are drunk every second? I may be a popular drink and often cheap but it's what in side that makes all the difference. Look at my leaves [show a handful]. Can you imagine? These leaves once grew on a camelia tree that is carefully grown on a tea plantation. I need lots of water and fertiliser to grow well. Twice a year my leaves are picked, usually by hand and that's where the problems begin. The people who pick me have it hard. The workers pick just two leaves and the bud twice a year. In Sri Lanka they can work six days a week for 12 hours a day. They are paid on how much they pick which earns them a tiny wage. They often live in shacks or small rooms with no money for health care or to educate children. When I think about it my tea leaves hurt.

But there is a choice. You don't have to drink tea that makes me hurt. If you choose fairtrade tea with this logo on (show fairtrade logo) or Trade Aid tea you know that the people who picked me have a better deal. [Fairtrade](#) is an internationally monitored system to make sure that workers are treated fairly and that they have extra money for community projects.

Once the tea leaves are picked, they are carefully laid to wither and then rolled before being left to oxidise—like apples that turn brown if you don't eat them fast enough. Finally they are dried some more, sorted and packed into teabags for sale. In today's reading Jesus tells us to love another. Making sure that the people who grow what we eat and drink is one way to make that love real.

PRAYER

Loving God

We pray for the people who work on tea plantations. Their work is long and hard. May those who have the power to make their lives better, bring about the change that is needed to free them from exploitation and injustice.

We pray for CWS partners like SAND in South India who strive to make sure that workers have a better deal and their families are brighter future.

We pray for the fair trade movement that it might continue to win the battle against unfair working conditions in developing countries.

We pray for ourselves that when faced with the choice for what is good and right we might be willing to choose justice.

In the name of Jesus we pray.

Amen

BIBLICAL REFLECTION

Acts 10: 44-48

This passage is remarkable because it shows the breadth of the new community around Cornelius - where Jew and Gentile are included in the outpouring of the Spirit. Baptism happens from this community space with no hint that only some could carry out the ceremony. It is the Church that is baptising. Reading this again can remind us of the great transformation that happened in this moment. Peter was asked to stay on, presumably to provide teaching and support.

Psalm 98

This is a noisy hymn of praise—not a quiet reflective prayer. It celebrates and uses the whole cosmos as its canvas. Imagine the lute, ram's horns and human voices joined in a cacophony of praise to the God of justice (v10).

1 John 5:1-6

We show our love of God by obedience to his commandments. For the writer of first John writing to an already divided tradition, this is the measure of faith. The victory of love will conquer the world. When love is the measure, change is possible. Love is what propels us into action for others—whether helping someone in need or standing up for justice.

John 15:9-17

Love is the centre of the faith John proclaims. Obedience to God is measured in loving one another. Above all Christians are to love—not as a slave or servant but as friends. In verse 11 followers of Jesus are to be full of joy and in verse 15 we are called to live as his friends. Love and joy are words that can lose their edge, but if we link them to real stories they can provide the impetus for transformation. Knowing that people are exploited and suffer through no fault of their own is a call to action. Love requires us to feel strong enough to take on the forces in our world that make people poor and keep them in captivity.

HELP SAND

The SAND Trust works in Dalit and poor communities in Tamil Nadu, India to make tangible change happen. From community and civic education to training legal workers, providing alternative education for children working in or living near the brick kilns, organising environmental clubs for children, campaigning against child labour, and promoting improved and sustainable farming practice, SAND works to end poverty where people suffer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God

We have come together in your love

Together we have celebrated your love

And now we depart in your love

We go knowing that you are our friend

Prepared to speak out for justice

Willing to share what we can with all we meet

In the name of the One who Loves us all. Amen.

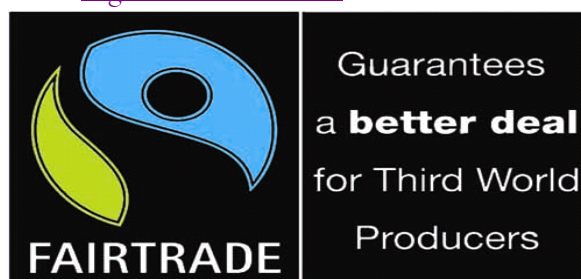
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CWS: www.cws.org.nz/the-issues/trade/fair-trade-fortnight-2012

Trade Aid: www.tradeaid.co.nz/Home

Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand: www.fairtrade.org.nz/

Bananas: allgoodbananas.co.nz/



FAIR TRADE HYMN

Tune: ST DENIO

(Special thanks to Shirley Murray)

Good neighbours, forgive us –
we do not play fair;
those marketplace forces
determine our share,
in trading, in aiding
economy's role
we've had to exchange
dollar notes for our soul.

Good neighbours, remind us
of just how you toil –
the long hours of labour,
the working of soil,
the profit from harvests
that you never see,
so we can keep drinking
your coffee and tea.

Our own trade agreements
leave no time to heed
the cost of your labour,
your hunger and need,
your children who swelter
in poverty's lap,
your people's enslavement
in poverty's trap.

Good neighbours, allow us
deep feelings of shame,
with ways to recapture
our country's good name –
consumers with conscience,
respecting your role,
are brokers of justice
to save our own soul.

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TAKE ACTION

- Shop Fairtrade. Look for the fairtrade mark or the Trade Aid brand. Tell others about the fairtrade difference.
- Become a Fair Trade Church. For more information contact CWS or check out the fair trade webpage.
- Raise funds to help CWS partners like SAND helping workers and their families. You could plan a special event like a fair trade debate, quiz night or concert.
- Hold a special morning tea for **A Fair Cuppa**. It can be as simple as serving tea and coffee or you could try a Bake Off using fairtrade ingredients.
- Pray for the millions of small farmers and workers struggling to make ends meet and for those supporting the Fair trade movement.
- Order supplies from [Trade Aid](#) for your parish every week.
- Encourage other churches and groups using your facilities to use fair-trade products.

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