

Fair Trade Resources 2014

“I came that they may have life” Jesus

John 10:10b

The annual Fair Trade Fortnight runs this year from 3—18 May—the theme The Power of You. Fair Trade Fortnight is a time to share the message and show how change happens— by dedicated action. Churches are actively supporting the fair trade alternative. Many regularly serve at least one fair trade item for morning tea after Sunday worship. Others are committed to serving only what is good and have become signed up Fair Trade Churches. Anglican Dioceses, Methodist Conference and Presbyterian General Assembly have affirmed the fair trade initiative. CWS has again prepared some worship material to focus attention on the need for fair trade.

These resources use the lectionary readings for May 11 with a fair trade flavor. The promise in John is clear—Jesus affirms the right to life and more. Abundant life has to include people’s right to respect and a decent livelihood. Fair trade by giving producers a fair return is one way of making this true in a world where trade and business practices often push down what they earn from growing our food. It has become our tradition to favour Mother’s Day to help make the global connection with mothers everywhere—but also to encourage churches to do something special for morning tea. There are more resources on the website and some links to Fair trade material.

You can hold **A Fair Cuppa** after the morning service to put the spotlight on fair trade. Using fairtrade tea, coffee and maybe sugar are the basics. You might also like to make fairtrade treats like chocolate brownies and ask for a donation for one of our emergency appeals. Partners in the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Tonga all need help to rebuild after weather events. Syria is in constant need of more support. You can find information on our website.

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 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.

Thanks for spreading the fair trade message. We have to keep buying fair trade to keep the change happening.



'FAIRTRADE HAS BROUGHT LOTS OF CHANGES TO WOMEN'S LIVES... WE HAVE A VOICE AND WE ARE LISTENED TO ...IT IS CHANGING THE STATUS OF WOMEN GENERALLY IN THE COMMUNITY.'

**Bintu Dambile,
cotton farmer, Mali**



Readings

Acts 2:42-47

The magic of community cannot be seen more highly than in this text from Luke. Everything was in common—the members learnt, shared community or fellowship, broke bread, prayed, lived in reverence, shared possessions, worshipped and cared for all people. The early church was a place where things happened and it was popular. Such community does not come easily—it is a gift of grace that is more than the sum of the individuals present and a source of great joy. We can limit our understanding of community to those around us or we can work on a global vision that affirms the dignity and worth of all people. In a very real way making sure that producers get a fair price for the food they grow and what they make embodies that vision. Buying fair trade, is one way of improving the standard of living of farming families. It is a recognition of the planet we share in common.

Psalms 23

This psalm perhaps more than any other gives voice to faith in Yahweh. God comes to us as the eternal shepherd and the generous host who welcomes everyone to the table. Journeying back in time to the era of the psalmist, the 'paddock' where their sheep grazed was never far from the tent where the shepherd dwelt. It was the same tent that welcomed the stranger and provided abundance for the traveller. Verse 3a 'He restores my soul' in

Hebrew suggests an image of someone who has almost stopped breathing being brought back to life. In v 4: in the crucial moment of terror in the darkest valley when the life force is weakening, God is there. In writing of the generous host, the writer had a Bedouin understanding of hospitality. In Bedouin culture once a traveller was welcomed into the tent, he or she was guaranteed immunity from any enemy. This is not a future prospect but hospitality that begins in the present and lasts 'my whole life long' (v6d).

1 Peter 2:19-25

In the period after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD, the writer of 1 Peter was writing to a Gentile community who were experiencing some degree of discrimination if not persecution for following a foreign religion. The Roman regime was threatened by their difference, suspecting them of immorality and sedition.

Slaves were merely 'things'. They had no rights even if they were better educated or played a vital role in the household. The Christian message proclaiming everyone as special to God must have been very compelling. In this political climate, 1 Peter instructs Christians that their ultimate allegiance is to God. Christians are called to suffer as Christ suffered for us in their daily lives because their allegiance is elsewhere (v21). The slave was no longer 'a thing' but someone special to God. To seek the outward abolition of slavery under Roman control would put everyone in danger so Christians were to accept what could not be changed by staying where they were. Christians are to do their work well but give their final allegiance to the Good Shepherd.

John 10:1-10

By the time of Jesus, shepherds had become a despised group. Because they were away from home at night they were not able to 'protect their women' and many grazed sheep on land that did not belong to them. The sheep in this story are kept in a pen by the house and will not respond to a stranger's voice. In this story John is declaring the role of Jesus as The Shepherd to the watching Pharisees (9:40). He is the access point to the life-giving new community (v10) - but because of their position in society, the Pharisees seem unable to pick up the challenge.

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.



Prayer of Approach

Giver of Life and of Hope

We come as we are

Some weary with the burdens of daily life, the aches and
pains we carry in our bodies, the hurts and rejections that
weigh us down.

Some happy in all that life gives us, for family, for friends,
for flowers, for fun.

**Loving God we live this moment together, so our
loads may be shared and our joy increased.**

We come as we are

Knowing that there is much that is not right, too many
people live in a circle of poverty and violence, where
mother's worry whether their children will come home or
the family fed, and a few have riches beyond even our
wildest imaginations.

Knowing that more work must be done to share the world
we have in common, to create circles of peace and
concern, to build homes where people are safe and fed and
to make justice win over greed.

**Loving God we live this moment together, so our
loads may be shared and our joy increased.**

We come as we are

Giving thanks for what we have, the gifts we can share and
the hope we find in your message of love that circles the
world.

Giving praise to you the God that gives life and in thanks
for the Community of change that we must become each
day anew.

**Loving God we live this moment together, so our
loads may be shared and our joy increased.**

**In the name of Jesus the Good Shepherd we pray.
Amen.**



Time for Children

Chocolate is always a popular choice but if you have access to All Good bananas with the fairtrade label they will do just fine. Keep them hidden for the time being.

Begin, by saying to the group something like, I want you to think of someone who is amazing, someone who is really special. Who might that be? You may need to give more hints! Invite them to talk about what is special about their own mothers or you could share a story about your mother.

Invite them to think about 'The power of you': what do you do that makes your mum happy? What might you do to make her feel special? In the early church everyone was special. Today we will hear the story in Acts where everybody shared all they had—they learnt together, they praised God together and they shared everything together. Sharing is important—we need to make sure everyone has what they need. By buying fair trade we know the people who grow our food will earn enough for their whole family. You have the power to buy food with the fairtrade label or from Trade Aid and know that the family will get enough to live on—let me show you. Produce chocolate or bananas to share!



CWS
ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

Take Action

- Shop Fairtrade. Look for the fairtrade mark or the Trade Aid brand. Tell others about the fairtrade difference.
- Become a Fairtrade Church. We are in the process of merging the joint CWS and Trade Aid scheme into the one managed by the Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand. Both organisations are members.
- Raise funds to help people recovering from an emergency like fisherfolk in the Philippines after last year's typhoon or Syrian refugees. You could ask for donations or plan a special event like a debate on fair trade, a quiz night or a concert during Fair Trade Fortnight.
- 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.

For further information

CWS: <http://www.cws.org.nz/the-issues/trade/fair-trade-fortnight-2014>

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

Fair Trade Association: www.fairtrade.org.nz/

Bananas: allgoodbananas.co.nz/

YouTube videos from Kuapa Kokoo Cooperative, Ghana:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdosVluOYmA&feature=player_embedded)

[v=TdosVluOYmA&feature=player_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qklkKhSAEwv)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qklkKhSAEwv>

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