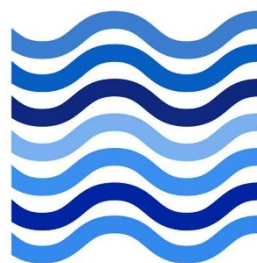


## Justice and Peace News & Prayer

### January 2021

#### 1 For thanksgiving and prayer

- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** We give thanks for the opportunities provided by technology allowing many more across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to #PrayForCornwall
- **Inauguration of President Biden:** We pray for the new administration in the USA. “Help us, holy mystery of love, as we dream together” (from prayers said at the inauguration)
- **G7 comes to Cornwall:** Please pray for all those involved in the planning for the G7 summit in June, and for fruitful discussions and wise decisions at the meeting.



## 2 Indigenous Peoples

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*This month we restarted our monthly meetings, now on Zoom. IT has its advantages, for our numbers have increased. Our focus was on Indigenous Peoples, followed by our usual time of reflection and Prayer for those Persecuted for their Faith.*

### **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

There are 370 million in 70 countries who maintain Social, Cultural, Economic and Political characteristics distinct from the society in which they live.

They are descendants of those who inhabited a country before foreigners. The new arrivals became dominant through conquest, occupation and settlement.

Often they are poor, vulnerable and live shorter lives

Many have their own intellectual and legal traditions, a way of life that looks to living well with the Earth. For them water is a living entity.

With the intensification of colonialism there is an ecological crisis. Colonisers decided to eradicate indigenous economies, cultures and political organisations for the sake of establishing their own.

Indigenous peoples are disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation compared to other marginalised groups.

They have adapted and survived through their Resilience and Sustainability.

As nomads, pastoral and hunter-gatherers, their land has been impacted by logging, mining, oil drilling, pipelines, dam

construction and deforestation for farms, ranches and urban areas.

Avoiding deforestation requires legal frameworks which encompass partnerships with government, business, and community groups. A well developed corporate government is required with a lack of corruption.

Whole tribes of peoples have been eradicated by diseases brought by colonisers eg, Measles.

Health is general poor due to poverty, poor housing, lack of access to health care, cultural barriers, cultural difficulties and geographical remoteness.

Maternal and infant mortality is high, as is the incidence of TB, malnutrition , alcohol abuse and HIV/AIDS.

More information can be found at the NGO **SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL**, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/>



We discussed also disadvantaged indigenous peoples in our own county of Cornwall, where house prices are 18 times an average salary and second homes predominate, and where the china clay industry was taken over by “big business”, and the lack of industry and coalmining in the north of England.

## ***Indigenous culture under threat from Covid-19:***

[Indigenous Environmental Network](#) reports:

*Due to the loss of many elders from Covid-19. We are losing not just elders but cultural importance and history, stories and languages. It's important to stay home and take the proper precautions to protect our elders and loved ones from further spread of covid-19.*



*"It's like we're having a cultural book-burning," said Jason*

*Salsman, a spokesman for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation... "*

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## **3 Prayer for the Persecuted**

Up to date information was shared regarding what is happening in many countries today and individual situations in Nigeria, China, the Congo, Cameroon, Eritrea and elsewhere.

300 million Christians are facing persecution today in over 70 countries.

Yet the churches and most Christians are indifferent.

We read in the gospels of those persecuted in the early church and of the courage and steadfast faith of the followers of Jesus.

How can we pass by on the other side, when our brothers and sisters are suffering in so many ways and many killed,

displaced from their homes and villages, raped, abducted and enslaved?

Our time was spent in silent and vocal prayer.

In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we will be devoting times of prayer to pray for particular situations and countries. Further information may be found on the websites of Open Doors, Aid to the Church in Need, Barnabas and Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

Quote from Bishop Doeme in the Congo, just released after being abducted:

*One thing Boko Haram will never take from us is our Faith.*

*We will never allow our Faith to be taken away by any evil.*

*Our faith is becoming stronger.*

*As long as the Kingdom of God continues, no evil human forces will overcome it.*

<https://acnuk.org/news/no-evil-will-take-away-out-faith/>

***Justice & Peace News and Prayer*** is compiled by Mary Bradley on behalf of the Justice & Peace Action Group, Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together. Any comments or items for inclusion may be sent to [mary@corisande.plus.com](mailto:mary@corisande.plus.com).



## 4 A Hymn for our Time of Isolation

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In our homes, we meet to worship,  
far away from sacred space.

By the Spirit, Christ is with us,  
making this a holy place.

In these days of social distance,  
we are called to meet apart.

Still we pray for one another,  
hold each other in our heart.

If this time indeed is holy,  
we must keep it truly so.

Even in our isolation,

God's rich blessings overflow.

We avoid the world's distractions,  
set our minds on things above:

Patience, kindness, goodness, mercy,  
faith, joy, peace, abiding love.

*R. G. Huff 17 March 2020*

*Suggested Tunes:*

*HYFRYDOL ("Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens...")*

*HOLY MANNA ("Brethren, We Have Met...")*

*BEECHER ("Love Divine, All Loves Excelling")*

*BILHORN ("I will Sing the Wondrous Story").*