



**LIVE  
LENT**  
Embracing  
**JUSTICE**

**A 40-DAY CHALLENGE**

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE  
ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY AND YORK



# INTRODUCTION

## BY THE ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY AND YORK

The six weeks of Lent are a journey. We travel together towards God's promised world, one where his justice and mercy reign.

For many people, Lent is a time of fasting, of choosing to go without. This year, we are remembering the cry of the Prophet Isaiah: 'Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice?' (Isaiah 58.6)

This Lent we are called to be speakers and seekers of justice. We reflect on the injustices of the world and ask what God is calling us

to do about them. Over forty days, we step into God's work in the here and now – and in doing so we move from brokenness towards wholeness.

Our journey through Lent is one in which we seek inner transformation to be people of a new world, people who live by a vision of God's world, where all are created equal.

Our prayer is that this may be a time for you – whether by yourself, in community, or online – to see afresh the vision of God and truly join in making his promise of a world transformed a reality.

**Archbishop Justin Welby &  
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## **#LiveLent: Embracing Justice is the Church of England's theme for Lent 2022.**

Both the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2022 Lent Book, *Embracing Justice* (SPCK), and this daily reflections booklet for adults have been written by **Isabelle Hamley**, Theological Adviser to the House of Bishops and formerly Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

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Details of the Lent book and the full range of resources to support this year's Lent theme can be found at [churchofengland.org/livelent](https://churchofengland.org/livelent)

# CONTENTS

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <i>Introduction by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York</i>   | 2         |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i>   | 4         |
| <i>How to use this booklet</i>  | 6         |
| <hr/>   |           |
|  <b>Start of Lent</b><br><b>JUSTICE IN CREATION</b>      | <b>8</b>  |
|  <b>Week 1</b><br><b>EXODUS AND LIBERATION</b>           | <b>17</b> |
|  <b>Week 2</b><br><b>BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF JUSTICE</b> | <b>30</b> |
|  <b>Week 3</b><br><b>JUSTICE AS ENCOUNTER</b>            | <b>43</b> |
|  <b>Week 4</b><br><b>JUSTICE IN THE SHAPE OF A CROSS</b> | <b>56</b> |
|  <b>Week 5</b><br><b>DO THIS TO REMEMBER ME</b>          | <b>69</b> |
|  <b>Holy Week</b><br><b>WALKING THROUGH HOLY WEEK</b>    | <b>82</b> |
|  <b>Easter Day</b><br><b>A NEW VOCATION</b>             | <b>95</b> |
| <hr/>   |           |
| <i>Going Further</i>  | 98        |

# HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

**#LiveLent: Embracing Justice** invites us to examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray – for the church and the world far and near – that ‘justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream’ (Amos 5.24).

This booklet contains 40 reflections, each for one of the forty days in Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (which falls on 2 March in 2022) and ends on Easter Eve (Saturday 16 April in 2022), plus one for Easter Day. You can use it on its own, but my hope is that those who are also reading the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent Book 2022, *Embracing Justice* (SPCK) either individually or as part of a discussion group will find it helpful, too.

For each week (starting on a Sunday from Week 1 onwards) there is:

- A **theme** which corresponds to the chapters of the 2022 Lent book
- A **brief introduction** to the theme and readings for the week
- A **challenge** linked to the theme which suggests a practical action you might take.

Each week we follow a different thread through the many stories of justice in the Bible to explore how God works with humanity to bring justice, wholeness and salvation to all.

For each day (Monday to Saturday) there are daily reflections which offer:

- A **theme**
- A **picture**
- A **short passage from the Bible**
- A **short reflection** on the theme and reading
- A **simple prayer**.

Finally, there are a range of suggestions for **Going Further**.

There is also a version of the daily challenge for children and families available in the accompanying booklet **#LiveLent: Embracing Justice – For Kids**. This offers a weekly reading and prayer, together with a daily challenge to help all ages explore how we can live well together.

The booklet will be accompanied by daily social media posts from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day, together with a wide range of video and other free digital resources for individuals, groups and churches available via **churchofengland.org/livelent**

Start of Lent

# JUSTICE IN CREATION

The Genesis creation accounts paint an idyllic picture of humanity all created equal, made in the image of God, in their diversity and difference, enjoying the gifts of God's abundance. How did it all go so wrong?



## Action for the week

This week, pray every morning that God would help you see his image in every person you meet.

In the evening, spend a few minutes reviewing the day. Who did you meet God in? Who did you struggle with?



Ash Wednesday

# TURNING FROM AND TURNING TO

Read: Isaiah 55.1-11

“ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ”

Ash Wednesday is a day of turnings. A day when we turn inwards and examine our lives; a day when we turn from the depth of winter to waiting for Easter. And a day when we choose to turn away from sin and towards new life.

This isn't something we do on our own. Christians all over the world use this time as a line in the sand, a yearly reminder of both our frailty, and God's grace.

The fact that we do this together, rather than on our own, reminds us that it isn't just our personal lives that need transforming, but that of our communities, countries and entire world. On Ash Wednesday, and in Lent, we lament the brokenness of the whole world, its sin, inequality and injustice, and we long for God's intervention to come and teach us what justice, peace and freedom truly look like.

## Prayer

*Loving God, we bring ourselves, our churches, and our world before you: we ask that you show us, alone and together, how to turn and walk in your ways. Amen.*



## Thursday after Ash Wednesday JUSTICE IN CREATION

**Read:** Genesis 1.24-31

“ *Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness ...’ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.* ”

Everyone knows when something unfair happens to them. It is as if human beings have an in-built sensor that tracks injustice,



which is strange because injustice is far more widespread than perfectly fair environments!

What do we mean by 'it's not fair'? Maybe it is a cry of suffering – or maybe sometimes a cry of entitlement? Or maybe it is something deep within us that reaches back to a vision of the world as it should be, where all human beings are created equal, made in the image of God, and difference does not lead to hierarchy and value judgements. A creation where human beings' relationships with one another, with God, and with the whole of creation is balanced, right and fair, with no exploitation, no barriers and no hierarchies.

Listening to our cries of unfairness helps us discover the world we long for – and ask whether our hopes and longings are shaped by God's principles in creation.

## Prayer

*Generous God, teach us to treasure your image in one another and share your gifts of generosity and abundance in love for the world and its people. Amen.*

## Friday after Ash Wednesday WHEN GOOD GOES BAD

**Read:** Genesis 3.1-19

“ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God ... The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' ”