



Fair Trade - A Taste of Justice

A warm cup of tea or coffee in our hands is something many of us take for granted. We seldom think of those who grow the tea or harvest the coffee beans. Through Fair Trade Fortnight Christian World Service invites congregations to make this connection through their worship by holding **A Fair Cuppa** after a morning service or incorporating it into the service Café style. Christian World Service has additional resources that are available on the website or by contacting the office. Fair trade supplies are available through Trade Aid.

Why Fair Trade?

Small producers in developing countries are disadvantaged in the global market. Circumstances mean that they usually sell on the local market to a middleman for a very low price. The middleman transports the coffee and cocoa and sells it to the processor who will later export it. Such farming has become increasingly uneconomic especially when the small producer is competing on a global market with large scale agribusiness and unfair trade subsidies to Northern markets. Millions of rural people unable to make a living have moved to cities where many have ended up fighting for their daily survival. No one should be condemned to such poverty.

In recent decades the fair trade movement has grown rapidly, offering small producers greater control over their own futures and a decent livelihood. Small growers have founded cooperatives in order to maximize the benefits for their families. These cooperatives have strong relationships with groups like Trade Aid that ensure a fair exchange. Not only do they receive a better price for what they produce but the whole community benefits from the fair trade premium. It is estimated that some 5 million people - farmers, workers and their families - benefit from the fair-trade label. It could help many more. We need to share the message.

Fair trade 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



Preparing for Worship

CWS has additional resources including a DVD on PNG coffee growers, a FairTrade Association PowerPoint presentation on coffee and a short CWS PowerPoint on fair trade. You might also like to invite a speaker from your local Trade Aid shop (www.tradeaid.org.nz) or from CWS. Consider playing appropriate music. Trade Aid and some music stores sell world music under the Putumayo label.

If you are planning to serve fair trade tea and coffee you will need to be well organized. Some churches have assembled tea pots and coffee plungers for each table while others have opted for drip fed coffee and traditional church teapots at a central distribution point. Choose what works for you.



Setting up the Worship Centre

You may like to set up the whole service as a café by arranging seating around tables and incorporating a café design, with a candle and table decoration. Last year a church included baskets for offerings which were later brought forward as part of the service. You might like to include crayons and paper for young children. Cups, sugar and milk could be ready for after church refreshments.

Provide a central focus by using some appropriate symbols. A local coffee roaster might be able to lend or donate some large coffee sacks. Baskets or artifacts from coffee growing countries can also provide a focus. A basket or other receptacle could be filled with fair trade coffee beans or tea leaves, which will create their own aroma. You could also include a globe or materials from coffee growing countries which include most of Latin America, much of Africa, some Pacific nations and Vietnam.



Children's Talk

Bring along a jute bag from Trade Aid with some recent purchases, including some of their excellent fair traded chocolate. Begin by saying, "I have been shopping" and ask them if they have thought about what they buy. As you produce each item talk about the people who have made them (Trade Aid shops can provide leaflets about the producers). Make sure the chocolate is last. Talk about the cocoa beans that are used to make chocolate and how children are used as child slaves on the cocoa farms. The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture found that 284,000 children between the ages of 9 and 12 worked in hazardous conditions on West African cocoa farms. This is not the world as God intended it. However by buying fair trade branded chocolate, we can be assured that no child labour is used to produce either the cocoa or sugar that goes into the making of the chocolate we are about to taste. Point to the fair-trade label and invite them to try a piece.

Biblical Reflection

These readings all attest to the central concern for others found at the heart of Jesus' teachings, especially those who have been made poor by the economic system.

".. you also should love one another." John 13:34 b

John 13:31-35

As Jesus prepared to leave his disciples, he gave them a summary of his teachings. John, verse 34 says, 'As I have loved you, you should also love one another'. Jesus reminded the disciples of the importance of 'the other'. They make Jesus present beyond themselves, on 'the other'. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another." (verse 35) Jesus' love excluded no one - from widow to tax collector. It is up to us to make real his special concern for those people who are impoverished and excluded by the harmful realities of the world.

Acts 11:1-18

In Peter's report to Jerusalem, Acts is dealing with the question as to whether the early Jewish Christians are bound by the law and should expect the same of Gentiles. His conclusion based on God's vision is that when he is among Gentiles Jewish dietary laws don't apply. This shows the Christian faith should be inclusive, flexible and sensitive to the cultural context.

Psalm 148

This hymn of praise to God comes from the heavens (verses 1-6) and the earth (verses 7-14). Using powerful images of creation it is a reminder of how expansive God's love and concern are. It is faithful people who are close to God (verse 14).

Revelation 21:1-6

The vision of the New Heaven and New Earth is most compelling for those who face great suffering in this world. This text looks back to the powerful promises in the Jewish tradition for example in verse 1 to Isaiah 65:17; 66:22 and the promise to wipe tears from their eyes in Isaiah 25:8. It shows that God is attentive to those who suffer, that God promises to wipe the tears from their eyes. This is the level of God's love for the world. As Christians we need to encourage each other to live out this expansive vision for God's earth as we seek to live out this love.



Opening Prayer

Leader

All praise to you eternal God
Who listens to the cries of creation
And aches for those who are in pain

People

All praise to you life-giving God
Who reaches out to all
And embraces the world with your love

All

We join together in worshipping you - the Sustainer
of life and the One who promises to make all things
new.
Amen

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 for others

Loving God

We pray for people who are exploited in their daily
life, especially for children who are forced to work in
dangerous conditions growing cocoa. We know that
it is not right that we can enjoy good chocolate while
they barely survive. We pray for small producers
who live each day by what they make with their
hands. May they find the markets they need and
earn sufficient income so they have food to eat and
can send their children to school instead of work.
We remember those who are deciding new
international trade rules. May they hear what small
producers and farm workers are saying about what
sort of trade will help their families. We pray for
those working to end systems that destroy people's
lives, especially for those in the fair trade
movement.

**Response: Loving God teach us to show
compassion.**

We pray for the church that it might rediscover the
essential teaching of Jesus to love one another as
he loved his disciples. Help us not to seek power
and influence for its own sake but rather only if it fur-
thers your message of love for all people.
Strengthen your church that it might stand with
those who are excluded and impoverished by the
world. Enable your church to listen more closely to
those whose needs are unmet and whose voices
are unheard. Free us to be your people in your
world.

**Response: Loving God teach us to show
compassion.**

We pray for people in our own community - those
who live on very little, children who are vulnerable
and older people who are lonely. We pray for those
who are in unwell...; for those who are of special
concern... Help us to love more generously and
speak up more loudly for those who are treated
unjustly.

**Response: Loving God teach us to show
compassion.**

In your name we pray Amen.

Closing Prayer

Live in the warmth of God's love
Listen to the cries of hurt
Speak words of compassion
And know that you are surrounded by the eternal
God.
Go in peace. Amen



Take Action

- Pray for the millions of small farmers and workers struggling to make ends meet and for those supporting the Fair trade movement.
- Invite some one to speak to your parish or have a discussion about fair trade and ethical shopping.
- Hold a special morning tea for **A Fair Cuppa** on May 6 or other suitable day. It can be as simple as serving tea and coffee or you may like to use other good fair-trade ingredients to make special food. Further resource materials (including posters) are available from CWS.
- Become a Fairtrade Church, by serving fair-trade tea and coffee after services. For more information, including how to get a certificate, contact CWS.
- Order supplies from Trade Aid for your parish. You might like to work as a cooperative, with one person taking orders for the congregation or hold a sales table using the proceeds for a fundraiser. CWS partners all work with poor people and through the Good Neighbours programme you can support one partner and receive regular news of their work.
- Encourage other churches and groups using your facilities to use fair-trade products.
- Join the international campaign to change international trade rules and practices. Contact CWS for more information.



Archbishop David Moxon and Sarah Stevens from St Andrew's, Cambridge add their support to fair trade.

For further information:

Trade Aid:

<http://www.tradeaid.co.nz/Home>

Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand:

<http://www.fairtrade.org.nz/>

From the Fairtrade Foundation, UK

Ideas for churches:

http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved_ideas_for_churches.htm

http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved_faiths.htm

Global Exchange, USA

<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/>



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