

# Prayer points – November 2021

## Praying for the UN Climate Talks; COP26 prayer diary



### Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>: World Leaders' Summit

We pray that as the summit moves into high gear, negotiators and diplomats will be united in their determination to resolve on-going issues and move forward towards an agreement. We pray for world leaders responsible for national policies: as they speak in plenary and meet with their counterparts from other countries, Lord, grant them vision and ambition.

### Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>: COP 26 GOAL ONE – GLOBAL NET ZERO

This goal is to secure global net zero by 2050 and keep a limit of 1.5 degrees of warming within reach. All countries need to put forward really 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 clean energy, decarbonise a range of activities, drastically reduce deforestation, and increase carbon sinks. We pray urgently for a genuine increase of ambition from every country – 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 make genuine and tangible commitments rather than vague promises of future action.

### Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>: COP 26 GOAL TWO - MOBILISE FINANCE

Developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year by 2020 to enable poorer countries to fund adaptation and mitigation programmes. International financial institutions must also play their part – with everyone focused on unleashing the trillions in private and public sector finance required to secure global net zero, and ensuring that less wealthy countries, many of which are least responsible for the climate crisis, don't go into debt in order to respond to it. We pray for a breakthrough to emerge during COP26 from richer countries. The economic difficulties caused by COVID are going to make such a breakthrough hard – and yet without it, all our futures, and in particular the futures of all those living in poorer countries, are precarious.

### Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>: Energy issues and our lifestyle choices

Creator God, 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.

Inspire us 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.

### Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>: Focus on Youth

Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and Archbishop Justin Welby recently stated that *"Caring for God's creation is a spiritual commission requiring a response of commitment. This is a critical moment. Our children's future and the future of our common home depend on it."* Around the world, young people, whose future is at risk, are speaking up. Rachel Mander, one of the organisers of the Young Christian Climate Network relay, says: *"We stand in solidarity with people and places that are being plunged into debt and poverty because of climate change. More carbon emissions means more disease, more food insecurity and more poverty. We will be in our 30s when the world reaches 1.5 degrees warming. We will not let the UK government host summits on our doorstep only to hear more talk and no action. We believe it's time to make decisions which protect people not bank balances, to decide that no country will go into debt tackling climate change."* We pray such strong messages will galvanise faith groups praying for action from global leaders at COP26 – and will inspire leaders.

## **Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – Changing the direction of the wind**

Christian activist Jim Wallis talks the role of the activist as being not changing politicians, but changing the context in which politicians make decisions – “*the direction of the wind*”. On the 6<sup>th</sup> people will gather in towns and cities around the world to show their support for climate action. We pray that these gatherings will be the home of creative solutions and renewed commitment for those taking part, and that they will provide a background which convinces politicians to take action at the level of urgency the climate crisis requires.

## **Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – 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”. Across the world, Christians will be praying for the UN climate talks at on-site or online services – could you join in?

## **Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>: COP 26 GOAL Three – Adaptation – and Loss and Damage**

This goal is for adaptation 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. We pray, too, that where people and communities face impacts against which it is impossible to adapt, the UN structures will be able to create a ‘loss and damage’ mechanism that offers adequate support

## **Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> – Gender and Science - Climate impacts will fundamentally reshape life**

The IPCC’s recent landmark report provides a sobering assessment. Climate scientists are increasingly concerned that global heating will trigger tipping points in Earth’s natural systems, which will lead to widespread and possibly irrevocable disaster, unless action is taken urgently. It warns: “*Life on Earth can recover from a drastic climate shift by evolving into new species and creating new ecosystems ... humans cannot.*”

## **Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> – COP 26 - GOAL Four**

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.

## **Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Treating a crisis as a crisis**

*“The climate crisis is today - at best - being treated by people in power 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”* says Greta Thunberg. We pray indeed that as time runs out – all present in COP26 will treat this crisis as a crisis.

## **Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> – Decision time**

The negotiations are due to conclude on Friday – and this is generally the most intense part of the talks, with crucial final negotiations taking place at all hours and sometimes into the next day. We pray for wisdom, strength and perseverance for delegates who are seeking to make real progress, and especially for those from smaller delegations who are trying to cover a wide range of issues simultaneously.

## **Following in your footsteps – our next steps, whatever the COP result**

Dear Lord, You called your disciples to follow in your way. You are the Way, The Truth and the 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, seeking justice, and cherishing each other. And sustain us on this pilgrimage, we pray, with the vision of our journey’s goal, the coming of your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.