



“He has filled the hungry with good things.” Luke 1:53a

Introduction to the CWS Christmas Appeal Worship Resources

Christian World Service has prepared [resources](#) for you to use and adapt for church services, gatherings or private use. Special thanks to Rev. Mark Gibson for contributing the candlelighting liturgy and the opening and closing prayers. His words help to focus our attention on our life together in Aotearoa New Zealand and how we can connect with the world.

Somawathie is the heart of this year’s appeal, [Share Food this Christmas](#). She is a small-scale farmer in Sri Lanka who uses low-cost eco-agricultural techniques to grow the crops that sustain her. Her carbon footprint is small, but as climate change begins to bite, she worries about the future. Warming temperatures and growing water shortages may prevent her from growing what she needs. Already the wild elephants that come in search of food and water are a bigger threat. They have destroyed her crops countless times and knocked over her home. Somawathie has devised strategies to protect her home and send the elephants on their way.

“I am not angry with the animal. They starve when they lose the forest that feeds them. They don’t know how to ask for food like. So, they come to fill up their stomachs,” she says.

In other parts of the world small-scale producers are facing other challenges. In these worship resources, we feature stories that show how people need opportunities to prepare now for a worsening climate crisis.

In this season of Advent, we invite people to think about what it feels like to live in our world in this moment. Many more people are fearful of the future for life on the planet. As we read through the Scriptures, share the partner stories and pray together, we can reflect on what we can do to share God’s love in our hurting world.

No one should be hungry at Christmas. A gift of love could provide a family with the seeds and support they need. Please encourage your community to support the Christmas Appeal so people who are hungry can be filled with good things and live in dignity and peace. Thank you.