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## **Toast and Marmalade**

an invitation to focus on labour exploitation and our own role in tackling it

This simple resource for Fairtrade Fortnight – or beyond – is to support Fiona Kendall our Mission Partner, and her work with Mediterranean Hope's Migrant Programme in Calabria. It offers material for a Sunday service, discussion groups and after church refreshments based on why we should support the purchase of Fairtrade oranges.

### **Call to Worship**

How shall we treat others?

How shall we speak of them?

***Let your light shine through us***

How shall we use each moment?

How shall we live our lives?

***Let your light shine through us***

How shall we tell your story?

How shall we show our love for you?

***Let your light shine through us***

### **Video Reflection by Fiona Kendall ([see video](#))**

In this short reflection, Fiona explains a little about the work Mediterranean Hope does, and how your support can help migrant workers in Calabria.

### **Reading**

*Isaiah 58:9-12* ([see animation](#))

<sup>9</sup> [...] If you do away with the yoke of oppression,  
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

<sup>10</sup> and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you always;  
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land  
and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden,



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like a spring whose waters never fail.  
<sup>12</sup> Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and will raise up the age-old foundations;  
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,  
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

### Points to Ponder

- We are called by God to act for the oppressed. Is there evidence of that in our daily lives?
- Where is injustice in our own context? In the range of possible reactions, from indifference to rage, how do we respond when we see it?
- How can we enable the downtrodden to realise their potential and live life to the full? What part can we play in building up those who are broken down?
- How are communities and individuals changed by the attention we pay to exploitation and those involved?

### Prayer of Confession

Loving God

We come to you, aware of our tendency to put “self” first.  
How often we focus on the gaps and challenges in our own lives  
and forget the hardships of others;  
how often we seek to soften the hardest edges of our lives  
at the expense of others.

We come to you, aware that we do not model you in the way we live  
How often we mould our values  
to fit a worldly agenda;  
How often we postpone our good intentions  
to satisfy a more urgent need

Yet you, Lord, wait for us  
to grasp the hand that seeks to guide us  
to remember all that you have taught us  
to manifest your goodness in all that we do.

May our regrets inspire us to persevere,  
for through your love we are strengthened,  
and through your grace we are freed to begin again.  
Let us rejoice in that incredible news.

In Christ's name

Amen



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**Prayer of Intercession (*with response*)**

Mighty God  
Bless the hands that pick the fruit we eat  
Bless the feet that journey to the fields  
Bless the hearts that weary in the rain  
Bless the minds that rage at society's indifference  
*Where there is injustice, open our eyes*  
***And inspire us to act***

Mighty God  
Teach us to value the land we walk  
Teach us to savour the food we grow  
Teach us to question the price we pay  
Teach us to query the status quo  
*Where there is injustice, open our eyes*  
***And inspire us to act***

Mighty God  
Cause us to notice those things which are hidden  
Cause us to tell the story to others  
Cause us to change how we behave  
Cause us to inspire others to follow.  
*Where there is injustice, open our eyes*  
***And inspire us to act***  
Amen

**Poetic reflection**

***Citizens Support Farmers*** ([see animation](#))

by Ibrahim Diabate, fighter for justice

The land feeds humankind  
The success of this country rests on agriculture  
Yet the farmers are the poorest.  
What a paradox!  
The land is the only source which never dries up  
But the source of the land has now run dry  
Because citrus fruits are no longer sold at their true price  
The land feeds humankind  
Farmers are debt-ridden  
Government is hassled  
People suffer  
Farmers strive



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The land feeds humankind  
Production is poor  
Because prices are discounted  
The land becomes poorer  
Those in charge become richer  
The land feeds humankind  
When the circle of the wealthy widens  
Plantations die  
The people cry  
Those who govern laugh  
Because their pockets are full  
The top becomes more beautiful  
The bottom is destroyed  
And yet the land feeds humankind  
No country is strong  
Unless its agriculture is strong  
A man who is hungry is not a free man  
Let's work to ensure  
That our people do not go hungry  
For the happiness of our republics  
And the success of planet Earth...  
Let us be vigilant