

The Time is Now: Christian Aid and Friends



Glasgow Cathedral
COP26
8 November 2021

Welcome

Welcome. We're so glad that you have joined us for what is set to be a very special evening of music, lament, prayer and hope as we gather at COP26. We are delighted to be in the beautiful setting of Glasgow Cathedral and thankful to all those who have made this evening possible.

COP26 is a huge moment for the world to stand together against climate change. We believe the church in the UK and around the world has a crucial role to play. We can influence political leaders to be ambitious and to take steps to end the climate crisis. The church can speak up with a strong moral voice. Together, we can mobilise members to challenge the abuse of creation and insist on the value and dignity of every human being

as we highlight the devastating effects of climate change on the poorest and most marginalised communities in the global South, with whom Christian Aid works.

We believe all of us can offer powerful witness, in words and actions, for a future where everyone can flourish.

We also believe that climate justice is inextricably linked with racial injustice, with black and brown people in both the global South and the global North on the frontline of climate crisis. That's why you'll see a theme running throughout this evening of racial justice as we call for urgent action, a more diverse climate moment and the dignity, equality and justice of every human being.

We hope you will enjoy this evening, but we also hope you will be encouraged and stirred to continue in the road ahead and the fight that is to come for climate justice. Together, we can stop this climate crisis.

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi
Chief Executive of Christian Aid



Programme

Welcome to Glasgow Cathedral – Rev Mark Johnstone

Introduction – Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, Chief Executive of Christian Aid

Why the time is now: global South – Erasto Magamba, climate activist from Diocese of Kampala

Refrain – John Bell, Iona Community

Why the time is now: the church – Archdeacon Rosemarie Mallett

Refrain

Why the time is now: racial justice and climate justice – Dr Robert Beckford, University of Winchester

Mercy, Mercy Me – The Kingdom Choir

Address: why the time is now for climate justice – Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and chair of Christian Aid

Moment of reflection – John Bell, Iona Community

How the church is rising to the moment – Jen Morris, Young Christian Climate Network

Prayers – Rev Delroy Henry (New Testament Church of God) and Jo Chamberlain (National Environment Officer, Church of England)

Refrain

Christian Aid's response: what next? – Sally Foster-Fulton, Head of Nations and Church Relations, Christian Aid

Close

Kingdom Choir and Mercy, Mercy Me

Formed by individual singers and performers from in and around London, England, The Kingdom Choir is a group of like-minded artists dedicated to creating a sound that demonstrates the community they share. The Kingdom Choir has been performing up and down the country and all around the world for over 20 years.

Over this time, the choir has become known for its united sound, warm energy and enthusiastic performance. It is led by one of the UK's most respected gospel tutors and choir conductors, Karen Gibson. The Kingdom Choir is a sterling example of the unity within the British gospel community.

Tonight, The Kingdom Choir will be performing their new version of the song *Mercy, Mercy Me* arranged by choir member Clinton Jordan. Written by Marvin Gaye and included in his 1971 album *What's Going On*, the song was written long before anyone spoke about climate justice; before global warming became something that was part of public consciousness. The song is one of only a few soul songs about the environment and urges us to care for the Earth. We are thankful to Sony and the Marvin Gaye estate for allowing Christian Aid to commission a new performance of this song for a new generation seeking urgent action on climate change.

For more information on *The Kingdom Choir*, visit kingdomchoir.com



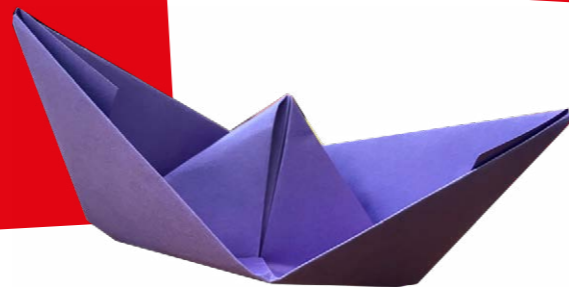
Iona Community

Worship moments led by John Bell: minister, hymn-writer and member of the Iona Community.

The Iona Community is a dispersed Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. They are a community of people from different walks of life and different traditions in the church engaged together, and with people of goodwill across the world, in acting, reflecting and praying for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. The Iona Community is convinced that the inclusive community they seek must be embodied in the community they practise.

Rise to the Moment

Here's what Rise to the Moment is all about and how you can get involved.



The relay

Christian Aid has joined with YCCN for an exciting relay across the UK to raise the message of climate justice ahead of COP26.

The relay kicked off in Cornwall after the G7 Summit in June and made its way across the UK until, 2000 walkers and 108 walking days later, it reached Glasgow in time for COP26.

Visit christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain for details on how to make your own boat and help make sure decision makers cannot ignore our calls for action. Together, we can all demonstrate that we care about climate justice and creation. And that we want to see systems change on a global scale.



The boat

For the relay, YCCN built a model boat that journeyed across the country with them, and is with us at Glasgow Cathedral this evening.

This boat represents our hope that we will rise to the moment and use this year to set sail towards a more just future.

Your voice

We cannot rise to the moment without you. Make your own prayer boat to add to the online fleet and call on leaders to take action by Tweeting #PrayForCOP26

Who is YCCN?

YCCN is an action-focused community of people aged 18–30 following Jesus in the pursuit of climate justice. They share Christian Aid's determination to bring about a fairer world.

Visit the YCCN website at yccn.uk to learn more.

Together we stop this climate crisis

You are not alone in speaking out for justice. Your energy and action is led by our global neighbours all around the world.

Many are already experiencing the impacts of the climate crisis, even though they have done the least to cause it.

In Kenya's Kitui County, Naomi Mumo and Rosalia Kusungu Ndangihi are two women determined to raise awareness about the issues their communities face.

Long periods of drought mean people go hungry when crops fail. The rains used to be reliable. Now they are fewer and unpredictable. Without crops, families have lost livestock too. Many struggle to make enough money to send their children to school.



'I am worried,' said Rosalia. **'I am not sure if it will rain in the coming season. Because of drought, people are forced to cut down trees and burn charcoal.'**

These women cannot control the weather. But they are seizing control where they can, raising awareness and advocating for change.



Naomi is the chair of her local women's advocacy group on climate change, which Rosalia is part of. They pass on their knowledge to others through song.

'We want to be a good example: we want to lead in climate advocacy so that the other members of the community also take action,' Naomi explained. **'I pray God gives us strength to continue with the work of climate advocacy.'**

When you call for climate justice you are standing with people like Naomi and Rosalia.

As Naomi said: **'The whole world is polluting the environment. The responsibility is everyone's.'**

Watch again: Song of the Prophets:

A Requiem for the Climate

In June, Chineke! Orchestra performed the world premiere of *Song of the Prophets: A Requiem for the Climate* in St Paul's Cathedral, London. The piece was commissioned by Christian Aid to help raise awareness about the devastating impacts of the climate crisis. Watch the performance online and be inspired as we journey beyond COP26 at caid.org.uk/song



Acknowledgements

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We would also like to give a special thanks to the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) European Climate Foundation, the University of Winchester, Sony, the Gaye family, Professor Robert Beckford, Roy Ackerman, Andy Hutchison, Carbon Logic and of course The Kingdom Choir.



Contact

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. We are a global movement of people, churches and local organisations who passionately champion dignity, equality and justice worldwide. We are the changemakers, the peacemakers, the mighty of heart.

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