

Order of Service

Christian Aid Week 2026

Faithful action



Urban farmer, Fridah Moraa, with her four-year-old grandson Quillan in Dagoretti, Nairobi.

Thank you for joining us in worship and prayer this Christian Aid Week.

The theme of our service materials is 'faithful action'. Through scripture, prayer and song, we'll explore God's faithfulness and discern how we can reflect that faithfulness in our lives.

This resource is shaped by the experiences of Fridah Moraa and Belinda Kasudi, urban farmers living in the sprawling informal settlement* of Dagoretti in Nairobi, Kenya. Life here is precarious, with inadequate housing, no reliable access to running water and few opportunities to earn an income. Hunger is a constant threat, as families face heartbreaking decisions over how to feed their children.

In this densely packed environment, farming might seem impossible, but Fridah and Belinda have taken on the challenge with the support of Christian Aid's partner Beacon of Hope.

Fridah and Belinda are driven by their love for their families and their desire to provide for their children and grandchildren. They speak to us about the strength they gain from their conviction that God is faithful and cares for them. They see God at work in the actions of those around them, including in the training provided by Beacon of Hope.

This Christian Aid Week we have seven days to make a difference. Your community joining in worship with us is a sign of your commitment to faithful action. Thank you.

Using this resource

This Order of Service is flexible; please use whichever materials suit your context. There are several options for prayers of intercession, including written prayers, prompts to inspire you, and suggestions for interactive prayer. We also include suggested songs and hymns at the end of this resource.

*What are informal settlements?

Informal settlements are housing areas where conditions can be extremely challenging. Residents generally have limited access to infrastructure and basic services, such as running water and electricity.

Hear from Fridah and Belinda

In our Christian Aid Week film, you'll hear from Fridah and Belinda about how urban farming techniques have transformed their lives and the lives of their communities. Download the film from caweek.ie in advance or stream live via our website or YouTube channel.

Alternatively, you'll find short readings below about Fridah and Belinda's experiences, to share aloud in your service.

You can also use our **PowerPoint slides** to show images of our work in Dagoretti.



Belinda Kasudi walking her daughter Abigail home from school.



All you need for Christian Aid Week

In addition to this Order of Service, you'll find more resources at caweek.ie/Resources and caweek.ie/Worship These include:

- Sermon notes for speakers and preachers.
- PowerPoint slides.
- All-age worship resources.
- A children's activity sheet.
- Our Christian Aid Week film.



Collecting for Christian Aid

If you're planning a collection for Christian Aid at your service, thank you! Your donations will enable us to continue our vital work in Nairobi and around the world.

There are many ways to donate, including our red envelopes, through donations online or by setting up a fundraising page.

Find out more at caweek.ie/Collections and caweek.ie/Fundraising

Order of Service

Introduction

Welcome your community in your own words.

The theme of today's service is 'faithful action'. Scripture tells us: 'The one who calls you is faithful' (1 Thessalonians 5:24). God's boundless love and care for us is offered to us at every moment. We are called to reflect the faithful and compassionate nature of God in our own words and actions.

We will hear from two courageous women: Fridah Moraa and Belinda Kasudi. Fridah and Belinda are urban farmers in the informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi, Kenya. Life here is precarious. Access to necessities such as running water and sanitation is limited. Parents wake up each day knowing that if they don't earn enough, their children won't eat that evening.

But mothers like Fridah and Belinda are determined to change their lives and those of their children. They have seized the opportunity to grow vegetables in the smallest and most unlikely spaces, providing nutrition, income and opportunity

for their families. As Fridah tells us: **'It's hard, but in God I trust – for the strength to keep going every day.'**



Hymn or song

See our suggestions at the end of this document.

Call to worship

Creator of all,
you are faithful to the world you have made.
I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.
Giver of abundant life, you long for our flourishing.
I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.
Good Shepherd of the sheep, you know us and love us.
I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.
Lord, as we gather in prayer and praise,
we ask that you renew our faith,
and form us into one body,
ready to serve you.
Amen.

Fridah's story

Fridah Moraa lives in the informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi, Kenya. She rents a corrugated metal shelter to house her children and grandson. They do not have running water inside their home and share a basic toilet with several other families. Fridah recently lost her husband in a tragic accident and feels his loss acutely. **'He's left a big gap,'** she says.

Day-to-day life for Fridah can be precarious. She wakes every morning worrying about how to feed her family. **'But I can't give up,'** Fridah says, **'my children need to go to school. They need to eat.'**

Fridah has been trying to develop a stable income by selling vegetables, making a two-hour round trip to buy wholesale produce six days a week. Some days she doesn't sell enough of the wholesale produce at her market stall. On these days she goes without food, so the children can eat.



Opening prayer

Faithful God,
we come before you
with our gifts and strengths,
and with our faults and weaknesses,
knowing your unfailing love for us.
Open our hearts and our minds,
that we may hear your word and act on it.
Foster in us boldness and perseverance.
Transform us into your likeness,
and inspire us to build your kingdom of justice
and love on earth.

Amen.

Prayer of confession

God of mercy and grace,
your steadfast love extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Yet still we turn away from you.
We give up in the face of challenges.
We allow division to deepen.
We tell ourselves that you have deserted us.

When we lose faith, loving God,
in your mercy:

Forgive us and help us.

Jesus, you call us to love one another
and share our good gifts with our neighbours.
But too often we say: 'Am I my brother's keeper?'
We hold tight to what is ours.

We do not listen to cries for justice.

We tell ourselves that there is nothing we can do.

When we fail to turn our faith into action, loving God,
in your mercy:

Forgive us and help us.

Holy Spirit, your fruit is faithfulness,
love, joy and peace.

Too often we fear the growth and change
that comes with being guided by you.

We would rather pursue our own way.

We do what is wrong

and we neglect to do what is good.

When we fall short as faithful followers, loving God,
in your mercy:

Forgive us and help us.

Fridah's story (continued)

Recently Fridah has seized the opportunity offered by a project called 'Imarisha Kilimo' – Swahili for 'Strengthen Agriculture'. Run by Christian Aid's partner Beacon of Hope, this project trains women like Fridah in urban farming.

Families learn how to grow vegetables in small spaces, using cone gardens, a form of vertical planting. They learn to conserve rainwater, make organic compost, and use dehydrators to preserve food.

Now, tucked at the end of a concrete alley, Fridah tends her lush urban farm, full of kale, tomatoes and other vegetables. Her children and grandson eat fresh vegetables, and she sells her produce at market.

For Fridah, this has been transformative. **'Now I can plan... I can help my family. Urban farming has changed my life.'**

A prayer for Christian Aid Week 2026

(To be used as a Collect if this is part of your tradition)

Gracious God,
when we stand on the plains of uncertainty,
with no path before us,
we look to you.

We remember what you have done before
and our anxious hearts are comforted.
Showing mercy, you delivered us then;
in your love and faithfulness, you will do it again.

Give us the strength to step forward in hope.
Give us faith that changes us,
hope that feeds us,
love that moves us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

By Bob Kikuyu,
Christian Aid's Global Theology Advisor, Nairobi.



Fridah tending her urban farm in Dagoretti.

First reading

For services on

Sunday 10 May or at
other times:

Acts 17:22-31

'In him we live and move
and have our being.'

For services on

Sunday 17 May or at
other times:

Acts 1:6-14

'You will be my witnesses.'

For services at any time:

Isaiah 61:1-4 and 8

'He has sent me to bring
good news to the oppressed.'
or **Psalm**

23:1-6 'The Lord is my
shepherd; I shall not want.'
(Chosen by Belinda Kasudi)



Hymn or song

See our suggestions at the end of this document



**Watch our Christian Aid Week film at
caweek.ie**

Belinda's story

Belinda Kasudi lives with her husband David and their five children in a wooden one-bedroom home in Dagoretti, Nairobi. David works for a building company, but his shifts are irregular. Some days there is no work – and no pay. Belinda picks up whatever jobs she can find, such as taking in laundry for neighbours.

A stable income is vital for Belinda's family. As she tells us: **'Everything here has to be paid for. We even buy water... Providing enough food for the children is very difficult, because it's so tough to find a job.'**

Belinda loves learning and is excited to be part of the Imarisha Kilimo project. She has been able to create her own water-saving cone garden, growing spinach, beetroot and local specialities such as *managu*.

Belinda delights in being able to feed her children fresh ingredients, and in selling any extra vegetables to help with costs like school supplies.



Belinda and David in their cone garden with children Wilson, Blessing and Abigail.

As she joyfully explains: **'I am a woman who is happy, because I know that my family eats the food that I love to grow. Now, I can help the household financially.'**

Second reading

For services on
Sunday 10 May or at
other times:

John 14:15-21

'If you love me, you will
keep my commandments.'

For services on
Sunday 17 May or at
other times:

John 17:1-11

'So that they may be one, as
we are one.'

For services at any time:
Luke 13:18-20

'What is the kingdom
of God like? ... It is like
a mustard seed.'

Matthew 7:7-11

'Ask, and it will be given
to you' (chosen by
Fridah Moraa)

Sermon or talk

Prayers of intercession

There are three options for prayers of intercession: a written set of prayers; prayer prompts to inspire you; and suggestions for creative prayer activities.

Option 1

Let us pray together.

Lord, you are faithful and just.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us as we pray for our global neighbours in Kenya.

We pray especially for the residents of Dagoretti.

We hold before you all people forced to live in inadequate housing, without reliable access to running water, sanitation or electricity.

We pray for those who live with uncertainty and the threat of hunger each day.

Help us to hear clearly the voices of our neighbours when they share their experiences.

Inspire us to action, as we respond to your command to love one another.

Lord, you are faithful and just.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us as we pray for those with power: for governments, leaders, lawmakers, and those who speak with loud voices on the public stage.

May those who have power and influence love mercy, act justly and walk humbly.

We pray for governments to take action to end economic inequality.

We pray especially for countries like Kenya, who are carrying an unjust debt burden

Instil in us the prophetic voice that speaks truth to power.

Lord, you are faithful and just.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us as we pray for an end to conflict.

Strengthen those working for peace and justice across the world.

We pray especially for...

Pray here for places and people affected by war, violence and injustice. You could pray for:

- *peace in the Middle East*
- *an end to the war in Ukraine*
- *those affected by conflict in Sudan*
- *Christian Aid's partners working to address gender-based violence in Kenya.*

Show us how to seek peace and pursue it in our lives.

Lord, you are faithful and just.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us as we pray for all those known to us who are sick or suffering.

[Remembering particularly...]

We pray for all those who are grieving.

[Remembering particularly...]

We pray for people living in poverty

who have lost loved ones.

We pray for those who face unimaginable challenges on top of their grief.

Bless those who mourn and give them your comfort.

Fill us with compassion for all those in need of support.

Lord, you are faithful and just.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us as we pray with thanksgiving for changemakers.

We are thankful for bold and courageous urban farmers like Fridah and Belinda, who show us what is possible.

We pray for Beacon of Hope, Christian Aid's partner in Nairobi.

We ask that you sustain and guide urban farmers as they grow food, protect their children from hunger, and nurture hope.

We thank you for all who are giving, acting and praying this Christian Aid Week.

May we see your image in these acts of generosity and love,

and may we find new ways to live out our faith through service to others.

Lord, you are faithful and just.

In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Great is your faithfulness, Lord.

You have promised to hear us when we call upon you.

Receive these prayers, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Option 2

In response to these prompts, offer your own prayers for:

- Communities in Kenya who are living in informal settlements and pushing back against extreme poverty.
- Urban farmers using their skill and determination to grow crops in unlikely places.
- Christian Aid's partner in Nairobi, Beacon of Hope, and the Imarisha Kilimo ('Strengthen Agriculture') project that is transforming the prospects of urban farmers.
- Parents who are worried today about what their children will eat tomorrow. Families facing food insecurity and malnutrition.
- Communities living in overcrowded or inadequate housing. All people who do not have a permanent home.
- Communities who don't have reliable access to clean water and sanitation.
- Action on the debt crisis, driven by unscrupulous private lenders, that is unjustly impacting countries like Kenya.
- Governments and those with power. Pray that they may work for justice and prioritise tackling poverty.
- The work of Christian Aid. Pray for all who support this work by giving, acting and praying together.



Option 3

Here are two creative ways to pray. More ideas can be found in our All-age worship resources at caweek.ie/Worship

Cone garden prayers

Cone garden planters enable urban farmers in Nairobi to grow dozens of plants stacked vertically in small spaces.

To create your own cone garden of prayer, use three plant pots, cake tins, or other containers of increasing sizes. You can decorate the outside of the containers. Fill with soil or sand and stack them.

Gather twigs and place these in the soil or sand at each level. Hand out coloured gift tags and invite participants to write or draw two things they wish to pray for:

1. Write a prayer for your community, a cause close to your heart, or a loved one. Attach it to a twig on the bottom layer.
2. Write a prayer for your global neighbours. This could be for urban farmers in Dagoretti, for all people living in extreme poverty, or for another situation on your mind. Attach it to a twig on the middle layer.

For the top layer, invite participants to write or draw an action they can take in response to the situations they have named. Use Jesus' story of the mustard seed to show that small actions can lead to great changes.

Finally, pray over your cone garden for God's help with these commitments to act. If you're using soil, you can plant seeds such as salad leaves around your prayers and actions.



A meditative prayer activity for services or small groups

What you'll need: a large stone, small seeds in a bowl, a candle.

Gather in a circle and ask everyone to hold out their hands and close their eyes. Invite them to imagine they are holding a heavy weight. This weight is the anxieties they carry – worries about themselves, their loved ones and the world.

With eyes open, now pass the stone around. Imagine this weight is an added worry. Think of the anxieties that families in Dagoretti have about the basics of life: food, sanitation, illness, access to education.

Pray silently for all present, that God will help them with whatever worries they hold. Pray too for Fridah, Belinda and other families in Dagoretti and for all they are carrying.

Now pass around the bowl of seeds and invite each person to hold one or two. Feel how light and small they are. The seeds seem like nothing compared to the stone. But despite their small size, they are full of life. With the right support they will grow into a plant larger than the stone.

Pray silently or aloud for the change these seeds represent. Pray for transformation in the lives of those present and change for our global neighbours, wherever it is needed.

Finally, light the candle and listen to the Kenyan folk hymn Wana Baraka (available online). The Swahili lyrics can be translated as: 'Hallelujah, Jesus himself said, blessed are those who pray. They have peace. They have joy. They have well-being.'

Participants can take their seeds home to plant.



The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Peace

If you usually share the Peace in your worship, you may wish to use the following verses:

'For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,'
says the Lord, who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:10)
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Faithful action – Fridah and Belinda

Both Fridah and Belinda have spoken to us about their faith. Daily life remains tough for Fridah and her family: **'But in God I trust,'** she says, **'for the strength to keep going every day'.** Belinda tells us: **'When there is a challenge, most of the time, I pray.'**

Fridah's children are proud of their mum. Her 13-year-old son Abiud (Ab-ee-ud) declares: **'My mum is very hardworking, patient and kind. The message that I can send to her [is]: thank you for taking care of me.'**

In a place where hardship means hunger, Fridah and Belinda are growing hope for their families. They have put their faith into action. Fridah says the biggest difference is she can now make plans for her family's future, rather than just surviving day by day. Belinda tells us she has become **'an independent woman'**.

For hard-pressed families in Dagoretti, ongoing support is vital to allow more urban farmers to access training and resources. This Christian Aid Week we have seven days to make a difference. How can we follow Fridah and Belinda and show our faith through our actions?

Belinda praying with her community in Dagoretti.





Hymn or song with collection

See our suggestions at the end of this document.

You may wish to include an explanation in your Order of Service of how people can donate. For example:

Use the envelopes on your seat/pew or visit caweek.ie to make your contribution. By completing the Gift Aid slip, you're helping to make your giving go further. Please consider making a regular contribution to Christian Aid's work. More information is available on the envelope and online.



Prayer of thanksgiving and dismissal

Almighty God, we love one another because you first loved us.

Send us out to act in loving service,

strengthened by the knowledge that the one who calls us is faithful.

We give thanks for the vital work of Christian Aid

and for all those who pour themselves out for the cause of justice.

May our actions and offerings plant seeds of change that grow and flourish.

Guide us as we seek a world where every person can live a full life, free from poverty.

Amen.

Blessing

May Jesus, who is the way,
guide you.

May Jesus, who is the truth,
speak through you.

May Jesus, who is the life,
fill you with purpose.

And may God's blessing go with you
today and always.

Amen.



Fridah with her twins Eliud and Abiud and grandson Quillan, outside their home in Dagoretti.