Hunger Crisis Appeal Worship Resources

Millions of people on the brink of famine are facing unimaginable suffering. We urgently need your help today

Climate change, COVID-19, conflicts and now the war in Ukraine have created a global hunger crisis. Currently affecting millions of people in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

It's forcing people from their homes and leaving displaced and other vulnerable people facing life-threatening hunger.

What's more heartbreaking is that there are news reports of some families have been forced to do the unthinkable and sell a child to pay for food to keep their other children alive.

Congregations have responded financially and prayerfully to the needs of people in desperate situations through the Christmas Bowl for many years.

Your faithful and generous support to the Christmas Bowl is not taken for granted.

But this is unprecedented, and I am praying that you are able to do something more. Right now.

Please use and adapt these resources for worship and encourage your congregation to give generously to this appeal.

There are additional resources on the churches section on our website, **www.actforpeace.org.au/hungercrisis-church**

Your congregation's offerings will help save lives.

Prayer points

- Pray for the families facing starvation and watching loved ones die on a daily basis.
- Pray for the millions of people who are on the brink of famine and in desperate need of resources.
- Pray for peace, that people may seek peace with the tenacity that they have worked at war.
- Ask for God's blessings on our ecumenical partners distributing much needed food, water and other supplies.
- Pray for traumatised children whose education has been disrupted through war, and food insecurity.
- Pray for the churches in the region. Pray for the leaders and members, that they are able to bring about reconciliation in their community.

Text for your order of service

The National Council of Churches through its humanitarian agency, Act for Peace and the Christmas Bowl have launched an emergency appeal in response to the hunger crisis.

Already, 4.7 million children under the age of 5 are facing acute malnutrition in Ethiopia, 1.5 million in Somalia and 1 million in Kenya.

Act for Peace's partners are **already on the ground**, delivering lifesaving emergency assistance, but they just don't have enough money to help everyone, and they need our backing to reach more people with lifesaving support.

You can donate or find out more at: **www.afp.org.au/helpthehungercrisis** or call 1800 025 101

QR code for Hunger Criss giving page.

Announcement wording for special offering

The severe hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa is reaching catastrophic levels.

The UN warns that it is inevitable that famine will be declared in Somalia before the end of 2022.

The National Council of Churches through its international aid agency, Act for Peace, - The Christmas Bowl people, have launched an emergency appeal to help millions of people in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Pakistan

Millions of people on the brink of famine are facing unimaginable suffering.

There are already ecumenical partners on the ground, delivering lifesaving emergency assistance.

Act for Peace along with fifteen other charities as part of the Emergency Action Alliance are seeking both **prayerful** and **financial** support from all churches in Australia to halt this famine before it kills even more children.

We will be having a special offering today to support this work – if you'd like a receipt for your gift for tax,

You can get ongoing updates from the Act for Peace website.
www.actforpeace.org.au

Call to Worship

Jesus said:
"I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."
Let us act justly.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing."
Let us love tenderly.

"I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me."
Let us walk humbly
with our God.

May we see Christ in one another,
May we be peacemakers
And bring healing in Christ's name.
Amen

Prayers of intercession

God of grace,
we have so much in this country,
We take it for granted.

Our needs are met, each day,
And we live in peace and security.

We pray for the people
struggling to survive
around the world.

We pray that fighting may cease,
that the rains may come,
and that people may be fed.

We give thanks for aid agencies
and their workers,
who are distributing food,
restoring peace and bringing hope.

Spirit of love,

help us respond to the
desperate need of many.

May we be encouraged by the generosity
and commitment of aid workers,
and respond to your call.

Amen

As we pray for the people of East Africa
and those around the world
suffering from hunger,
we give thanks for their resilience during
this difficult time.

We give thanks for those who are
working with farmers
to develop more productive farming
methods so fewer people will go hungry.

We remember the aid workers who are
tirelessly distributing food and supplies
to people who are in urgent need.

We pray for the peacemakers –
people actively working
to help bring peace that are in
or are recovering after conflict.

We pray that we may lean
from the generosity and
commitment of aid workers.

And help us to bring about
your kingdom through the
sharing of our blessings with others.

Amen

God, no one is stranger to you
And no one is ever far
from your loving care.

In your mercy,
watch over the people of East Africa.
Comfort those who have lost loved ones,
And strengthen those who are struggling
to survive.

Bring healing to those who are
suffering sickness in mind or body.

Bring peace to areas of conflict,
wisdom to those who respond,
generosity to those who give,

And help us always to show your
kindness to strangers.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen

We Pray for World Leaders

We pray for the leaders of this world.

May you, the God of Peace
dwell in the hearts and minds of leaders
of countries around the world
as they respond to this crisis.

Incline our ears towards love and justice.

May leaders respond with funds,
and policy changes that address the
drivers of this **crisis.**

May the response be swift, cohesive
and effective.

God, move all our hearts,
Amen

We Pray for people responding

O God,
We lift before you all the people
responding to all the crises
around the world.

Embrace them in your loving care.

Give them wisdom to respond,
strength to face each day,
and comfort as they confront
realities of the situation they face.

Stay with them in every moment,
O God, for they need your care.
This we pray in faith

Amen

O loving God,
We know you hear our lament,
and know the love we have.

We pray that your love may be felt
around the world in areas of crisis.

We pray that supplies move swiftly,
and reach the most vulnerable.
That lives are saved, and hope restored.

Amen

Prayer before a special collection

Loving God,
We know we have the means to give,
And we know there are people
Who need us to give.

But often, we hold back,
And hang on to what we have for
ourselves.

God of grace, -
stir within us.

Give us the courage to act,
to be generous,

And to be part of your work,
Bringing hope to people suffering from
famine in Africa.

We pray this in Jesus's name. Amen.

Dedication of gifts

We offer these gifts O God,

for the service of your kingdom in the
hope that they will alleviate suffering
and bring hope to those in East Africa.

Thank you for all the blessings you have
given us, and we pray that our gifts
will be a blessing to others.
Amen

Receive these gifts of love and care,
O God, as a sign of your
love and care for us.

May our service to those who are
suffering and in need reflect your
commitment to all people through the
death and resurrection of Jesus.
Amen