

Prayer and resources for Zambia / Bath & Wells Sunday 2025

Introductory sentence:

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves” Romans 12:10

God is good

All the time

All the time

God is good

Responsory

Leader: We give thanks to God for the gift of our partnership with the people of Zambia.

All: We rejoice in the bond of faith and friendship that unites us across continents.

Leader: For the shared prayers, stories, and support that strengthen our communities, we offer our grateful thanks.

All: May our hearts remain open to learning from one another, growing in love and understanding.

Leader: We pray for the churches and communities in Zambia, that their faith may shine out.

All: May the light of Christ shine brightly in their midst, guiding them in all they do.

Leader: We pray for our own community, that we may be faithful partners, supporting and encouraging our Zambian brothers and sisters and learning from them.

All: May our actions reflect the love and unity we share in Christ.

Leader: We pray for the leaders and people of Zambia, that they may be blessed with wisdom, peace, and prosperity.

All: May God’s grace abound in their lives, and may they know His presence in all things.

Leader: Together, we affirm our commitment to our partnership, praying for continued growth in faith, hope, and love.

All: In the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised:
there is no end to his greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another,
and shall declare your power.**

All creation praises you, Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.

**They declare the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your mighty power.**

My mouth shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**Let every living thing bless his holy name
for ever and ever.**

*cf. Psalm 145.3,4,10,11,12, 21
(from New Patterns of Worship)*

Prayer for Zambia / Bath & Wells Sunday

Loving God and Father of us all, today we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Zambia Anglican Church.

We give thanks for the 47 years in which we have celebrated life and faith together through our Diocesan Companion Link.

We give thanks for the prayers, for the friendships, for the joys and for the concerns that we have shared.

And we give thanks for all that we have learned from each other as we have sought to live and tell the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We ask for your continuing blessing on us as together we strive to “come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ”.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Leader: In the presence of God, who binds us together in love and mission, let us confess our sins, acknowledging our shared humanity and the grace that unites us across continents.

All: We confess that we have not always lived as one body in Christ. We have failed to love our neighbours as ourselves and have not worked for justice and peace.

Lord, have mercy.

Leader: We recognise that we have been slow to listen and quick to judge and have not always sought reconciliation.

Christ, have mercy.

All: We have kept our resources to ourselves and have not shared generously with those in need.

Lord, have mercy.

Leader: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

OR Leader: May the God of all mercy and love, who has reconciled the world to himself through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us all our sins, and grant us peace.

All: Amen.

Alternatively:

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,
this is your world, and we are your people:
come among us and save us.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;

Lord, be merciful:

forgive us our sin.

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;

Lord, be merciful:

forgive us our sin.

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;

Lord, be merciful:

forgive us our sin.

We have heard the good news of Christ,
but have failed to share it with others;

Lord, be merciful:

forgive us our sin.

We have not loved you with all our heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves;

Lord, be merciful:

forgive us our sin.

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive *us our sins*
and make *us* holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(from New Patterns for Worship)

Sermon notes

Sermon notes are provided each week based on the Lectionary Readings. You may find these helpful for preaching on this Sunday.

www.preachingforgodsworld.org

Intercessions

These prayers can be used in their complete form or adapted for your context.

Gracious and Loving God,

We thank You for the unity of believers across nations, for the bond of love between the church in Zambia and the church in Bath and Wells. May this relationship continue to be a source of encouragement, learning, and mutual support in Your mission.

Generous God

pour out your love.

Bless the leaders and members of both churches as they walk together in faith. Strengthen their partnership in sharing the Gospel, serving the poor, and uplifting communities in need. May their fellowship be a testimony of Your kingdom—where all nations and peoples are united in Christ.

Generous God

pour out your love.

We thank You for the gift of fellowship that unites believers across nations, cultures, and traditions. We pray for the strengthening of parish links between churches in Zambia and churches in Bath and Wells. May these connections be more than partnerships—may they be bonds of deep friendship, faith, and mutual encouragement in Christ.

Generous God

pour out your love.

Lord, bless congregations as they seek to walk together in mission and service. May they learn from one another, share their joys and struggles, and grow in unity as members of Your body. Help them to communicate in creative ways to support and inspire each other in prayer, worship, and mission. Let their connection be a light to the world, showing that in You, there are no borders, only love.

Generous God

pour out your love.

We lift up the growing links between schools in Zambia and those in Bath and Wells. Bless the students, teachers, and leaders as they work together across borders, sharing knowledge, culture, and faith. May their communication be open, enriching, and filled with respect and understanding. Help them to learn from one another, growing in wisdom and friendship.

May technology and new opportunities strengthen these connections, allowing students and educators to share experiences, ideas, and encouragement. Let these partnerships strengthen communities, inspire and empower young people, and filled with joy and compassion for one another, create lasting bonds of friendship that reflect the unity of Your kingdom.

Generous God

pour out your love.

We come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the land and people of Zambia. Lord, You are the giver of life and the sustainer of all creation. In a time of drought, we ask for Your blessing of rain upon the fields, rivers, and communities of Zambia. Let the showers come in their season—bringing nourishment, renewal, and abundance to the soil. May the crops flourish, the livestock be healthy.

Let the rains be a sign of Your unfailing love and care, filling hearts with hope and trust in Your divine provision.

Generous God

pour out your love.

Finally, may the link between Zambia and Bath and Wells be a reflection of Your kingdom—a place where differences are embraced, unity celebrated, where resources are shared, and where faith is deepened through relationships built on understanding and respect.

Let the Holy Spirit guide every conversation, every visit, and every act of service, so that both communities in Zambia and Bath and Wells may be transformed by Your loving grace.

Merciful Father...

Thoughts on partnerships and relationships

Acts 28, Building bridges — Ana Gobledale, Zambia

To the ends of the earth
Go and build bridges
Go and connect
Demolish dividing walls
At least peer over them
Search for openings
Find points of intersection
Along the many footpaths
See not a single way
Know your own path
And cherish its rightness for you
Pause at crossroads and gaze
Down another's route
To cherish its rightness for them.
Each path holds its own beauty
For God has passed there
Ruach, a traveling companion
along each trodden pathway
across each bridge

(worshipwords.co.uk)