This church worship resource uses Traidcraft’s Fairtrade cereal bar (GEOBAR) as a visual reminder of the Earth and everything in it. This service includes:

- Worship of our God of justice and righteousness (He makes things right).
- Praise and thanksgiving to God for the wonderful Earth, and all within it, that He has made and sustains.
- Confession regarding our selfishness and greed for the Earth’s resources, and oppression of the peoples of the Earth.
- Prayers for fair trading practices and good harvests around the world.
- Inspiration to put faith into action and help fight poverty through trade.

Opening Refrain
Leader: The Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it
All: Let the heavens be glad and let the Earth rejoice!

Collect
Almighty and bountiful God
You have given us this Earth as an inheritance for ourselves and for the generations to come:
Accept, we pray, the fullness of our harvest, and guard our thankful hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen
(From Send a Cow Harvest Service 2006)

How many words can you think of that begin with Geo...
Geography
Geology
Geometry
Geocentric
Geophysics
Geothermal ...

The Earth
Farmers and growers throughout the Earth rely on ‘earth’ for their crops. The soil needs to be of reasonable quality and the weather conditions need to be favourable for a good harvest. The Earth feeds us all. Yet some people from some parts of the Earth, make it harder for other people in other parts of the Earth to thrive because of unfair trading practices. Traidcraft believes that because the whole Earth belongs to the Lord Christians are called to correct this injustice.

Discover more in the appendices about Traidcraft’s life-changing work with rice, honey and fruit producers. These ingredients go into most of Traidcraft’s GEOBARs.

What does it mean?
As a prefix geo- is taken from the Greek word γη (pronounced ghay) or γαῖα meaning “earth”, usually in the sense of “ground or land”.

As a Greek word, GEO is used 252 times in the Bible, mostly the New Testament, to mean the earth, soil, land, region, country, inhabitants of a region.

How many Bible passages can you think of that talk about earth, ground or soil, for example: “salt of the earth”, “grounded and rooted in love” and “whatever you bind on earth”...
What the Bible says about The Earth

God (the Trinity) made/formed/established the Earth (Genesis 1:1, Is 45:18, Jn 1:3)
God set the Earth on its foundations (Ps 104:5, Heb 1:10)
God sits above ‘the circle of the Earth’, it is His footstool (Is 40:22, Is 66:1)
God preserves the Earth and all that is in it (Neh 9:6)
God has given the Earth to ‘the children of man’ (Gen 1:28, Ps 115:16)
The Earth requires man’s labour and work (Gen 3:17, Gen 4:10-11)
God is God of all the kingdoms of the Earth (2 Kings 19:15, Is 37:16)
The Earth outlasts the coming and going of generations, but not God’s word (Ecc 1:4, Matt 24:35)
God raises up the poor and needy from the dust and ash (1 Sam 2:8)
The Earth does not recognise its Creator, it is full of wickedness and is broken (Is 24:19-20, Job 37:18, Jn 1:10)
The first Earth will pass away and there will be a new Earth (Is 51:6, Ps 18:15, Job 9:6, Rev 21:1)
The righteous/just, those who make things right (personally and socially) will inherit the Earth (Ps 37:29, Matt 5:5)

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Hymns & Songs

All people that on Earth do dwell
For the beauty of the Earth
God whose farm is all creation
Who put the colours in the rainbow?
We plough the fields and scatter
For the fruits of his creation
Let us with a gladsome mind
You shall go out with joy
Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer
Come ye thankful people come
I am the bread of life
Bread of heaven on thee we feed
I the Lord of sea and sky
Now the green blade riseth
Morning has broken
Cauliflowers fluffy, cabbages green

Activity

Create 6 A3 sheets, each showing one letter of the word G-E-O-B-A-R.
Ask for 6 volunteers to come and hold one sheet each to display the word.
Ask E and O to step back, and G B A & R to rearrange themselves into the word GRAB.
Talk about how the rich Earth grabs resources and wealth from the poor Earth.
Rearrange again to BARE cupboards and needing to BEG.
Rearrange to ORB and talk about how we all share the one Earth, we are neighbours, brothers and sisters, so will we GO and fight injustice and poverty?

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The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed.
Mahatma Gandhi

Confession 1

God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly and acted ungratefully.
We belong to a people who are full and satisfied.
But ignore the cry of the hungry.
We are thoughtless.
And do not care enough for the world you have made.
We store up goods for ourselves alone.
As if there were no God and no heaven.
Father, in your mercy
Forgive us
Amen

Confession 2

We confess to you our lack of care for the world you have given us.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our selfishness in not sharing the Earth’s bounty fairly.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our failure to protect resources for others.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Amen

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About Traidcraft

Traidcraft was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty, seeking to bring Godly justice into world trading systems. With the support of the church Traidcraft has come a long way but until people no longer live in poverty there remains a job to be done.

Having co-founded the Fairtrade Foundation Traidcraft now goes beyond Fairtrade in the following ways:

• Traidcraft pioneers new areas of fair trade … like GEOBAR, and packs as many Fairtrade ingredients into their products as possible to keep the Fairtrade standards high.

• Traidcraft champions the best of fair trade by selling products from like-minded organisations

• Traidcraft supports vulnerable and marginalised individuals and communities who would struggle to supply the volume of goods required by ‘big business’.

• Traidcraft challenges the system and campaigns to change the way trade works in big business and in government.

Please buy from Traidcraft and support our work. To find out more visit traidcraft.co.uk

The story of GEOBAR

Traidcraft launched the very first Fairtrade cereal bar ‘GEOBAR’ in 1999, leading the way into the new millennium with a new kind of fair trade product. GEOBAR was the UK’s first product made up of several fair trade ingredients, and the first Traidcraft branded product to be sold in supermarkets. By 2009 Traidcraft had sold 26 million GEOBARs, and it remains Traidcraft’s best known food product, ideal for lunch boxes, tuckshops and ‘joyful snacking’!

GEOBAR is special because it is a ‘composite’ fair trade snack, meaning that it is a global mix of fair trade ingredients. Over the years these have included blueberries from Chile, raisins from South Africa and Chile, apricots from Pakistan, honey from Chile and Guatemala, sugar from Malawi, cashews from India, walnuts from Pakistan, dates from Tunisia, rice from Thailand, cocoa and cranberries, almonds, Brazil nuts, oats, beetroot, carrot, ginger and chocolate.

The first GEOBAR box contained apricot bars and since then Traidcraft has kept on introducing new recipes and variants like Mixed Berry, Chocolate, Honey Nut, and Granola. Packaging has evolved to display new images and ingredients, and the choice of buying size has included bulk cases, counter-display units (CDUs), single bars and even tubs of snack size GEOBARs.

GEOBAR has always responded to growing concerns about health. Hydrogenated oil and fat were removed early on, and in 2010 the salt content was reduced and even more fair trade ingredients added. With sugar content now under the spotlight Traidcraft has responded by lowering sugar levels throughout the range.

GEOBAR has always been a pioneer. In 2012 the LoveGEOBAR community was launched, including a dedicated website and social media platforms, and 2015 saw the development of the new GEOBAKE range of scrummy cookies and biscuits. Moving into the future, the first ever Fairtrade rice from Myanmar will be one of GEOBARs latest key ingredients.

But more importantly, behind all this lies the practical and remarkable transformation of livelihoods in the developing world. GEOBAR is right at the heart of fair trade, bringing opportunity and hope to growers around the world.

Harvest worship

traiidcraft.co.uk
Take a GEOBAR

- Hold a GEOBAR in your hands (any flavour). Feel the weight of the bar, thank God for the Earth.
- Feel the plastic wrapper, thank God for the world’s resources, all He’s provided.
- Look at the ‘made by Traidcraft’ parts of the wrapper. Thank God for all He has made.
- Look at the name GEOBAR, and think about your name, who you are, your place in God’s world. Praise God for all that He has done for you.
- Look at the Fairtrade Mark. Thank God for those who fight poverty and campaign for trade justice.
- Look at the Best Before date. What is God asking you to do sooner rather than later? Commit your plans to the Lord.
- Open the wrapper and take a bite (optional). Thank God for food, nutrition, energy, health.
- Taste the ingredients. Pray for the producers who grew and farmed the ingredients – the rice – sugar – fruit – cocoa …
- Enjoy the flavour and texture as you continue munching the bar. Thank God for the sunshine and rain that makes plants grow. Ask God to give wisdom to world leaders on matters of the environment and climate change, and ask God to bless harvests around the world this year.
- As you finish your bar, remember those who are without and/or in need, among your family and friends … community … across the Earth.

Closing prayer

Great God, you are one God, and you bring together what is scattered and mend what is broken.
Unite us with the scattered peoples of the Earth that we may be one family of your children.
Bind up all our wounds and heal us in spirit, that we may be renewed as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Master and Saviour.
Amen

Blessing

Now may the blessing of God the Father, who made from one every nation that occupies the Earth;
of God the Son who bought us for God from every tribe and language and people and nation;
and of God the Spirit who brings us together in unity, be with us and remain with us always.
Amen.

The Traidcraft Prayer

Loving Father
Throughout your written Word
And through the life of Jesus Christ
Your living Word,
We clearly see your heart for grace, and your passion for justice.
We thank you that you love the poor and the marginalised;
We recognise our own poverty before you.
We want to be filled to overflowing with your love for the poor,
And your rejection of oppression and exploitation.
We are your servants in this world;
This beautiful world, this corrupted world.
Thank you for the gifts you’ve given each one of us,
Especially the gifts you’ve given to farmers and artisans throughout the world.
Thank you for the world’s resources, and the possibilities of trade.
Bless all those who work for fair trade;
As we seek to fight poverty through trade.
Use our work to further your Kingdom of Grace and Justice;
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Harvest worship
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Rice – from Nam Om Co-operative in Thailand

Fairtrade rice crispies are a key ingredient in our chewy cereal GEOBARs, and come from the Nam Om co-operative in north east Thailand.

Rice is one of the most vital crops on earth. As a source of nutrition, rice is a staple food for three billion people worldwide and represents 20% of the world’s caloric intake. As a source of livelihood, rice supports nearly 1 billion people in rural areas of developing countries and is cultivated on every continent except Antarctica! Imagine the difference we could make if all the rice in the world was fair trade!

Nam Om is based in one of the poorest areas of Thailand. The Fairtrade premium on the rice is helping the farmers there to add extra value to their harvest, by building their own mill so in the future they can process and pack the rice too. With your help we have also been supporting a local tree planting project.

Younger members of the farming community are also playing a big role. Toom Sieng-Om, whose family grows rice, is not only a member of Nam Om but serves on its board. She has been studying rural development and now has a key role in the co-operative, which she feels provides them with a more effective way of farming where they all have a voice.

Honey & Blueberries – from Apicoop in Chile

Our friends at Apicoop not only provide us with Fairtrade honey that goes into our all our delicious GEOBARs but also the world’s first Fairtrade blueberries.

Apicoop is made up of 350 beekeepers, all in the Valdivia region of southern Chile. They live in rural communities where work is scarce. It all started as a beekeepers project in the 1980s funded by the church during the Pinochet regime, but became an official co-operative in 1997.

The blueberry project reduces the risk of relying on just one product, helps provide additional employment, and the income from the blueberries has made Apicoop less reliant on loans from commercial banks so it’s been able to develop a ‘community bank’ making low-interest loans to members, so they can buy more hives and other equipment.

The honey and blueberries are both sold on Fairtrade terms, so Apicoop receives a Fairtrade premium which is used to invest in equipment to make life easier. For example, they don’t need to have four men to carry each of their barrels of honey anymore – now they use their forklift truck!

The beekeepers have access to an ‘agronomist’ who advises them on avoiding and curing bee diseases and dealing with other agricultural issues. Traidcraft’s advance payment for the blueberry harvest helped buy a blue tractor – an essential tool in the blueberry fields!
Apricots from Pakistan

Mountain Fruits is a fair trade fruit and nut company working with remote communities across the Karakorum and Himalayan Mountain region of northern Pakistan who provide the juicy Hunza apricots that go into our Apricot GEOBARs.

Mountain Fruits provides a market for over five thousand local growers, organised into 124 farming groups, they train farmers in how to increase production, solar drying of fruits and processing of nuts, and they employ 100 women in the factory where the apricots are washed, dried and graded.

Conditions in rural parts of Pakistan can be extreme where temperatures exceed 40 degrees Celsius in summer and below minus ten in winter. Farming is only possible through forced irrigation systems that use the glacial melt waters.

Hazir Shah from Mountain Fruits says “Fairtrade has brought tremendous benefits to the communities not only for Fairtrade farmers but to others by increasing the prices … we are paid on time and in cash whereas normal traders often … insist on barter arrangements leaving us with no money for school fees and health care … farmers are now more conscious about quality and have found new unity.”

Serve Traidcraft refreshments after the service.

Have you switched to a welcoming cup of fair trade ground coffee yet?

Campaign for trade justice.

Visit traidcraft.co.uk or call 0191 497 3999 for more information.

Fundraise for Traidcraft’s development projects.

Look out for our latest appeal and challenge.

Make Traidcraft goods available to buy through the catalogue, a stall or online.

HOW TO BE A TRAIDCRAFT CHURCH

Harvest worship
traidcraft.co.uk
Give Me FIVE!

Traidcraft’s charity, Traidcraft Exchange, works in some of the world’s poorest communities in Africa and Asia, working with people to give them the skills, knowledge and support they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Things like training, business know-how and confidence - skills that can transform lives. Projects also empower people to work collectively, share learning, and negotiate for better prices.

Projects like our Flourishing in Vulnerable Environments (FIVE) project in Kenya which aims to benefit almost 30,000 people. With 1.4 billion people still living in extreme poverty globally, Kenya is among the 30 poorest countries in the world, with nearly half its population living in poverty.

The drought-prone districts of central Kenya are among the poorest where the majority of people experience high levels of malnutrition.

Although agriculture is the main source of income, most households do not have enough to eat, and cannot grow more or earn more due to a variety of factors: out of date agricultural practices; changing weather patterns and erratic rainfall due to climate change; poor access to services and resources, such as drought resistant seeds or better fertilisers; limited access to markets and buyers and lack of power to negotiate for the best price for their crops. All this leads to low productivity, poor harvests, failure of crops, poor quality produce and low prices.

The project helps smallholder farmers:
• learn new farming techniques
• get organised
• work together to negotiate better prices
• respond to uncertain weather conditions

The community benefits from:
• increased incomes
• regular, more nutritious food
• education for children
• improved quality of life for all

Harvest worship
traidcraft.co.uk
This is where Traidcraft’s FIVE project comes in, which will improve the livelihoods of 30,000 people. Smallholder farming families will be supported to improve their production and sales of five key crops - green grams, sorghum, cow peas, beans and pigeon peas. The training will include better crop and land husbandry and also how to access localised weather forecasting information to respond more effectively to uncertain weather conditions. We hope that involvement in the project will help farmers achieve a 50% increase in their income. The FIVE project is one example of the work we do in some of the world’s poorest communities. Communities like Rozina’s, a tea farmer in Northern Bangladesh who has seen huge improvements in her family’s life since working with Traidcraft:

“That from my childhood I knew that poor people had only one dream which is to be able to eat three times a day. I dreamt the same. There was no house, nor ducks nor hens; we had no cows or any furniture. We were fighting against poverty with empty hands. I started working as labourer in tea gardens. I used to get 30-50 Taka per day (£0.30 - £0.50). We got to know that there is huge profit in tea planting. I heard about Traidcraft. My husband and I decided to use our fallow land for growing tea plants. If we can dedicate 1-1.5 years of growing tea in the garden, it will give us leaves for 80-100 years. I received six training sessions from Traidcraft. The wheel of our life then started turning. We are now able to see the face of happiness. We built a house and I have hens and ducks and five cows. Everything has changed. The tea plant is a miracle in our life. Now we have beds to sleep in. We now earn 30,000 taka each month (£300) and sometimes more. Everything now seems like a sweet dream which is actually our reality. I have a lot of dreams for the future. My self-esteem and willpower have multiplied many times now. I am one of the elected women members of our small tea growers association. Now people look at me with respect. They say though I had neither education nor experience I become one of their heroes. That makes me very proud. I want to educate my children. My dream has come true, poverty has to be defeated.”

How your church can help

Traidcraft Exchange’s work provides farmers and artisans with what they need to trade their way out of poverty, so they can put food on the table, educate their children, afford medical care and build better futures for themselves and their families.

This vital work would not be possible without our amazing supporters, including church communities like yours. If you’ve found this resource useful, please consider raising more funds for Traidcraft’s work at your Harvest festival this year with a collection, a coffee morning or event, sponsored challenges or get involved in our jewellery recycling scheme if you haven’t already - you can order a free drop box for your church and join the hundreds of churches already raising money whilst looking after the environment. You could use the theme of FIVE to help you, for example, donate 5p to £5 to £500, five different giving opportunities, five ways to give, the choice is yours ...You’ll find out lots more about how to raise funds at traidcraft.co.uk/giving

Thank you

£10 Could help a farmer buy the high quality seeds they need to grow the best and most valuable crops possible.

£25 Could help a tea farmer get the right tools to use every inch of their land productively.

£50 Could train one person in farming techniques to ensure they plant a crop that lasts.

£100 Could help start a local farming group so farmers can work together and gain better access to markets

Useful links

Buy GEOBARs at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/Geobar
Explore GEOBAR at www.lovegeobar.com
Follow GEOBAR at www.facebook.com/lovegeobar

Sell GEOBARs at www.traidcraft.co.uk/fairtrader
Stand up for Justice at www.traidcraft.co.uk/campaigns
Raise funds for Traidcraft at www.traidcraft.co.uk/giving