**Prayers for the Baptist Union of Wales Christian Aid Appeal 2023-24: Talents of Hope**

Loving Creator,

We pray for you to act to heal our fragile world.

May you inspire leaders and policymakers with wisdom, guiding them to address the pressing crisis of climate change that is destroying so many lives and livelihoods.

Guide them to promote sustainable development and to prioritise ethical food and aid distribution.

Lord, we pray that our actions may match our words, that we might work to bring about the change we long for.

Grant us the courage to challenge systems of injustice that perpetuate poverty and inequality and grant us the strength and wisdom to work together as instruments of your love.

May your grace transform lives, uplift fragile economies, and ensure food security for all, for the sake of our earth and its people, and for your glory.

Amen.

**Reverend Sue Phillips**

Loving God, we remember the promise You made to Noah, that “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease”, and we trust in Your faithfulness to Your promises.

As we contemplate drought and failed harvests in Zimbabwe, we are tempted to wonder, “Where are You, Lord?”

You remind us that when You created the earth You gave us plants for food, but also the responsibility to work the land and take care of it.

You called us into partnership with You, but we confess that we have not fulfilled our part in taking care of the earth.

We pray Your blessing on those who will teach new skills in Zimbabwe, and those who will learn.

Open our hearts and our hands that we may give joyfully and willingly of our plenty to those who have so little, that we may again come into partnership with our brothers and sisters and with You, and that communities may begin to thrive once again and that people may be fed.

Amen.

**Reverend Maggie Rich**

Loving God,

We read in Your Word that incredible account of creation and see that, “*It was good*”.

Yet, as we watch the news and read our newspapers, it can feel anything but “*good*” to us.

As the effects of humanities greed ravages the land, damages the climate and hurts those often in the worst of situations, we cry out to You again:

Father, would You once again show Your power; show Your love and demonstrate to this hurting world that there is still “*good*” to be found in even the darkest of places.

As people recover from the devastating impact of Covid-19, would they know Your strength as they battle through.

As people look to restore broken economies, might they find Your power to push on. Would they see breakthrough and know that “*it is good*”.

As they look to the heavens for weather which will allow crops to grow, streams to flow and cattle to graze, would they see Your mighty hand at work; would they see the land restored and know that it is still “*good*”.

Father God, would you continue to bless the work of Christian Aid: that a hurting world might see You working through Your people to bring restoration and peace. Would You bless those projects looking to bring stability and livelihood back to those affected by recent global events.

God, we stand with these individuals and once again cry out, “*it is good*” because You are a "*good*" God.

Amen.

**Reverend Tim Moody**