



World Fair Trade Day 2021 Worship Resources

'Build Back Fairer' is the World Fair Trade Organisation theme for World Fair Trade Day celebrated on 8th May of 2021.

This has been a tough year for many and just when we think we can see light at the end of the tunnel, we're hit again with drastic results such as the last-minute cancellation of the Blues Festival at Byron Bay.

Over the past year there has been a lot of discussion about what life will look like 'post-COVID': 'The New Normal'. Businesses, especially those in air transport and tourism wonder when they will recover economically.



The World Fair Trade Organisation's (WFTO) statement about Building Back Fairer is reproduced in Appendix A.

For people whose primary motivation is to respond to the Love of God with our own love towards God and towards neighbour, I'm surprised that it seems necessary to continuously justify to the Church the importance of promoting Fair Trade.

Sadly, many Christians give little thought to the millions of people who are so much worse off than we are through this pandemic. Fair Trade businesses have been decimated, not only by the spread of the virus, but by the indifference of western countries where orders have been cancelled with little thought for the outcome for people's lives.

Many of us Christians are part of the increasing wealth of the 1%, complicit in the economic structures, which further impoverish the 50%.

When a man came to Jesus seeking judgement over a family property dispute, Jesus refused saying "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed: for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possession." (Luke 12:15)

Jesus then told a parable about a builder. But the motto this man went by was not 'Build Back Fairer'. His motto was 'Build back bigger'.

16 Then Jesus told them this parable: "There was once a rich man who had land which bore good crops. 17 He began to think to himself, 'I haven't anywhere to keep all my crops. What can I do? 18 This is what I will do,' he told himself; 'I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I will store my corn and all my other goods. 19 Then I will say to myself, Lucky man! You have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!' 20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?'" (Luke 12:16-19 GNB)

'Build back bigger.' Isn't that the motto we like to hear on the Finance report on the nightly TV news? Cheers when we hear that the economy is recovering ... and advancing, growing.

Mostly we want to hear Jesus saying pleasant, loving things to us. I don't want to hear Jesus' response to the rich man, "You fool", said to me.

There are many ways we can work towards addressing the economic imbalance in this world. One is to ensure that we purchase goods and services where the farmers, workers and artisans were treated fairly. We call it Fair Trade.

Perhaps this World Fair Trade Day, your Church will work towards being a Fair Trade Faith Community. Individual people can become Friends of the Fair Trade Association and we can think before we shop.

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Prayer (If you use this in a group a possible response is in **bold**)

*Loving God, on this World Fair Trade Day help us to see the world as you see it.
We are aware that even before the pandemic the world was marred by massive inequalities.
Now help us to see the opportunities*

Help us to Build Back Fairer.

We pray for the Fair Trade movement as it seeks to address rising inequality, entrenched poverty, gender discrimination, and environmental destruction.

Help us to Build Back Fairer

We pray for a world where together we can build a fair and sustainable tomorrow. A tomorrow where economic resilience, social fairness and environmental sustainability go hand-in-hand.

Help us to Build Back Fairer

We pray for new business models where wealth can be shared more evenly. We pray for Fair Trade, organic and social enterprises; cooperatives and other social and solidarity actors, where profits can be channelled to the many, not the few. Help us to put people and planet first in trade and business, in order that the economy serves those who are otherwise left behind.

Help us to Build Back Fairer

We pray for our planet in crisis and humanity, which faces extinction. We pray for bold action to address the climate crisis, while securing the livelihoods of our planet's poorest communities.

Help us to Build Back Fairer

We pray for people who work in retail trade in shops and online in our country with its temptations to distort the truth about the origin of products in order to make a sale. We pray for honesty.

Help us to Build Back Fairer

*Lord, I want to hear your words of Love, not Jesus' response to the rich man, "You fool".
Help me to change.*

Help us to Build Back Fairer

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Appendix A

The following material is from the WFTO website.

It's time to #BuildBackFairer

The Fair Trade movement has a solution. To rising inequality, to entrenched poverty, to gender discrimination, to environmental destruction. Recovering from the pandemic gives the world a chance not just to build back better, but **build back fairer**.

We cannot simply go back to the old normal. The old normal left millions behind and was destroying our planet. We have now/today the opportunity to reboot our economies, so it is equitable and sustainable.

A green and sustainable transition must underpin a resilient economic future. The policies that will ensure our economies are fit-for-future are the same as those that will help us recover from this pandemic.

As humanity, we face an immense raft of crises. We need to address these together to build a fair and sustainable tomorrow. A tomorrow where economic resilience, social fairness and environmental sustainability go hand-in-hand.

We can #BuildBackFairer

We can replace outdated business models that channel ever-greater wealth to the richest, giving the top 1% more wealth than the poorest 50%. Through Fair Trade, organic and social enterprises; cooperatives and other social and solidarity actors, we can channel profits to the many, not the few. Putting people and planet first in trade and business, we can ensure the economy serves those who are otherwise left behind.

Our planet is in crisis and humanity faces extinction. Bold action is needed to address the climate crisis, while securing the livelihoods of our planet's poorest communities. Social enterprises and cooperatives such as Fair Trade Enterprises show it is possible for businesses to put people and planet first. They are embracing organic practices, circular economy and solidarity principles to pioneer the transformation to a new economy.

The time is NOW!

The time is now. As we face the pandemic, we show incredible courage and common strength, working together and cooperating to flatten the contagion curve. We can also unite to flatten the inequality curves. We can bring down the rising global temperature!

It's time to rethink our economy. We can build back to so no one is left behind. We can build back to save our planet.

We can #BuildBackFairer.

What does this mean in practice?

*The **Build Back Fairer Statement** sets out a series of comprehensive and interlinked recommendations to governments, exploring key paths to offer an immediate response as well as much needed long-term solutions to challenges identified above. The recommendations are organised around 4 main pillars, linked to the need to:*

PROTECT **RESTART** **REDESIGN** **RESOURCE**