



THE JOB OF PARADISE

Order of service

PRAYER FOR THE EARTH

We pray for our earth
Place of nurture and abundance
Place of treasure and joy
Place of shelter and delight
And yet we injure it.
Turn us, god, from destroying the place that gives us life
Turn each of us – citizens, leaders, all – towards
Everything that will help us
Thrive safely here together.

This is our prayer

WE MAKE OUR PRAYER IN THE NAME OF LOVE.

WELCOME

THE JOB OF PARADISE, ROGER ROBINSON

PRAYER FOR ARTISTS

In the great poem of creation we read that we are made in your image, God of all living things and beings:

Jugglers and jabberwocky,
bees and butterflies,
actors, ants and acrobats,
poets, painters, and pine-martens,
musicians, mime-artists and marsh-wiggles,
wrens and other writers,

In a year that's been difficult for artists, we pray for all who create.

May they hear their creative calling ever deeper.

May they find audience and income and appreciation.

We give thanks to and for them; they remind us of what it is to be alive.

God of all art, art of all God, this is our prayer.

WE MAKE OUR PRAYER IN THE NAME OF ART.

SONG: LENTEN PSALM TONE

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

Based on Psalm 26/27

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

Though an army encamp against me my heart would not fear.

Though war break out against me even then would I trust.

For he keeps me safe in his tent in the day of evil.

He hides me in the shelter of his tent, on a rock he sets me safe.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord!

Music Edwin Fawcett, Lyrics Psalm 26/27 copyright Grail Psalter, performed by Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir, from the album With All Your Soul (2013).

IN CONVERSATION...

Chine McDonald, Head of Engagement at Christian Aid with James Wani,
Christian Aid's country director in South Sudan

PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY WAR

On a planet of beauty, we make war.

There are wars we know about, and wars we haven't heard about yet.

Wars that are fought by day or night, in cities or deserts, on borders and internally.

We pray for all devastated by war, civic unrest, strife, exploitation and greed.

We pray for all at risk of losing their lives today, and tomorrow, and the day after.

Give energy and insight to peace negotiators, God of language;

bring warmakers' trade to an end;

support all seeking safety across another border;

bless all peacemakers making peace where there is none.

This is our prayer

WE MAKE OUR PRAYER IN THE NAME OF PEACE.

IN CONVERSATION...

With Jonathan Lees, manager at Epsom Foodbank ad part of the Trussell Trust
network of foodbanks

SCRIPTURAL READING

Luke 21:1-4 (KJV)

And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. 3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: 4 For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.

CONFESSION

PRAYER FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR RACISM

When you said subdue the earth you didn't mean each other.
For those of us who carry sins of racism in our bodies,
we confess the sins of Empire, the sins of Europe,
the sins of horrors against humanity, sins of ours.
What began centuries ago continues its affect today:
in playgrounds and borders and policies and discrimination.
We confess this sin as the rot that it is.
And carry responsibility for repentance.
May we repent.
May we honour equality with truth-telling and change.

This is our prayer

WE MAKE OUR PRAYER IN THE NAME OF REPENTANCE

SONG: HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their patience,
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:
Jesus is Lord; he has championed the unwanted;
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their fortunes,
the proud to fall, the élite to tend the least:
Jesus is Lord; he has shown the master's privilege – to kneel and wash servants'
feet before they feast.

Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great ideas,
thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain:
Jesus is Lord; he has married word and action;
his cross and company make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs,
when earth has passed and we reach another shore:
Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection;
his power and love are for now; and then for evermore.

Words: John L. Bell & Graham Maule

Music: John L. Bell copyright © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow.

www.wildgoose.scot

Recording from the CD 'Heaven Shall Not Wait' copyright © 1991 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow.

IN CONVERSATION...

With Selina Hales, the Founder and Director of Refuweegee

SONG: HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

Reprise

PRAYER FOR FRIENDSHIP

This is a weekend when we celebrate being in the open with each other; being together; sharing food, conversations, missed seminars, unexpected catch-ups, unforgettable performances, joyful reunions.

God, we find you in the bond between strangers and friends.

We pray for everyone who is feeling the affect of distance and isolation this year.

It has been difficult.

May we find courage to continue to connect – via zoom, via texts, via walks, via letters and phone-calls.

This is our prayer

WE MAKE OUR PRAYER IN THE NAME OF FRIENDSHIP.

SONG: PEOPLE GET READY

Music and Lyrics Curtis Mayfield, arranged Peter Yarde Martin, performed by Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

PRAYER FOR OUR SOCIETIES

As restrictions are lifted and furlough schemes begin to end, we face new waves of redundancies and unemployment.

God, we pray for everyone whose job is under threat, and everyone whose budgets are stretched thin:

in businesses, in families, in households.

We celebrate food banks and charities,

but dare to ask for a society where food banks and charities are less needed

Inspire leaders, God of the ground, let us have policies that support the people.

This is our prayer

WE MAKE OUR PRAYER IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE.

YOUR RESPONSE

Take your time

YOUR GIVING



greenbelt.org.uk/give

A BLESSING

It is the job of festivals to remind us who we can be with one another
to remind us of the joy of art, of sharing,
of conversation and interruption
music, food, justice and hope.

Even though we do not have a festival
we bless each other as if we have
we bless each other with the hope of greater justice
with the hope of a society of integrity
with the hope of repentance, acknowledgement
shared homelands, lives and livelihoods.

In this hope we hope
in the names of god we turn to each other
for a festival of joy
a festival of safety
a festival of life.

WITH HUGE THANKS TO ALL OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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GUEST ARTIST

Roger Robinson is a writer, educator, and performer. His most recent collection of poems, A Portable Paradise, won the TS Eliot prize in 2020.

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GUEST ACTIVISTS

Selina Hales is the Founder and Director of Refuweegee, a Glasgow-based charity equipping the local community to welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers making their homes in the city.

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Greenbelt Partner **Christian Aid** is a UK-based charity whose mission is the creation of a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

Chine McDonald is Christian Aid's Head of Public Engagement. She was in conversation with **James Wani**, Christian Aid's country director in South Sudan.

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Greenbelt Partner **The Trussell Trust** is a charity working to eliminate poverty and hunger in the UK. They support a nationwide network of Foodbanks.

Jonathan Lees is manager at Epsom Foodbank

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MUSIC

Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir is a London-based gospel choir committed to creating and sharing gospel music of the highest standard, especially in the places where gospel's power to raise the human spirit is most needed. You can find more of their music via their website.

Website: soulsanctuarygospel.com

Twitter: [@soulsanctuarygc](https://twitter.com/soulsanctuarygc)

Lenten Psalm Tone

Music Edwin Fawcett, Lyrics Psalm 26/27 copyright Grail Psalter, performed by Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir, from the album With All Your Soul (2013).

People Get Ready

Music and Lyrics Curtis Mayfield, arranged Peter Yarde Martin, performed by Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir

Wild Goose Resource Group (WGRG) is a semi-autonomous project of the Iona Community. The Iona Community is a dispersed Christian community working for peace, social justice, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship.

Website: iona.org.uk

Twitter: [@ionacommunity](https://twitter.com/ionacommunity)

Heaven Shall Not Wait

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PRAYERS AND READERS

Uriel, Felice and **Evodie Thornbury** – young family members of the Hilfield Friary Franciscan Community in Dorset

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