

Prayer Vigil for the Glasgow climate summit 2021



The readings that follow are designed to be read out in turn, each followed by a few moments for silent prayer and reflection. Times of open prayer can be interwoven.

General Prayer – suggested for use in services around the Prayer Vigil

Creator God, this earth is miraculous and beautiful. Forgive our confusion and inaction as we confront the challenges of climate change.

In the light of your truth, seen so clearly in the life and teaching of Jesus, help us to re-examine ourselves and our lifestyle choices and see clearly the implications of how we live on all that sustains life on this earth. May we follow your leading in caring for every aspect of this precious world, which you made and love.

We pray for world leaders to agree radical actions in Glasgow this November that will help protect our world from the impact of global heating for future generations.

Throughout history you have moved people to do amazing things for the sake of their neighbours. Inspire us now to work together, as your people, to change priorities in the way we live, so that we build a fair and safe world for all your creation; a world where your will is done as it is in heaven. Amen

1 Praying for the UN Climate Talks

COP 26 takes place this November 2021 in Glasgow. There are four key goals for COP 26 and we will be praying for each of these during this vigil. They include countries providing more ambitious climate plans, adaptation measures to protect the environment, agreeing on finance to support poorer countries and agreeing a rule-book to guide their future collaboration. We pray that negotiators and diplomats will be united in their determination to resolve on-going issues and focus with determination on moving forwards in agreement.

We pray for the preparations for this summit and for all the meetings that will take place. We pray above all for those formulating national policies: Lord, grant them vision and ambition.

2. Reading from Jeremiah 17: 7-8 (GNB)

“But I will bless those who put their trust in me. They are like trees growing near a stream and sending out roots to the water. They are not afraid when hot weather comes, because their leaves stay green; They have no worries when there is no rain, they keep on bearing fruit.”

3. The witness of the saints

We can draw inspiration from ‘the saints’ both famous and unsung – who have cared for God’s creation as part of their witness to God’s love throughout the centuries.

We remember St Columba who lived simply as a monk, delighting in such things as the way the ocean waves “chant music to their Father upon the world’s course.” He offered hospitality to wounded animals and forbade the cutting down of trees.

The abbess Hildegard of Bingen sought a balanced life of prayer, work, learning and rest. Fascinated by the way in which creation reflects the goodness and energising love of the Creator, she wrote: “All living creatures are, so to speak, sparks from the radiation of God’s brilliance, and these sparks emerge from God like the rays of the sun.” Conscious of the complex interrelationship between humanity and the rest of creation, she wrote: “All of creation God gives to humankind to use. If this privilege is misused, God’s justice permits creation to punish humanity.”

We give thanks for their inspiration and witness.

4. Turning the tables

This glorious creation faces several imminent climate tipping points – humankind’s future hangs in the balance. Despite this crisis scenario, well documented by climate scientists over many decades; for most world leaders and policy makers, the market forces of globalization and economic development take priority over all else. These are unprecedented times – and we are all called to respond.

When Jesus entered the temple in Jerusalem he looked around carefully at everything (Mark 11:11). He mulled over his response. We have no insights into his thinking and his righteous anger at the use of his Father’s house. However, it was apparent that the experience of coming to worship God was being marred by wrongful practices that harmed the poor. His dramatic intervention the following day, in overturning the tables of the traders and money changers and driving them from the temple, harmed no-one directly, but made a huge disturbance and made everyone aware of their complicity in what had built up over the years.

We too have reached a time when ‘business as usual’ is just not compatible with a safe future for ourselves, and more importantly future generations. Time for us too to ‘turn over tables’ of what we accept as ‘normal’ and demand that our leaders prioritise climate action and response. Let’s do all we can as individuals. And let’s start with prayer for the decisions to be made in Glasgow – that tables will be overturned and new, profoundly effective ways of mitigating climate impacts will be reached, with poorer countries supported and facilitated to bring about climate justice.

5. Warming of oceans due to climate change

Oceans would continue to warm for centuries even if greenhouse gas emissions were frozen at today’s levels, say scientists. Globally 93% of the excess heat caused by the rise in greenhouse gases, has now been absorbed by the oceans.

The warming of the oceans due to climate change is now on-going. Increasing temperatures have a negative effect on all kinds of marine life and result in coral bleaching

Warming seas also mean sea-level rises and increase the risks of severe storms.

6. Climate impacts will fundamentally reshape life

A leaked draft of a new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) presents a sobering picture of how climate impacts could fundamentally reshape life over the coming decades, showing how important immediate action is.

The [draft report focuses on climate impacts, adaptation and vulnerability to climate change](#). It makes four key points. Firstly, earth-altering climate change could occur far earlier than had been expected. The World Meteorological Organization has said that as early as 2026, there is a 40% chance of a year in which warming exceeds 1.5 degrees. Prolonged warming of over 1.5 degrees, the draft report warns, could have “progressively serious, centuries’ long and, in some cases, irreversible consequences”.

Secondly, planning for adaptation is nowhere near adequate: within decades, coastal cities could see hundreds of millions at risk, and if warming hits two degrees, 410 million city-dwellers could face water scarcity because of drought. The risks for hunger will also increase. We are not yet ready for these changes – and we must start preparing now, especially ensuring protection for the most vulnerable.

Thirdly, scientists are increasingly concerned that global heating will trigger tipping points in Earth’s natural systems, when a small change pushes one of earth’s systems over a threshold, leading to a cascade of larger changes. Previous work by the IPCC has been criticised for failing to take account of tipping points. In this report, climate scientist Simon Lewis noted: “the stark message from the IPCC is that increasingly severe heatwaves, fires, floods and droughts are coming our way with dire impacts for many countries. On top of this are some irreversible changes, often called tipping points, such as where high temperatures and droughts mean parts of the Amazon rainforest can’t persist. These tipping points may then link, like toppling dominoes.”

The fourth point is the call to us. Having noted the threat to humanity - “Life on Earth can recover from a drastic climate shift by evolving into new species and creating new ecosystems ... humans cannot” – the draft calls for transformational change. The problem at present is not that our societies *can’t* make those changes – it’s that they

don't. The changes themselves are possible, given political will. Pray that we, as individuals, undertake all the actions that we can take ourselves. And pray that God will guide people around the world to demand action from governments and businesses, to avert some of the threats that the draft report outlines.

7. The gift of insight

Lord, you gave us the gift of insight to understand
The meaning of your creation and our
responsibility to care for it.

You gave us eyes to see the beauty of the world
The gift of empathy to understand others and
their needs.

Lord, forgive us for not caring for your creation
Forgive us that we seek to become masters of your
work
Forgive our inner blindness and deafness to the
needs of our neighbour

Jacqueline Ryle

8. Resurrection

Father of Creation, God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
We know that when your Son entered Jerusalem,
he wept.
He wept because he knew what would befall it.

Father of Creation, God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
When we look at this world of yours, this world of
ours, we weep.
We weep because we know what has befallen it.
Violence; Lord have Mercy.
Consumerism; Lord have Mercy.
Unrestrained Capitalism; Lord have Mercy.

Your Son dreamed a dream of a different kingdom,
An alternative reality for an alternative
community.
And then he demonstrated what this looked like,
By healing the sick, welcoming the outcast,
overturning tables of injustice,
And living a life, and dying a death, of self-giving
sacrificial love.

Father of Creation,
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
May we too dream a dream of a different
kingdom,

May we too be resurrection people,
Who demonstrate that violence, evil and
destruction will not have the last word.
Demonstrating that unrestrained capitalism and
empires of exploitation will not have the last word.

To him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb,
Be all praise, honour and glory.

Amen

Revd Jon Swales

9. Research findings in Antarctica

Though average global temperatures have risen by
0.8 degrees since the industrial revolution, the
warming has been much higher at the poles,
where average temperatures have risen by 2 or 3
degrees C.

In Antarctica, scientists from Rutgers University
have seen how global warming is altering the food
chain. The distribution of plankton has changed.
The numbers of Adelie penguins have dropped.
High winds churn up deeper waters in the ocean,
which releases CO₂, and leads to more warming.
The long established Wilkins ice shelf is shrinking
with large sections falling into the ocean.

Pray that the research findings gathered by
scientists who battled extreme weather and
technical difficulties to examine changes in the ice
sheets, will prove really worthwhile. Pray too that
the findings of this research will be taken seriously
and acted upon.

10. A prayer from Pope Francis' Laudato Si'

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the
world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at
the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be
filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize
that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice,
love and peace.

11. Psalm 96:11-13

Be glad, earth and sky! Roar, sea, and every creature in you;
Be glad, fields, and everything in you!
The trees of the wood will shout for joy when the Lord comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the peoples of the world with justice and fairness.

12. State of the Global Climate

In his foreword to the 2020 World Meteorological Organisation's report, António Guterres, UN Secretary-General commented that "2020 was an unprecedented year for people and planet: a global pandemic on a scale not seen for more than a century; global temperatures higher than in a millennium; and the highest concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere for over 3 million years.

...This report explains that, for many across the planet, especially in developing countries, 2020 was also a year of extreme weather and climate disruption, fuelled by anthropogenic climate change, affecting lives, destroying livelihoods and forcing many millions from their homes.... We know what needs to be done to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts now and in the future. We have the technology to succeed. But current levels of climate ambition and action are significantly short of what is needed.

... At COP26 we need to demonstrate that we are taking and planning bold action on mitigation and adaptation.... I call on everyone – from governments, civil society and business to individual citizens – to work to make 2021 count."

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

13. COP 26 GOAL One

The first goal for COP 26 is to **secure global net zero by 2050 and keep 1.5 degrees within reach**. All countries are asked to put forward ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century. In order to deliver these challenging targets, countries will need to phase out the use of fossil fuels, encourage investment in renewables and electric vehicles and drastically reduce deforestation.

We pray urgently for an increase of ambition from every country that has not yet made an adequate commitment – especially the major emitters. This is going to require a huge change of heart – and potentially quite a bit of negotiation We pray that all leaders will appreciate the vital importance of this goal and make genuine and tangible commitments rather than promised future action.

14. Traditional Jewish prayer

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands! The heavens declare your glory; the arch of sky displays your handiwork. In your love you have given us the power to behold the beauty of your world robed in all its splendour.

The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills, the rivers and lakes all disclose your presence. The roaring breakers of the seas tell of your awesome might; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air speak of your wondrous will.

In your goodness you have made us able to hear the music of the world. You are in our midst. A divine voice sings through all creation.

15. Impact on corals

As in the atmosphere, ocean temperatures are gradually increasing because of global warming. Because of the vast size of the oceans they are very slow to warm, but will also be very slow to cool. Even if carbon emissions were to reduce sharply, atmospheric temperatures will continue to rise because of the warming 'captured in the oceans.

Coral reefs provide a wonderfully varied ecosystem for fish and all kinds of marine creatures, enabling hundreds of coral species to thrive. The reefs also protect coastlines. However coral species are very sensitive to warming temperatures. Bleaching (due to the loss of the algae that live in them) occurs if coral is affected by warmer temperatures. Unless cooler temperatures return rapidly the coral dies. It takes over 30 years for coral to recover from serious bleaching.

We pray for marine scientists around the world as they raise awareness of the threat to corals and

other marine life. And we pray for Government leaders around the world with responsibilities for coastlines, to respond to the urgent need for action to protect marine life. Countless warning signs are being ignored about the ecological well-being of our oceans.

16. Help us journey well

Dear Lord, when you walked on earth
You gathered disciples to journey alongside you.
And still you call – eternal way, and truth and life -
Inviting us to follow, showing us the path.

Gracious Lord, in these perilous times,
We pray that you will help us journey well,
Treasuring each day the world that is your
handiwork,
Caring for it and each other, sustained by your
love and strength.

CCOW

17. Plastic Pollution

Covid-19 has brought many negative impacts. In addition to health issues, one is plastic pollution - a major problem as a result of both disposable PPE and single-use facemasks.

[Scientists at University College London](#) estimate that if everyone one in the UK used a single-use face mask every day for a year, over 66,000 tons of contaminated waste could be created each year in the UK, with ten times the climate change impact that would be caused by wearing reusable masks.

In addition to the general risks, the masks also pose a specific threat to sea birds, which can get tangled up in the elastic cords. Reusable masks, which are readily available, can help to alleviate the problem. Pray that we can find ways to keep both people and our environment safe.

18. Lost decade

David Attenborough's BBC programme on extinction last year provided a powerful wake up call on the urgent need for action. It coincided with the publishing of a report by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, which revealed that, globally, not a single one of its biodiversity targets would be met by 2020. The report didn't contain country level breakdowns, so the RSPB

released its own report assessing the progress of the UK government. This notes that the UK has actually met only three of these international targets – and has gone backwards in six areas.

“The obvious conclusion we make is that our current approach is woefully inadequate,” [wrote](#) the RSPB's Martin Harper. The charity has now launched a [campaign](#) to push for legally binding targets to restore nature across the UK.

19. The Operation Noah Prayer

Creator God, how deep are your designs!
You made a living earth, cloud, rain and wind,
And charged us with their care.

We confess that the way we live today
Is changing the climate, the seas and the balance
of life,
Dispossessing the poor and future generations.
Build our lives into an Ark for all creation,
And, as you promised Noah never to repeat the
flood,
So make us heralds of a new rainbow covenant:
Choosing life for all that is at risk –
For creation, neighbours near and far,
Our children and ourselves. Amen.

20. Forests under threat

A report shows that throughout 2019, every six seconds – about the time it took to type this phrase - [the earth lost a football pitch's worth of primary forest cover](#). The emissions associated with the total loss of 3.8 million hectares would be the equivalent of running 400 million cars for a year. And that's not the only impact: forest losses also affect ecosystems and biodiversity. We lament the destruction of primary forests and pray for all initiatives to reduce forest losses – including [investor initiatives](#) and [new efforts by Brazilian states](#) to protect the Amazon despite a lack of national support. We also give thanks for work by countries such as [Indonesia, where policy improvements are leading to positive change](#).

21. Laudato Si'

In Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' ("Praised be") he notes that "St Francis, faithful to scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness."

Later he offers a profound challenge: “As so often occurs in periods of deep crisis which require bold decisions, we are tempted to think that what is happening is not entirely clear. Such evasiveness serves as a license to carrying on with our present lifestyles and models of production and consumption. This is the way human beings contrive to feed their self-destructive vices: trying not to see them, trying not to acknowledge them, delaying the important decisions and pretending that nothing will happen.”

22. Our earth weeps

Our earth weeps bubbles rising through the warming arctic seas and permafrost.
Tears of methane.

Pray that our response is to hasten the era when there will be no greenhouse gas emissions.

Pray that our industry is so ordered as to remove green house gases from the air so that arctic seas and permafrost cool, and our earth’s tears dry.
Amen *Geoffrey F J White*

23. Eco anxiety in children

Caroline Hickman, a psychotherapist from Bath University, says that ‘eco-anxiety’ is affecting increasing numbers of children and young people as the climate destabilises. Her [research](#) is based on talking to children in the UK and in the Maldives. She also facilitates workshops in schools with the [Climate Psychology Alliance](#) in the UK where young people can share their concerns about the climate and ecological emergency.

Caroline explains: “Talking to children about climate change gives a fresh perspective on the absurdity of doing so little about the climate emergency and also highlights the troubling disconnect between what politicians say - and what they do.... Broken promises and inaction coupled with the enormity of the climate crisis are all beginning to take their toll on children’s mental health....”

She adds: “We all need to do more to listen to young people when they talk about climate change. Through their experiences we’ll all learn more about how we should take responsibility for the mess, apologise and start to act.” She argues that young voices pressing for urgent change could

act as a rallying cry to politicians around the world.

We pray for a greater sensitivity to the burdens so many youngsters feel about climate change and for their concerns to be an impetus for real, positive change.

24. Reading from 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

“If my people, who are called by my name,
Will humble themselves, pray and seek my face
And turn from their wicked ways,
Then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin
And heal their land.”

25. A poem by Chris Polhill

Forgive us Lord for our thoughtless wasting
For heat blasting in open doorways - for lights
burning in empty rooms,
for homes basking in T-shirt warmth
forgive our thoughtless wasting.

For leaving windows draughty, for lagging left
undone, for lofts un-insulated
forgive our thoughtless wasting.

For cars that guzzle petrol - for driving little
journeys, for cheaper fares on planes
forgive our thoughtless wasting.

God grant us clear thinking, right action, and a
gentle life-style. Amen

26. Meat production

Meat production requires far more land and water than grain or beans, to produce the same amount of protein. Cattle and other livestock produce significant amounts of the ‘greenhouse gas’ methane. In addition, much of the on-going destruction of the Amazon rainforest is caused by land being cleared for cattle ranching.

We could all try to eat less meat in our diets. Bishop Richard Chartres of London gave up eating meat several years ago, largely because he realized the damaging environmental impact of intensively reared livestock. Rather than preach to others, he prefers to examine his own lifestyle choices. He comments; "A life of fasting and feasting ought to be fun".

Could we all fast from meat on one or more days a week – or all together?

27. Firstborn of all creation

O Christ,
Firstborn of all creation
Through whom all things were made
Whose breath imparted life to all
Whose covenant embraced Noah and all creatures
Who willed to make your dwelling in matter,
becoming flesh for our sake
Teach us how we may let creation fulfil its destiny
To glorify you, to praise you and to highly exalt
you for ever.
Amen

Revd Nick Read

28. We're part of the solution

Globally, around 25% of all animal and plant species are threatened with extinction. The International Day for Biological Diversity is targeted towards raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity as well as global biodiversity loss. Its organisers [stated last year](#): "As the global community is called to re-examine its relationship to the natural world, one thing is certain: despite all our technological advances - we are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our health, water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, just to name a few." The 2020 slogan "We're part of the solution" emphasised that "biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges. From nature-based solutions to climate, health issues, food and water security, and sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity is the foundation upon which we can build back better."

Global leaders can "signal a strong will for a global framework that will 'bend the curve' on biodiversity loss for the benefit of humans and all life on Earth." We pray for all working towards the next UN biodiversity summit – and to effective action coming from it.

"How many are your works, LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
Psalm 104:24.

29. Spirit of the living God

Spirit of the living God. Apart from you, we can do nothing.
Transform your Church into the image of Jesus Christ.
Release your power to bring healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed and comfort to those who mourn.

Pour your love into our hearts and fill us with compassion to answer the call of the homeless and the hungry. And to enfold orphans, widows and the elderly in your care.

Give us wisdom and insight for the complex problems we face today. Help us to use the resources of the earth for the well-being of all.
Holy Spirit, we need your comfort and guidance.

Transform our hearts.

Global Day of Prayer, Transformations Ireland

30. COP 26 GOAL two

The second goal for COP 26 is to **adapt to protect communities and natural habitats**. The climate is already changing and it will continue to change even as we reduce emissions, with devastating effects.

We pray that nations can work effectively together to enable and encourage countries affected by climate change to protect and restore their ecosystems and build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid future loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.

31. The prayer of St Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which to look with Christ's compassion on the world, yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good, and yours are his hands with which to bless us now.

32. Farming in transition

Farming everywhere is in transition. The industry faces unprecedented challenges; from climate change, from the pandemic, from degraded resource base and from declining biodiversity. Each of these is an emergency in itself.

At the same time in the UK, we have the complexities and opportunities of Brexit requiring the unravelling of policy and practice from that of our neighbours. The industry includes many different actors holding diverse views and interests. New initiatives that support farmers in their sensitive environmental management are key – and are taking a long time to unfold.

We pray for governments within the UK and around the world, for wisdom and leadership as they chart the way forward for sustainable and secure food production, regenerated industry, recovered nature and restored landscape.

33. Reading from Job 38: 4, 16 & 18 (NIV)

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me if you understand... Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? ... Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth?

34. A Prayer for Our Earth (Laudato Si)

Six years ago Pope Francis published *Laudato Si* – a plea for all people to take to heart concerns about God’s beautiful world and the impact of climate change. We join in praying this prayer, taken from it:

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.
Amen

35. Reducing carbon emissions

The current UN process does not assign countries targets, but relies on a voluntary approach, by which countries put forward their own voluntary emission reduction targets – their ‘Intended

National Determined Contributions’. In theory all these contributions will add up to the emissions reductions that the science requires to keep global warming within ‘safe’ levels.

However, since many are not yet significant enough, there is concern that the process agreed in Paris could result in too little, too late. We pray for that all involved will work to ensure that emissions reductions are fairly distributed and significant enough to meet the goal of keeping warming well below 2 degrees. And we also pray that promises made – will result in immediate and tangible action.

36. Reading from Jeremiah 17:10 (GNB)

“I, the Lord, search human minds and test human hearts. I treat each one according to the way he lives, according to what he does.”

37. The impact of cyclones

The number of hurricanes or cyclones reaching Category 4 or 5 in the Northern hemisphere in 2020 broke all records. In the Atlantic basin, there were 30 named tropical storms including Hurricanes Eta, Iota and Laura, which had major impacts in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic basin – made even worse because of the impact of the pandemic.

Though no one such event can be said to be a direct result of global warming, scientists warn that rising sea temperatures increase the severity of tropical cyclones, both in terms of wind speed and rainfall. Warmer air holds more water that may fall as rain, bringing heavier rainfall with the strong winds.

Pray for the victims of these damaging storms, still struggling to rebuild shattered lives.

Pray for political leaders in all countries likely to experience such hazards, that they may put much greater emphasis on early warning systems and disaster preparedness, particularly for the most vulnerable people.

38. Pilgrimage prayer

Dear Lord, you called your disciples to follow in your way:

You are the Way, the Truth and Life.

And so we come, seeking to follow in your footsteps.

Creator of the earth, as we journey
Help us to walk lightly, treasuring the world you have given us,
And cherishing each other.

And grant, we pray, that our walk
May be part of your plan to care for creation.
Seeking climate justice and the coming of your Kingdom
On earth as it is in heaven.

Christian Concern for One World/Pray&Fast

39. Pressures on pastoralists

As many as 250 million people in Africa may not have enough water to meet their basic needs because of climate change. The impact of climate change, bringing higher temperatures and erratic rainfall, mean that many people are far more vulnerable to unexpected events and hazards.

The changing climate contributes to water stress, lower crop yields, soil degradation and increases the risk of wild fires. In the Horn of Africa for example, there are over 20 million pastoralists whose livelihoods depend on migrations in search of pasture and water. Over the last decade and more their ability to care for and produce livestock has been increasingly affected. This results in severe food shortages and means that many are forced to migrate to new areas or drift to the cities.

We pray that support for pastoralists will enable them to develop early-warning mechanisms, improve veterinary services and lobby their governments to provide support for pastoralists and their particular needs.

40 The Show is Over – Greta Thunberg

150 weeks after the first school climate strike, Greta reflected on her frustrations with people in power; “As more and more people around the world have woken up to the climate- and ecological crisis, — people in power started to act. Not acting as in

taking climate action. But acting as in roleplaying. Playing politics, playing with words, playing with our future. Pretending to take responsibility.... But this is communication tactics disguised as politics....

But the gap between your actions and words is becoming impossible to ignore. While more and more extreme weather events are raging all around us....You say we need to move slowly to bring the public along. However, how do you honestly expect to bring the people along if you don't treat this crisis like a crisis?

The climate crisis is today — at best — being treated **only** as a business opportunity to create green new jobs, new green businesses and technologies...We will not be able to solve a crisis we do not treat as a crisis and that we do not understand the magnitude of.... The audience has grown weary. The show is over.”

41. Diversity and endings

Father of Creation, God of Grace,
We thank you for the gift of this world.
For beauty, for the gift of life and love.

Father of Creation, God of Grace,
We thank you for the stunning diversity found within creation.
Mountains, streams and the changing of the seasons.
You declared it to be good, and it is good.
It is beautiful.

We thank you for our capacity to behold the mystery of wonder,
For the times when our breath is taken away by what we behold.
You declared it to be good, and it is good.
It is beautiful

Yet Instead of acting as gardeners, we have plundered Eden.
We live in a world of endings and extinctions,
We have misused our power
Lord have mercy.

Call us afresh to our poetical and prophetic calling so that we can discern and speak truth to the reality in which we find ourselves.

Wake us up, equip us afresh. The world is in peril,
Let us be your hands and feet.
Father of Creation, God of Grace.
Amen
Revd Jon Swale

42. Being faithful to the future

“The Christian’s duty is to the body of Christ not just to the people who happen to be with you now, people you happen to be involved with here, but to a future community in which all, friends and strangers, have their place... It’s why Christians ought to be passionately and sacrificially concerned about the environment, for the very simple reason that we are called to be faithful to the future, even through we can’t see it, to a future of harmony and reconciliation with the whole creation. Our failure to be loyal to this particular aspect of the future is one of the most crass and troubling forms of injustice that afflicts our world – not to mention our Church today.”

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, [Homily for the Feast of St Alban](#)

43. Responding to this emergency

We face a challenge when using the term 'emergency' to describe our present situation. For some people, it feels disempowering, as if we're saying that the situation is beyond our control, too difficult for us to resolve and so pointless to fight.

There are, however, positive models of emergency action. One that springs to mind is the airline pilot 'Sully' Sullenberger and his team. Sullenberger landed a crippled, engine-less jet in the Hudson River without loss of life. In what was a seemingly hopeless emergency, with only four minutes from engine failure to impact, he drew on decades of experience, his own courage and skill, the absolute knowledge of what the technology he commanded could do, and a well-trained team. He, his co-pilot, the air traffic controllers who alerted those in their path, the flight attendants who then helped evacuate the passengers, the ferry and boat crews who rescued them, and the passengers themselves - saw what needed to be done, and did it.

For us, too, the declaration of an emergency can be about not anger or fear or panic - but about a focused, realistic assessment of where we are, the tools we have available to us, the changes that need to happen, and how we can both implement them on a small scale and work together to see them implemented on a large scale.

Unlike those in the airplane disaster, we are fortunate in having some time - short enough that we know we can't afford to lose focus, long

enough that we can survey and draw on the wisdom and information and expertise that is already available.

As Christians, we bring some particular tools - a worldview that sees the intrinsic value of all creation, a calling to love of neighbour which incorporates the need for climate justice, and a trust in the One who created, redeems and sustains all that is - the wellspring of our hope. May we bring all of these to the table.

We pray that all Christians may be inspired to take action in response to our emergency situation. We pray for wisdom, that such action may be taken in ways that genuinely protect the earth and its many communities, and that reflect the love, justice and mercy that are hallmarks of God's Kingdom

Maranda St John Nicolle/CCOW

44. Reading from Isaiah 58:6-7 (GNB)

“The kind of fasting I want is this: remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free. Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear and do not refuse to help your own relatives.”

45. COP 26 - GOAL 3 - MOBILISE FINANCE

To deliver on the first two goals, developed countries must make good on their promise to **mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance** per year by 2020.

International financial institutions must play their part and we need work towards unleashing the trillions in private and public sector finance required to secure global net zero.

We pray for a massive breakthrough to emerge during COP26 from richer countries, to make the necessary finances available for poorer countries so they can mobilise adaptation and mitigation programmes. Such a breakthrough is even tougher when Covid-19 has caused huge economic impact – and yet without it, all our futures, and in particular the futures of all those living in poorer countries, are precarious.

46. The value of trees

“The best friend of earth and of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on earth.” said Frank Lloyd Wright.

Pray for governments around the world to do more to encourage the protection of existing forest reserves, and the establishment of new areas of woodland particularly on marginal land. Give thanks for the work of the Forest Stewardship Council in promoting the responsible management of the world’s forests and establishing regulations to prevent the illegal exploitation of timber reserves.

Reflect on what we can do as individuals – in only using FSC certified products in our homes and gardens, in directly caring and planting trees in our neighbourhood or in supporting such work elsewhere.

47. The greatest security risk

Sir David Attenborough’s recent [speech](#) to the UN Security Council reframed the concept of security, noting the world now faces “threats to security of a new and unprecedented kind. These threats do not divide us. They are threats which should unite us, no matter from which part of the world we come, for they face us all.”

“If we continue on our current path, of climate change and environmental degradation,” he stated, “we will face the collapse of everything that gives us our security: food production, access to fresh water, habitable ambient temperature and ocean food chains. And if the natural world can no longer support the most basic of our needs, then much of the rest of civilisation will quickly break down. Please, make no mistake, climate change is the biggest threat to security that modern humans have ever faced.”

Attenborough also added a call to action: “While it’s true we can never go back to the stable benign climate that enabled us to flourish for the past 10,000 years, I do believe that if we act fast enough, we can reach a new stable state. In November this year, at COP26 in Glasgow, we have what may be our last opportunity to make this step change. If we recognise climate change and the loss of nature as worldwide security threats, as indeed they are, then we may yet act

proportionately and in time ... And through global co-operation, we may achieve far more than tackling climate change. We may finally create a stable, healthy world where resources are equally shared and where we thrive in balance with the rest of the natural world. We may, for the first time in the entire history of humanity, come to know what it feels like to be secure.”

Pray that many people and in particular world leaders, may recognise the threat climate change poses to security for all humanity, and be inspired by the vision of a greener, more cooperative, stable and secure world.

48. Reading from Psalm 96:11-13 (GNB)

“Be glad, earth and sky!
Roar, sea, and every creature in you;
be glad, fields, and everything in you!
The trees of the wood will shout for joy
when the Lord comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the peoples of the world
with justice and fairness.”

49. A quote from Bill McKibben

Bill McKibben, the American environmentalist and founder of 350.org writes: "I've mostly given up being either optimistic or pessimistic. Our odds of success are not incredibly good, but I wake up every day saying "What can I do to change the odds a little?"

And it's not impossible, the task that we have ahead. We're not going to stop global warming, but slowing it to the point that we can cope with it remains within the realms of possibility.

"Fun" is not quite the right word, but there is something deeply satisfying about trying. It's the biggest challenge that humans have ever got to take part in. It's exciting to be part of that. To be doing something that crucial is a great honour."

50 The life cycle of 'stuff'

David Mackay, who sadly died much too early, dedicated his book, *Sustainable energy – without the hot air*, “to those who will not have the benefit of two billion years’ accumulated energy reserves.”

In it he wrote; “One of the main sinks of energy in the ‘developed’ world is the creation of stuff. In its natural life cycle, stuff passes through three stages. First a new born stuff is displayed in shiny packaging on a shelf in a shop. At this stage, stuff is called ‘goods’. As soon as the stuff is taken home and sheds its packaging, it undergoes a transformation from ‘goods’ to its second form, ‘clutter.

The clutter lives with its owner for a period of months or years. During this period, the clutter is largely ignored by its owner, who is off at the shops buying more goods.

Eventually by a miracle of modern alchemy, the clutter is transformed into its final form, rubbish. To the untrained eye it can be difficult to distinguish this rubbish from the highly desirable ‘goods’ that it used to be. Nevertheless, at this stage the discerning owner pays the dustman to transport the stuff away.”

51. Christians working together

The Environmental Issues Network (EIN) of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland brings together representatives of all the major denominations and Christian environmental organisations. They work to coordinate activities and opportunities to ensure maximum effectiveness and also work in partnership with the UK’s Climate Coalition.

Pray that Christians will speak out with one strong, united voice to express their concern over what is happening to God’s precious world

We pray that Christian organisations will have the resources and motivation to provide challenging ideas that will catch the public imagination. Pray too for effective cooperation and partnership between all denominations and organisations in responding to this huge issue.

52 A reading from Psalm 19:1-4 (GNB)

“How clearly the sky reveals God’s glory!
How plainly it shows what he has done!
Each day announces it to the following day;
each night repeats it to the next.
No speech or words are used, no sound is heard;
yet their message goes out to all the world and is heard to the ends of the earth.”

53. Entering a new period of extinction

A study by three universities in the US, states that humankind has created a “toxic mix” of habitat loss, deforestation pollution and climate change. Since 1900 more than 400 vertebrates have disappeared – a loss that would normally take up to 10,000 years, the scientists say. Species loss has speeded up over a 100 times. Scientists say that it’s the biggest loss of species since the mass extinction of dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

Professor Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University comments: “the research shows without any significant doubt that we are now entering the sixth great mass extinction event. We are sawing off the limb that we are sitting on.”

We know that each creature is precious to God as creator. We pray for humility in our attitudes towards how we use the resources of this world – and we long for a massive response to the findings of this research to lessen the on-going loss of species.

54. Building a circular economy

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation was launched in 2010 by the famous yachtswoman. It champions the ‘circular economy,’ a concept that challenges our existing global linear economy.

At present we take raw materials, make products and then dispose of them, perhaps trying to recycle a small portion of what we’ve used. In a finite world this is just not good enough.

A circular economy by contrast, designs products and services to be reused – just as nature reuses materials in its cyclical processes. For example, personal cars are idle much of the time and made to be replaced by new models. What if we simply paid for access to vehicles, allowing fewer cars to be used more efficiently, and companies designed the vehicles to be updated rather than replaced?

Over 500 companies have now signed up in support of the Foundation. We pray for its continued impact and success and in particular for the opportunities this way of thinking brings to young people – inspiring them to use their creativity and knowledge.

55. Walk lightly – by Linda Jones

Each leaf, each petal, each grain, each person,
sings your praises, Creator God.

Each creature on the earth, all the mountains and
great seas, show your glory, Spirit of love.

And yet, the hand of greed has patented and
plundered your splendour,

has taken and not shared your gift, has lived as
owner of the earth, not guest.

And so, the ice is cracked, the rivers dry, the
valleys flooded and the snow caps melt.

God our Father, show us how to step gently, how
to live simply, how to walk lightly with respect and
love for all that you have made.

Amen

Linda Jones, CAFOD

56. Hope and the Environment

“Robust hope’ ...is ...the Christian hope that
enables our trust in God’s promises of ultimate
redemption, to sustain hopeful living in the
present - in a way that leads to realism and not
escapism. It is strong in the midst of difficulty and
pain precisely because of the resurrection hope of
life from death....

Robust hope is earthed in an understanding of the
incarnation of Christ, who loved his whole cosmos
so much that he came to live among us, suffer, die
and rise again.

It is based on faith in a risen Christ who ‘holds
creation together’ (Col. 1:17), even as it groans
waiting for liberation (Rom. 8:18-25). Robust hope
has a secure understanding of ultimate hope,
when heaven and earth shall be renewed and
restored (Rev. 21-22).

Robust hope makes ultimate hope visible in real
and tangible ways in the present. It is a hope of
perseverance. The more severe our present reality
becomes, the more robust hope is made visible. ...
In our discipleship, we are called back into the
world to suffer, persevere, gain character and
discover hope.”

*Theologian Margot Hodson’s Introduction to Hope
and the Environment*

57. The wisdom of Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa is said to have commented; ‘Not
all of us can do great things, but we can all do
simple things with great love.’”

Lord, break our hearts for the needs of others, and
help us stand together- show us what we have to
offer. Break our hearts for communities in our own
country affected by recession, debt and
hopelessness- for our friends, neighbours, and
those we do not know personally.

Lord, we pray too for those in the majority world
experiencing poverty and lack of food, those
without education, healthcare and vulnerable to
disaster and exploitation. Fill us with compassion
and a sense of solidarity as one people.

Prepare our hearts to love, our hands to serve, and
our mouths to speak against injustice- simple acts,
with great love.

58. Extract from Greta Thunberg’s Speech to UK Parliament 2019

“Avoiding climate breakdown will require
cathedral thinking. We must lay the foundation
while we may not know exactly how to build the
ceiling. Sometimes we just simply have to find a
way. The moment we decide to fulfil something,
we can do anything. And I’m sure that the moment
we start behaving as if we were in an emergency,
we can avoid climate and ecological catastrophe.

Humans are very adaptable: we can still fix this.
But the opportunity to do so will not last for long.
We must start today. We have no more excuses.
We children are not sacrificing our education and
our childhood for you to tell us what you consider
is politically possible in the society that you have
created. We have not taken to the streets for you
to take selfies with us, and tell us that you really
admire what we do.

We children are doing this to wake the adults up.
We children are doing this for you to put your
differences aside and start acting as you would in a
crisis. We children are doing this because we want
our hopes and dreams back.”

59. Reading from Colossians 1: 15-20 (NIV)

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross”.

Dave Bookless comments in his book *Planetwise*:
“This passage blows apart any idea of a cosy, comfortable pocket-size Jesus. Instead Jesus is:
The source of creation
The sustainer of creation
The saviour of creation”.

60. Loving God

Loving God,
Blessed be the work of your hands.
Your Spirit inspires trees and birds and waves into song and dance.
It is that same holy wind that breathed on your disciples and on all creation.

Let your Spirit blow us to creative love and stewardship that shows reverence for your creation.

Blessed be the works of your hands, O holy One,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever. Amen

The late Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya

61 A campaign against ourselves

George Monbiot writes at the end of his book, *Heat*: “Given that climate change is the greatest danger the world now faces, those who are campaigning to reduce the impact of climate change cannot do it by ourselves. We are astonishingly few. It appears to be easier to persuade people to protest against all kind of relatively trivial issues, than to confront a threat to our existence.

There is an obvious reason for this; in other cases something is being done to us. In this case we are doing it to ourselves. In fighting climate change, we must fight, not only the oil companies, the airlines and the governments of the rich world; we must also fight ourselves. It is a campaign not for abundance but for austerity. It is a campaign not for more freedom but for less. It is a campaign not just against other people, but also against ourselves”.

62 Reading from Mark 4:39-41 (GNB)

“Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, “Be quiet!” and he said to the waves, “Be still!” The wind died down and there was a great calm. Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Why are you frightened? Have you still no faith?”

But they were terribly afraid and said to one another, “Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

63. COP 26 - GOAL Four

Countries can only rise to the challenges of the climate crisis by **working together to deliver** the pledges made.

At COP26 countries must finalise the Paris Rulebook in order to provide an agreed process of accountability for pledges made. They must also agree how to accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society.

We pray for the building of trust and relationships that must be forged in order to enable this massive and essential goal to be achieved in Glasgow.

64. Forest Church

Forest Church provides a fresh way of connecting with God - learning and being open to what we can learn of God through reading his ‘second book’ – the created world. Allowing ourselves to be open to what God may want to communicate to us through nature is a new and exciting avenue to explore and can draw in all ages.

Forest Church draws on contemporary research that highlights the benefits of spending time with nature in wild places and on older traditions when sacred places and practices were outside. One

particularly interesting idea it proposes is *Sensio Divina*, spending time prayerfully with creation, much as in *Lectio Divina*, where we sit prayerfully with a Bible passage and allow it to speak into our minds and hearts.

Pray that initiatives such as Forest Church will help Christians to rediscover our relationship with the rest of God's glorious creation – and to hear what God is saying to us through all that He created

65. A prayer for peace

O God, who called all life into being
The earth, sea and sky are yours
Your presence is all around us
Every atom is full of your energy
Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth
With her we yearn for justice to be done
For creation to be freed from bondage
For the hungry to be fed
For captives to be released
For your Kingdom of Peace to come on Earth

R Croft and J Laynesmith

66. UN agreement for Nature

An agreement to protect nature is nearing finalisation. It [has as its aim](#) that between now and 2030 governments and people around the world will “take urgent action across society to put biodiversity on a path to recovery for the benefit of planet and people” and that by 2050, humans will be “living in harmony with nature.”

It's a plan with key targets, such as establishing large-scale protected areas, reducing pollution, and creating urban green spaces – and it's much needed. Scientists warn that humans are driving the [sixth mass extinction event](#) in Earth's history, cautioning there is a short time to act. [Elizabeth Maruma Mrema](#), the Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, has called on the negotiators to be ambitious, [saying](#): “We are failing our children and the youth ... the ocean they are seeing is full of plastic, the forest they are told to be seeing becomes bare land, the consumption patterns are leading to more pollution.” Mrema says: “If governments do not agree to take sufficient action, the risks will be major...we'll have given up as an international community to save the planet.”

Lord, your creation is breathtakingly intricate,

interwoven and wonderful. We admit our failings as a human race in ensuring proper care of this planet. We thank you for ordinary people who are playing their part in conservation, and pray for all who are charged with influence to ensure this agreement on nature exceeds expectations this year. We pray for wisdom, patience and energy for Mrema as she steers a way forward.

67. The example of St Francis

We remember St Francis of Assisi, your faithful servant, who had such a love of your creation and all your creatures.

We give thanks for the example of Saint Francis. His gentleness, vows of poverty, obedience to God and his simple, deep love for all God's creatures led him to look to the heights of heavenly perfection and turned many hearts to follow God's will. Today we come here searching for peace and guidance in our troubled world. May his example and his love of all creation inspire us as we pray.

68. Alarm over Greenland's melting glaciers

Scientists from Ohio State University have been studying over 200 glaciers in Greenland for several decades. They say that Greenland's ice sheet may now have melted beyond the point of return, with the ice likely to disappear no matter how quickly the world reduces climate-warming emissions.

Annual snowfall is no longer enough to replace the snow and ice in the glaciers. If Greenland's ice goes, the water released would push sea levels up by an average of six metres - enough to swamp many coastal cities around the world. Scientists have long worried about Greenland's fate, given the amount of water locked into the ice.

Glaciologist Ian Howat comments that Greenland "is going to be the canary in the coal mine, and the canary is already pretty much dead at this point". The Arctic has been warming at least twice as fast as the rest of the world for 30 years, while the polar sea ice hit its lowest extent for July in 40 years.

Scientists despair are the lack of governmental action to these enormously worrying findings.

69. Haggai 1: 2-9 (NIV)

This is what the LORD Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD’s house.’” Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”

Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.”

This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured,” says the LORD. “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. ¹

70. Creator of our common home

Creator of our common home,
You fill the earth and sea and sky with life
Forgive us our neglect of your creation
The choking waste of our pollution
The damage done by careless habits
And our indifference to future generations.

Help us to amend our lives
To refuse more plastic if we can't reuse it
To lift our voice for lasting change
And to live well and gently on the earth
To the glory of your Son, the Living Word
Through whom you made this fragile world.
Amen.

Rt Revd Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford

71. The value of rainforests

Tropical rainforests are an amazing source of biodiversity. They cover approximately 2 percent of the globe, but they are home to over half the world's living plant and animal species. They are likely to contain thousands of species as yet unidentified by scientists. Rain forests are rich resources of timber and minerals. Unfortunately in many countries they are being cleared for agriculture, particularly ranching and soya bean

cultivation and for human settlement. Once roads are built, whole new areas are opened up for exploitation. We continue to lose around 90,000 square miles (150,000 square km) a year.

Tropical rainforests remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This lowers the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These forests also release moisture into the atmosphere through transpiration. This cools the local climate, brings rainfall and thus helps to reduce global warming.

We pray for a wider appreciation of the value of forests and tree cover in preserving biodiversity, protecting soils and reducing the impact of climate change.

We also pray that people of all nations and backgrounds will work together to safeguard this invaluable part of God's creation.

72. Reading from Isaiah 66:1-2 (GNB)

“The Lord says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house, then, could you build for me, what kind of place for me to live in? I myself created the whole universe! I am pleased with those who are humble and repentant, who fear me and obey me.”

73. An extract from Planetwise

Dave Bookless in his book Planetwise comments: “Perhaps the single most effective step I have taken in terms of avoiding waste is to try to pray every time I put something in the bin. As I do so, I thank God for the natural resources that have created the item and reflect on whether I have been a good steward. Often my prayers end up as guilty confessions, as I have to admit my careless wastefulness again. Did I need to buy this? Did I need the item with all this packaging?”

Sometimes my anguish is not personal so much as frustration with a culture that dictates I can't buy things that aren't covered in polystyrene and plastic, and I simply say sorry to God for what we as the human race have done in taking his world for granted.”

“Seeing waste as a spiritual issue has caused me to go back to the start of the process; buying things in the first place. Now, before I buy something, I always try to ask whether I really need it”.

74 Preparations in Bangladesh

Low lying Bangladesh is one of the countries likely to be severely impacted by rising sea levels. Funding to help with adaptation is certainly necessary. However, the Bangladeshis are not sitting around waiting for help. They have set up a national Adaptation programme of Action. Even in the poorest areas, Bangladeshis are building dykes and embankments, changing their agricultural practices and sharing their knowledge with other countries. They have an early warning system in place for cyclones.

Floating gardens were first introduced in Bangladesh. Water weeds provide the base for a thin layer of soil and crops. They cost little to build and will survive flooding.

Pray for the work of HEED Bangladesh, providing extensive training in community developments and disaster preparedness.

75. Concerns over bees

Honey bees are vital to human wellbeing because they pollinate many of our food crops. But bee numbers in the UK are in crisis. Bees have lost much of their natural habitat during the last 60 years and many scientists believe that particular kinds of insecticides – neonicotinoids – are a major threat.

Bumblebees are good pollinators too but their numbers are also declining with the destruction of hedgerows, flower-rich meadows, ponds, marshes, and woodland. People are now helping by planting more wildlife friendly gardens.

We pray for Apimondia, the International Federation of Beekeepers Associations, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Friends of the Earth as they work to halt the decline in bees. We pray that gardeners and those responsible for public lands and churchyards, will encourage nectar-producing plants, reduce insecticides and plant more wild flowers.

76 Live simply – a prayer by Linda Jones

Compassionate and loving God,
you created the world for us all to share,
a world of beauty and plenty.
Create in us a desire to live simply,
so that our lives may reflect your generosity.

Creator God,
You gave us responsibility for the earth,
a world of riches and delight.
Create in us a desire to live sustainably,
so that those who follow after us
may enjoy the fruits of your creation.

God of peace and justice,
You give us the capacity to change,
to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom.
Create in us a desire to act in solidarity,
so that the pillars of injustice crumble
and those now crushed are set free.
Amen. *© Linda Jones / CAFOD*

77 Psalm 104: 24, 31 and 33-34 (NIV)

“How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.

I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord.”

78. Overshooting the mark

According to the Global Footprint Network, this year's 'Overshoot Day' was reached on July 29th. This means that humankind's demands on nature from 1 January to 29 July used up all the resources that Earth could regenerate this year. From 'Overshoot Day' onwards we are exceeding the natural limits.

Such overuse jeopardises our future; our shared natural resources are vital for the continuation of balanced life on earth, so that plants and animals can safely reproduce and build up stock for years to come. By the end of the year, humanity as a whole will have used up 1.5 planets worth of renewable resources. We're often aware of the need to live 'within our means' financially but much less so ecologically. We pray for an increased awareness of how we can live better 'within our means'.

79. A fast changing tapestry

Creator God, what a complex tapestry your creative fingers have woven; We delight at the daily reminders of your creative power. This tapestry is closely interwoven, fragile, changing; changing too fast. Scientists confirm what our hearts already know – and we are fearful. We are fearful of seasons that have lost their pattern; of all the uncertainties that climate change is bringing.

Politicians bend and bow to meet national priorities, while greenhouse gases build, oceans acidify and air streams shift.

Forgive us for our lack of response. For seeing the scale of this crisis as reason not to engage. Grant that through our prayers your Holy Spirit may give wisdom, inspiration and resolve to our politicians, leaders and negotiators, enabling them to make the tough decisions necessary for all people to live, to hope and to shape a greener world. In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen. *Isabel Carter*

80 Reading from Micah 4:1-2

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.'

This prayer vigil for Glasgow COP26 was compiled by Dr Isabel Carter on behalf of Pray and Fast for the Climate.

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