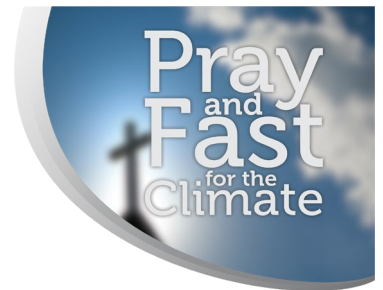


Organising a Prayer Vigil for Glasgow COP 26



Why?

The purpose of this Prayer Vigil is to give people time to stop, reflect, and pray at a time when crucial decisions are being made. The talks in Glasgow this November are of vital importance. It is possibly one of the last opportunities for the nations of the world to ensure that the Paris Agreement of 2015 results in meaningful and just global climate action... ensuring that global warming remains well below the 2 degrees that scientists say must not be breached.

Who?

The Prayer Vigil is designed to meet the needs of anyone who cares about our future wellbeing and the injustice of the changing climate which impacts most severely on the poorest people in the world – people who have virtually no effect themselves on carbon emissions.

The vigil material can be used by individuals, by small groups, by church communities, by inter-denominational groups and in church services.

Where?

To hold a Prayer Vigil all that is needed is a central location, with seating that is protected from the weather. Ideally it should be relatively quiet, but there is also much to recommend holding the Prayer Vigil somewhere very visible so others will see and join in. There should be no charge and the seating arrangements should enable people to come and go easily. It would be really helpful to have an area in the entrance or at the back with explanations, information and resources.

You could also combine a Prayer Vigil with a prayer walk linking different churches that are taking part. Groups can pause as they walk to pray about local issues and then spend time in the different churches or meeting places to use the vigil materials.

When?

Select any date that is appropriate for local needs either just before the Glasgow summit begins, or during the climate summit itself (31 October to 12 November 2021).

People may come in and stay for just 30 minutes, or they may want to stay for the whole time. We suggest that people may want to fast before the Prayer Vigil. Ending with a shared meal could be a very positive experience, giving people an opportunity to share their responses ... and encouraging community response and action.

Publicise

If possible write a short article or press release and send to the local press. Add in a quote or two from local people if possible. Ring the local radio station asking them to announce the Prayer Vigil and telling them why it's being held.

Prepare

The Prayer Vigil needs very simple preparations. The content provides 80 inputs and assumes a few minutes of reflection time between each input. You may choose to miss out particular sections, add in additional sections relating to local situations or have some periods of open prayer. Content is deliberately very varied and assumes people will come and go. It contains a mix of Bible readings, quotes, facts, poems, positive stories of change, and prayers.

Make arrangements for different people to share the readings - maybe asking people to take it in turns to read or to read one page each. In a large or noisy setting you may need to provide amplification.

Ready to go

Arrange chairs, light candles and play quiet background music (if the venue permits). Keep an eye on timing, allowing time for meditation or encouraging open prayer as appropriate.

Follow-up

Pray and Fast for the Climate are hosting the Prayer Vigil materials on their website and are coordinating the events and responses. Please email: info@prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk

It would be helpful to write up a brief description of the event including people's comments and quotes, and send it to the local press and radio - with a copy to the email address above.