



## Prayer points – December 2025

### Advent

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." (Isaiah 9:2)* As we start our prayers, we acknowledge the clouding of hearts and minds that impedes care for God's world, the anxiety and pain that this causes, and the need for change. We thank you, Lord, that, in this season of Advent, you remind us that your light is stronger than darkness. We bring our prayers before you trusting in this hope.

### COP 30 - Laments

*"We know some of you had greater ambitions for some of the issues at hand."* [With these words, COP30 President Andre Correa do Lago acknowledged](#) the frustration that many negotiators – and others – felt about the outcomes of the latest climate talks. This was the first COP [which acknowledged that there would likely be overshoot of the 1.5 degree goal](#) – and yet all too often [self-interest continued to hamper efforts for a more ambitious agreement](#). Petrostates opposed a roadmap away from fossil fuels. Saudi Arabia, the Arab Group and India challenged endorsements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's importance. Developed countries, including the EU, the UK and Japan, opposed higher targets for climate finance. China refused to take a leadership role in negotiations, but promoted its position as an exporter of clean technologies. As a result, while there was progress, there is [a gap between what was achieved and the kind of cooperation needed to tackle the risks to our planet](#). Lamenting this, we pray in the words of the great Advent hymn: *"O come, Desire of nations, bind/ In one the hearts of humankind/Bid every sad division cease;/And be Thyself our King of Peace"*

### Counting the costs of inaction and injustice

The ongoing surge in climate-related disasters reminds us of the costs of inaction. [October 2025 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest October on record, behind only the previous two years](#): temperatures in Iran reached 46.7 Celsius (116.1F). [Climate change, compounded by poor management, has increased the severity of drought in Iran](#) and the surrounding area, leaving Teheran almost without water. The Philippines have been battered by a succession of storms, and more recently [a rare formation of three tropical cyclones](#) has deluged parts of South and Southeast Asia with rain: [more than 900 people have died and hundreds more are missing](#). In all of this, it is often the relatively poor who bear the brunt of the suffering, while people and countries whose expansion of fossil fuels and energy-hungry AI technologies increase emissions are insulated by their riches. We pray for all affected, lament the injustice, and cry out to God to lead the nations into ways of greater justice and peace.

### Climate Talks - Thanksgivings

While there was frustration, there were also things at the COP talks – and the [G20, which met simultaneously in South Africa](#) – for which to give thanks. At the COP, the words on [transitioning from fossil fuels in the COP28 agreement](#) could have been left to languish: Brazil's push for a roadmap has at least resulted in steps in the right direction. The creation of a [just transition mechanism is a piece of genuine progress](#). The new goal to triple adaptation funding is less than it should be and vague, but represents a ratcheting up. The Brazilian presidency [did an excellent job of following up on prior COP initiatives and seeking to give them some coherence](#). The inclusion of [text on rare earths and trade grounded the talks in current realities](#). And Brazil has openly raised the question about [whether the current model of COP governance is fit for purpose](#) and how much should take place outside the negotiations – a discussion that needs to begin. We give thanks for all that may lead to a better, fairer world.

### Moving forward

This month sees [the next meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, which will focus on the theme of 'Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet'](#). The COP process also continues onwards: the Brazilian presidency's work on the voluntary road maps [around fossil fuels](#) and deforestation will be significant in this, as will work by the three parties [playing different hosting roles for COP 31 – Türkiye, Australia, and the Pacific](#). We pray for all involved in these negotiations: *"O come, thou wisdom from on high/ and order all things mightily:/ to us the path of knowledge show/ and teach us in her ways to go."*

## IPCC funding and timeline

Access to solid scientific data and recommendations is essential for effective climate action – but the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)’s most recent meeting once again failed to agree timings for its next round of reports. UN bodies have been advocating for them to come out alongside the next ‘Global Stock Take’ in 2028: this would enable countries to have in good time the information they need to formulate new climate plans. [Some concerns expressed about this timing are genuine](#): less well-resourced countries worry about their capacity to review multiple major reports simultaneously, and there are questions about whether key scientific gaps can be filled in time and what speed would aid developing country scientists’ participation. But countries like Russia, China, India, and Saudi Arabia are hardly under-resourced, [and one IPCC author stated](#): “Some countries refusing to set a deadline for the AR7 is a clear tactic for playing down the importance of IPCC climate science in decision-making [on climate change](#).” [The IPCC is also facing a funding crisis, with this year’s funding](#) the lowest since 1990 in absolute terms. We pray for the scientists for whom this adds to uncertainty and frustration. We pray, too, for a breakthrough that enables solid funding, positive participation from variety of countries, and timely reporting.

## Seeds of Hope

Just weeks after Hurricane Melissa devastated farming in Jamaica, [causing almost two hundred million dollars in crop losses](#), the farmers are already back in the fields. “It was a total wipe-out” [says Junior Ebanks](#), but “as Jamaican farmers, we are very resilient ... the greenhouse went down but we are replanting ... we are hoping with another 6 to 8 weeks we should have something .. to sell back to the market.” In the meantime, the country is importing food to meet people’s immediate needs. This is vital for now – but farmers are seeking assurances that the foreign imports won’t displace their produce later. We give thanks for the resilience of Jamaica’s farmers and pray a blessing on their labours and their crops. We pray, too, that they will be able to find a market for their goods when the harvests come.

## Soil Day

December 5<sup>th</sup> is World Soil Day. Soil is an essential resource, but human activity and climate change are degrading it. This year the theme is ‘Healthy soils for healthy cities’. The [site for the day explains](#): “*Beneath asphalt, buildings, and streets lies soil that, if permeable and vegetated, helps absorb rainwater, regulate temperature, store carbon, and improve air quality. But when it’s sealed with cement, it loses these functions, making cities more vulnerable to flooding, overheating, and pollution. Therefore, this day invites everyone—from policymakers to citizens—to rethink urban spaces from the ground up, to build greener, more resilient, and healthier cities.*”

Individual urban gardeners, and movements like the [Green Guerillas in New York City](#), already create oases that improve urban soils and city life – but wider policy work is also needed. We pray for all working to protect soil generally, and especially all working on policies and practices to green the world’s cities.

## Choose life

Nature-based solutions – like urban gardens and green roofs – “[address societal challenges through actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems, benefiting people and nature at the same time](#)” How important are they to helping cities deal with the climate and environmental crises? [A new survey of research suggests](#) that integrating a range of solutions at neighbourhood and building level can reduce temperatures by more than 2 degrees centigrade during hot periods and save almost 9% of energy in buildings, as there is less need for artificial cooling. And that’s before one looks at the benefits for biodiversity or managing flooding and pollution! In Atlanta, Georgia, for example a [new park both provides green space and captures runoff from severe rains, preventing flooding](#). The success of such projects is a reminder that potential climate solutions with multiple benefits are all around us. We give thanks for this and pray that urban planners, governments, businesses, and individuals will learn from scientists and [experience](#) to make full use of nature-based solutions.

## Light of the world

Lord God,  
Who sent a star to call the Magi to Bethlehem  
As witnesses to Christ’s birth:  
Help us now to follow The Light of the World,  
Witnessing to His love in worship and service  
For the good of all the earth and the glory of your name.

[www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk](http://www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk)