



MAGAZINE OF UNITING CHURCH SKETTY OCTOBER 2023



A Mighty River
— Amos 5: 24 —

**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

The prophet Amos cries out: “But let justice roll down like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5: 24) and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most affected by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

As the people of God – at a time when we celebrate the harvest of the earth – we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

**Uniting together
Caring for all
Seeking God**



Minister: The Revd Louise Gough,

Senior Elder: Pat D

Senior Steward: Jan C

Church Related Community Worker: Adella P

NOVEMBER 2023 MAGAZINE: All items for inclusion in the November 2023 edition of the Magazine to be sent to Noel D) by 17 October at the latest, but sooner if possible. Issue date: Sunday, 29 October

NB We recently stopped producing audio recordings of this church magazine due to a lack of demand. This is under continuous appraisal and if you think such recordings could benefit you, please let Les W. If you would like to receive the weekly notices and/or monthly magazine via email (.pdf file) please contact Lynne W.

Contacting us: Uniting Church Sketty, Dillwyn Road, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9AH. Website: www.unitingchurchsketty.org.uk

The building development was funded by the following



The refurbished hall was funded from the sale of the Bethel building

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Dear friends

I'm writing this at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of September – Noel wants the letter on the 12th! Eleven days into my ministry at UCS and in the Swansea and Gower Circuit, things are still feeling very new, and no doubt you will be still getting used to your new minister and wondering what to expect!

Thank you for your very warm welcome and all your kindness and support since I arrived – it is being much appreciated. I am glad to be here! Thanks too for your patience as I try to learn your names and discover who is who and what is what.

I've been reflecting that there probably aren't that many occasions in life when everything is new. Perhaps the first days at school/college/university, or a new job or home; a new relationship or addition to the family (human or a pet!), other things too. Even though this brings challenges, 'new' can also feel like a gift. When everything is familiar, there is always the temptation to anticipate an outcome, often expecting the worst and/or not noticing the good or different things that are actually happening. There is also the danger of being in a rut and forgetting to check for new paths or opportunities. At the point of total newness, the possibilities seem endless and there is so much to



explore. I was reminded of this when I watched drone footage of Mumbles earlier today (in case you haven't yet heard me say, I'm besotted with the sea, and awed by the wonderful surroundings in which I find myself. So much so, that when I haven't got time to nip to the beach – incredible that this is even possible - I have to get my fill online!). I'd enjoyed the wonderful views

from the pier during a visit, but until I saw the YouTube video, I hadn't anticipated what lay beyond the mysterious lighthouse – more glorious coastline! (You'll know all this, but it's new to me!)

With God, there is always more... more than we can ever expect, though if we think about it, setting limits on God makes no sense. I think I quoted from Ephesians 3 in my last letter, but it's one of my favourite passages, and it says that God can do 'immeasurably more than we can ask for or imagine'.

This is something we can hold on to when life is difficult. I'm writing just after the devastating earthquake in Morocco, and together with all we've been

hearing about deadly wildfires and floods, we're reminded that sometimes, 'new' is not a blessing. Instead, it means having to contemplate a future when everything that is known and familiar has disappeared, and tomorrow becomes impossible to imagine. Even today brings the challenges, shock and heartache of being bereaved, homeless and lacking in food and water in a context of almost total destruction.

At harvest time, as well as celebrating creation and God's provision through the goodness of the earth, we also focus on justice (climate change is, amongst other things, a justice issue), and on the need to take urgent action to protect present and future life on earth.

As we contemplate our own lives and the broken state of our planet, the ancient wisdom of the Psalms tells us we can lift our eyes to the hills and be assured that our help comes from God, the Maker of heaven and earth (Psalm 121). The Psalmist speaks of God's care – God our shade at our right hand; God who watches over us, all our comings and goings; God who keeps us. I find immense comfort in this, even though I know that 'bad things still happen'. Whatever the eventuality, we can trust that God is beside us, and that we don't have to face anything alone.

My new location by the sea teaches me to look at the bigger picture, especially when the details get overwhelming and I'm lost in minutiae, and myriad demands and worries race around my head. I gaze at the sea, the rocks and the hills and regain perspective – because I know that God's ways, God's wisdom, God's love, are far beyond ours – and that God is our rock but also a vast eternal ever-moving source of deep, deep love.

I pray that we will discover God's love new every morning, and know the comfort of God's presence beside us, as we live and seek justice in and for our world. May God bless us as we journey together.

Blessings and love,

Louise

Prayer

God our help, our shade, our keeper,
your love, vast as the ocean,
stills our racing minds,
sooths our fearful hearts,
and reminds us
that we are one with you,

now and eternally.
In all that is new,
in all that is familiar,
may we discover
your divine imagination at work.
With you,
may we realise your dreams
of a world where all living beings know
justice, wholeness,
and fullness of life.
Amen.

WELCOME AND INDUCTION SERVICE (AUGUST 30th)

It was a joyful and uplifting occasion. We were privileged to listen to a brilliant organ recital by Dr Alan Sykes before and after the service. Our worship was led by the Circuit Superintendent, the Revd Howard Long, who made us all feel welcome and created an atmosphere for worship and praise. There were traditional and modern hymns and songs. We were invited, for example, 'to dance to the beat of God's heart', encouraged and accompanied by John Atkinson and his family and friends, though not many took up the invitation actually to dance! Perhaps we were dancing inwardly? It was good to hear God's Word and offer prayers – led by members of UCS and Clydach – during the service. The Revd Dr Jenni Hurd, co-chair of the Welsh Synod Cymru of the Methodist Church, reminded us in her sermon how important kindness, one of the gifts of the Spirit (see Galatians 5.22), is to our Christian life as individuals and churches. In a period such as ours, kindness can be a powerful (and not a weak) way of bearing witness to the love and strength of God and of enabling us to be channels, through social action and service, of God's world-changing kindness and grace. The liturgy of welcome and induction (to shared ministry within the Methodist and United Reformed Churches) was led by the new co-chair of the Wales Synod Cymru, the Rev. Andrew Charlesworth, and the Moderator of the URC Synod of Wales, the Revd Simon Walkling (who was officiating in that role for the last time on this occasion since, three days later, on September 2nd, he was inducted as minister of Word and Sacraments in Christ Well Manselton URC and in the Swansea Region). The words of induction were not only promises made by the Revd Louise for her ministry but a challenge to all of us to make new commitments and promises to share in the

ministry and witness of the whole people of God here in UCS and the Circuit. May the Spirit strengthen all of us in our calling.

It was a joy to welcome the Revd Louise Gough to minister among us at UCS, in Wesley Clydach, in the Circuit and as part of the Swansea University Chaplaincy Team. It was good, too, to celebrate this new stage in our ministry together with friends from other churches in our community, and (on Zoom) from Cheadle, where Louise has been minister for the last ten years.

And, of course, there were refreshments, thanks, as always, to the generosity of many people who prepared, baked, served and washed up! A joyful and uplifting occasion indeed. So, in the words of our final hymn: 'Forth in your name, O Lord, we go'.

WORSHIP SERVICES IN OCTOBER

October 1	Revd Louise Gough (Communion)
8	Sue Raad
	(6.00pm Mission Sunday Service in Murton)
15	Revd Pam Cram
22	Revd Louise Gough
26	(Thursday Communion) Revd Andy Walker
29	Heather Coleman

COFFEE MORNINGS

Friday 29th September	10am-12noon	Coffee Morning for MacMillan
Saturday 7th October	10am-12noon	Coffee Morning run by Madcaps
Saturday 4th November	10am-12noon	Coffee Morning run by Craft Group.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER, JON DYER

Benevolence Payments made since those reported in June Magazine, to the end of August 2023

Christian Aid Week	£1465.36
Marie Curie	£ 295.21
Cerebra	£ 271.35
British Red Cross	£ 37.50
Christian Aid Coffee Morning	£470.40
League of Light	£443.53

Sketty Foodbank (Coffee Collection Tin)	£ 104.99
Commitment for Life	£327.80

Other Donations

Methodist Ministers Housing Society	£150.00
URC Ministers Housing Society	£150.00
All We Can	£300.00
Mission in Britain	£300.00
MHA	£250.00
Fund For Property	£150.00
Global Justice Now	£200.00

Other Fundraising Events held since those reported in June Edition

Strawberry Tea (for Save the Children)	£247.00
Abbey Players Concert (to be shared between UCS and Abbey Players)	£546.00
Coronation Lunch	£105.00

(This is a total of £6110.00! Many thanks to all who made it possible. ed.)

Acknowledgements & Thank you letters from:

Christian Aid

Thanking us for being part of their caring and generous community. In making this donation we at UCS are standing with Esther and her family in Malawi (subject of video clip shown at our Christian Aid service)

Abbey Players

Thank you all so much for your donation to the Abbey Players raised at the recent concert. It was a great success and an event we love doing each year. We look forward to returning in 2024.

Regards

Simon Lloyd-Jones, Chair Abbey Players

Action for Children (League of Light)

Your generosity has enabled Action for Children to continue to help over 604,000 vulnerable children and young people in the UK and enabled them to continue to be a vital lifeline for children over the country.

Sketty Foodbank

I'd like to thank everyone at Uniting Church Sketty for their wonderful continuing generosity towards Sketty Foodbank.

The collection of £104.99 was very gratefully received. Rest assured that every penny will be put towards buying food for those who find themselves in a food poverty crisis situation. Currently we are providing food parcels for over 120 people, including children, every week. We really appreciate your gift.

NACCOM

Your donation will certainly help towards our vision which is for the UK to have a fair, just and humane asylum and immigration system, which enables people seeking asylum, refugees and other migrants to be free from destitution and to live with dignity.

Commitment for Life

We are most grateful for your congregation's kind donation of £327.80. Your continued generosity towards the support for Christian Aid and Global Justice Now is much appreciated.

Extract from remarks by Patrick Watt, Chief Executive of Christian Aid:
Ongoing partnerships like Commitment for Life deepen our relationships with those across the World and challenge us to keep justice and peace at the centre of our Christian life. Together we are part of the transformation of God's kingdom and seeing change happen.

A REMINDER ABOUT GIVING

In the July/August 2022 edition of this Magazine, I included an article concerning the financial position of UCS and the way forward, bearing in mind the uncertainty of gas and electricity prices, which were to increase our costs, and mentioned that we had lost a number of generous members which could have an impact on our income.

Subsequently, a number of our congregation generously increased their giving. Together with increased fundraising and improved rental income, this has enabled UCS to continue to maintain a safe and warm place for worship, fellowship and community activities.

- The UCS financial year started in September and again it would be appreciated if members of our congregation could help with our financial planning and monitoring by reviewing their current contributions to UCS collections to see if there is a possibility of increasing them.
- Those of you making contributions in cash at services perhaps could consider using the collection envelope system or making your contribution by bank standing order.
- Also, if you are in a position to *Gift Aid* your contributions, and have not yet done so, please consider this, as it will increase your giving by 25%.

As many of you know, we need to undertake work on the roof, and we await prices for the work we need to carry out. We have also agreed to substantial remedial work on the organ pipes.

UCS congregation members continue to be very generous to Church Funds and the various charitable collections/events we support, and this is really appreciated.

For further information on Gift Aid, please contact Les W or Jon D.

For payments by Bank Standing Order, please contact Jon D.

For collection envelopes, please contact Ian H.

Thanks for your attention.

Jeff C, Secretary, Finance and Property Committee



*By the time you read this magazine, Elisha G will be preparing for his wonderful opportunity to join thousands of young people in Rome as they gather for **TOGETHER – GATHERING OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD** from Sept 29 to Oct 1. Elisha has also been invited to host a workshop on Praise and Worship. We wish him well and pray for God's blessing on Elisha and all from around the world who will share in this occasion. With Elisha and Pope Francis involved, what can go wrong?!*

THERE HAVE BEEN RETIRING COLLECTIONS IN AID OF MOROCCO ON SEPTEMBER 17 AND 24

Some of you may also have already donated in other ways, but if you have not and would like to do so the money will be forwarded to Shelter Box and Christian Aid.

It is appreciated that there are continual calls on us given the number of horrific tragedies in the world, but the suffering and loss of life and homes is something which touches us all.



ShelterBox

EARTHQUAKE IN MOROCCO

ShelterBox is sending an assessment team to Morocco to understand if we can support people who have lost their homes in the 6.8 magnitude earthquake that struck the country on Friday night.

In this month's article about UCS members who are no longer able to attend worship in person, but join us regularly on Zoom, we feature Barbara N. She has been speaking to Pat.



It is appropriate to feature Barbara in this month's magazine as she reaches her 90th birthday. She told me she did not think she would reach this age and if you read on you will find out why.

Barbara's parents were married in Bethel on 27th August 1932 but Barbara was christened in St. Mary's at the request of her

grandmother. She was an only child, brought up in a happy home. At 17, she started working as a clerk in an electrical business based in Green Dragon Lane in Swansea. Subsequently, she spent 22 years in the steel plate industry, eventually retiring from the Clerk's Department in County Hall.

A faithful lifetime member of Bethel, she became an Elder and Superintendent of the Sunday School. Apart from her church loyalties and duties she has been a great traveller, visiting 14 different countries including Canada, Norway, Poland and her favourite, Italy. I always admired her setting off alone on her travels, although she says that she always made friends on the way.

None of us may have thought Barbara was going to reach 90 and if it had not been for Sonia (who was Barbara's Pastoral Elder before me) she would not be here now. One week, Sonia rang her twice and received no reply. She then went to her bungalow and again receiving no reply. She immediately called the police. Barbara was lying on the floor, where she had been for three days and her temperature had gone down to 24 degrees. Barbara was in hospital for many weeks and we despaired of her recovery, our minister Kim leading prayers for her when we thought she would not regain consciousness. However!! Barbara says she is so grateful to Sonia and to Kim and all the members of Bethel who prayed for her. It was to everyone's delight when she returned to church.

Members of her family did not want her to live alone after this and in 2014 she moved to Bloomfield where she has a beautiful room and good care.

Until Covid, Barbara did attend UCS, thanks to those who gave her lifts. But she now finds it easier to attend worship on zoom. Barbara is well, does a little cooking (Christmas cake last year) and keeps in touch with family and friends. Always a pleasure to visit her.

Happy Birthday Barbara!

Pat D

ECO (Earth Crisis Ongoing) NEWS

THEOLOGY OF FOOD AND EATING

As we look forward to celebrating harvest, the Bible tells us a lot about food and eating. Think of the creation account, in which God gives “every green plant for food”, or the imagery of feasting in heaven or the political challenges of food insecurity in the story of Joseph, as well as references to food, scattered throughout the Psalms and Proverbs.

Food and eating are also deeply rooted in the spiritual practices of the Christian Church, in saying grace, in practising hospitality and taking communion.

At the centre of a biblical approach to food is an attitude which deeply considers the food we eat, not just as a commodity, but as a good gift from God, connecting individuals to a global web of people, culture and ecology. Three words characterize the Bible’s approach:

GENEROUS

Psalm 104:14-15 is a joyful expression of how generous God is in giving food to humanity to both gladden and sustain their hearts. The mandate to “love God and love your neighbour (Mark 12:30-31) applies here. A biblical view of food calls Christians to give thanks to God, and, where possible, to share food as part of our hospitality.

CONNECTIONS

Taking time to say Grace at meals, reminds Christians that we should be grateful to God for food, but also creates a moment of reflection to remember that we depend on creation and other people for what’s on our plate.

THOUGHTFUL

In the developed world, many people have access to convenience foods as a result of the developments in food production and distribution. But they may have little or no knowledge of where their food comes from, what it took to grow it, the web of ecology and cultural traditions that made that food possible, the health implications of their diet, the impact of these systems on nature and the injustices hidden in those systems.

Janet N

COFFEE AND CHAT

Our October Coffee and Chat on 14th from 10am will be to start organising our contribution to the Green Fayre in the national Waterfront Museum on 18th and 19th November. We will need volunteers to “person” our table for an hour or two during those two days. We realise that 19th November is a Sunday, so will quite understand if you don’t feel able to help on that day, though we are using it as a great outreach opportunity. Apart from a Fairtrade stall, there has been no church presence at the Green Fayre and we think it is important that there is this year. We will have a rolling PowerPoint of activities etc at UCS and competitions for any who stop at our stall to try.

Janet N

WALKING GROUP

Our October walk will be on Wednesday 11th October. Meet at Llangennith Church at 11am. For those who wish to have lunch in the King’s Head, we will book it before we start walking. Hopefully the church will be open for us to see the interior and exterior of this beautiful church. Our walk will take us via Coety Green and the base of Rhosilli Down. Obviously, the walk will be dependent on weather conditions (as usual!). Please let Janet know if you wish to come, via e-mail, phone or WhatsApp.

Janet N

WE PRAY...we remember all those countries suffering from drought, wildfires, flooding earthquake and crop failure. We pray for all the charities which send aid overseas – Christian Aid (Commitment for Life); All We Can; Oxfam; CAFOD; Tear Fund; Money For Madagascar and many more...

We give thanks for the fruit of the earth that sustains human life. May we be good stewards of the resources you give us and resist temptation to take

everything for ourselves. Give us grace to live wisely and generously, by nurturing the world we occupy and by sharing the bounty we enjoy.

Janet N

ADVANCE NOTICE ABOUT CHRISTMAS BAGS 2023 FOR OUR LOCAL REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

I apologise for mentioning Christmas when it is only October but I am going to be in need of everyone's help again!

Last year UCS provided bags full of goodies for over 120 adults and over 80 stockings/bags for children. It is likely those numbers will have significantly increased this year.

In these difficult days we have cause to worry about our heating bills as well as increased costs in our shopping. But I am sure, like me, you would not wish the gesture we have made for the past three years to fail at a time of its greatest need.

Bags are in the process of being sewn and will be ready for distribution for filling in November – full details in next month's magazine. I will hope then with Adella's help to have details of the numbers of each category bag required. In the meantime, when shopping many of you may wish to start purchasing items to include in your bag. Naturally I will be very happy to receive donations of money to purchase items for those unable to do their own shopping.



Please pray for a successful outcome that, with the help of everyone in UCS alongside the UID and SASS teams, we will rise to the task and achieve our target of ensuring a bag for every refugee and asylum seeker in Swansea.

Bag contents

For those new to the project and wishing to know more about the sorts of items suggested to fill the bags, the following is simply guidance and many of you will have better ideas!!

- **Does the bag have some of the following items for personal hygiene?**



(soap, bubble bath, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrush, hair brush, comb, shampoo, flannel, etc)

- **Does the bag have something to wear?**

(gloves, hat, scarf, socks, underwear)

- **Does the bag have things to use?**

(notebook, stationery items such as pens, pencils, diary, water bottle, mug [well wrapped, if china])

- **Does the bag contain an item for fun or pleasure?**

(sweets, chocolate, biscuits, jigsaw, torch, keyring, game, jewellery, soft toy)

If your bag contains 1 or 2 items from each category, then we would feel that bag fulfils its purpose. The bags are not planned to be identical.

Many thanks

Linda J

Our communion collection for October is for Tŷ Hafan, the children's



Tŷ Hafan

hospice. They provide comfort, care and support to children with life shortening conditions and their loved ones.

This can be in the hospice, but they also provide support in family homes and local hospitals across Wales and offer therapies which would not otherwise be available.

FAIR TRADE STALLS

Fair Trade stalls will be held on the **22nd October** and the **19th November**.



I am currently unsure what, if any, Christmas food items will be available, but we do have an opportunity to buy the Real Advent Calendars which some of you will remember from pre Covid days. This is the UK's only Fairtrade chocolate advent calendar. I would have to order a case of 18. So I need to be sure we can sell at least 12 here. If you are interested, please can you let me know asap.

Jackie C

I'M GOING TO TRY IT!

Schools nowadays are always seeking to extend children's wider knowledge, experiences and aspirations in a way that is perhaps different to our memories of our primary days. Certainly, at Townhill Community School the teachers seek to inspire children to extend their horizons and believe in themselves. Thus, many classes have quotations and comments of encouragement which change frequently. I am often taken with the messages they can give me and this one in particular struck a chord: *"Be someone, who makes everyone feel like someone"*. I'm definitely going to consciously give this a try. **Jan C**

AN A TO Z OF CHURCH RELATED COMMUNITY WORK IN THE SWANSEA REGION OF URC CHURCHES & LEPS, SEPTEMBER 2022 TO AUGUST 2023

- A** – Aim of the Church Related Community Work: To develop, sustainable community projects as part of the Mission of the churches in the Swansea Region in relation with Unity in Diversity (UiD).
- B** – Babies & toddlers at Sunbeams, UCS. I am a member of the volunteer team.
- C** – Clothing and Housewares Store for UiD at UCS. I coordinate the work of the Clothing Store.
- D** – Deliveries for the Clothing Bank. I occasionally do some although there is a good team of volunteer drivers from UCS.
- E** – Eco Church Award, working with Hall Street and UCS
- F** – Foodbank at St John's Day Care Centre, Cwmbwrla. Its official name is Cae Rowland Pantry; I am a volunteer.
- G** – Green Fayre: UCS Eco Friends are planning to have a stall at this annual event run by the Swansea Environment Centre.
- H** – Having a very enriching time exercising my community work ministry.
- I** – Invitations, I give out a lot, especially to the members of the various WhatsApp groups I belong to.
- J** – Joining up the dots. I try where possible to do what I call 'cross pollinate' all my areas of work.

K – Kingdom Values: an important blueprint for me to work with alongside my community workers’ values.

L – Love ...says it all!

M – Mission Statement of the CRCW Reference Group:

We wish to show our faith and be faith-led in our work in the community.

We aim to show the love of God to members of the community through our actions, aiming to bring positive change in the community.

We strive for social justice as we care for God’s creation.

N – News, sharing of to church and community members

O – Outreach, Mission and Events Committee, UCS; Facilitator of.

P – Prayer in many different ways

Q – Quiet Day at Christ Well; leading the event.

R – Reservoir Reflection, with members of Hall Street; leading the event.

S – Sanctuary Award; Church of.: exploring the possibilities for this award.

T – Tea and Chat Group at Christ Well; facilitator of...

U – Unity in Diversity welcomes and supports asylum seekers and refugees in the Swansea area, providing a weekly drop-in session and 2 weekly English classes. It also operates 2 clothing banks and an outreach food support project.

V – Values of the work of the CRCW Project: Being faith-based, Relational, Listening, Challenging, Networking

W – Worship Services with Christ Well, Hall Street, Tabernacle and UCS

X – Xmas service at Christ Well – extract:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward humankind. So how do we show glory to God, show Gods glory? Quite simply, according to an early Church Father ... Irenaeus, “The glory of God is a human being fully alive; and to be alive consists of witnessing to God.”

Y – Year 9. This has been the 9th year of the Church Community Work Project but my 4th. During this last 12 months the committee members applied for a third term for the post and were successful. The third term runs from September 2024 to August 2029.

Z – Zzzzzzzzzzz's – what I need more of!!!!!!

**Thank
you to:**

The members of my Regional Steering Group

**Adella P
09.09.23**

AS WE WENT TO PRESS, WE HEARD OF THE TERRIBLE FLOODS IN LYBIA: UNICEF, THE UN CHILDREN AND EDUCATION FUND, IS ALREADY RESPONDING, AS ARE OTHER AID AGENCIES



Amid the crisis caused by Storm Daniel in LYBIA, UNICEF is sending 1,100 hygiene kits and vital medical supplies for 10,000 people and providing essential clothing kits for 500 children. It stands ready for more support.

SEASON OF CREATION 2023

A PRAYER

Creator of All, from your communion of love, life sprung forth like a mighty river and the whole cosmos came into being. On this Earth of over-

flowing love, the Word was made flesh and went forth with the life-giving waters, proclaiming peace and justice for all creation.

You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationship with each creature, but we failed to listen to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the most vulnerable. We



broke with the flowing communion of love and sinned against you by not safeguarding the conditions for life.

We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats, we grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished, and we ache at the sight of an economy of death, war and violence that we have inflicted on ourselves and on the Earth.

Open our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word, that calls to us through the book of Scripture and the book of creation. Bless us once again with your life-giving waters so that the Creator Spirit may let justice and peace flow in our hearts and overflow into all creation.

Open our hearts to receive the living waters of your justice and peace, and to share it with our suffering brothers and sisters, all creatures around us, and all creation.

Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so that the many streams of the living waters of your justice and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

from the World Council of Churches website

A HARVEST PRAYER

Loving God,

Thank you for the many ways in which you provide for us:

Food, family, friendship,

Housing, health, happiness,

And ways to use our time and talents.

We lift to you too the ways in which we remain in need of these things.

God of generosity,

May your kingdom come.

We pray for people in our community and beyond

Who are facing unemployment, ill-health, isolation or money worries at this time,

And especially for those who are unable to afford enough to eat.

We pray for supportive relationships, practical provision and real hope.

God of compassion,

May your kingdom come.

Thank you that you call us to play our part,

Working with you and with others to bring about change.

We pray for political decision-makers and leaders:

Give them courage and insight to develop policies and systems that support the flourishing of all,

So that even in challenging times, no-one goes hungry and everyone has dignity.

God of justice,

May your kingdom come.

Thank you for those who are serving and caring for others,

In churches, in charities, and public services,

In our neighbourhoods, in our homes, and in many other contexts.

Would you give them strength, rest and perseverance.

As they work to support others, we ask that they too would receive all they need to thrive.

God of love,

May your kingdom come.

