

## Prayer points – January 2026



### Beginning the year by accepting God's call

(Adapted from the [Methodist Covenant Service](#))

*God made a covenant with the people of Israel, calling them to be a holy nation, chosen to bear witness to his steadfast love by finding delight in the law. The covenant was renewed in Jesus Christ our Lord, in his life, work, death and resurrection. In him all people may be set free from sin and its power, and united in love and obedience. As the year begins, let us again accept our place within this covenant which God has made with us and with all who are called to be Christ's disciples. This means that, by the help of the Holy Spirit, we accept God's purpose for us, and the call to love and serve God in all our life and work.*

*Christ has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both; in some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us. Therefore let us make this covenant of God our own. Let us give ourselves to him, trusting in his promises and relying on his grace.*

### Giving thanks for creation

We give thanks to God for the beauty and abundant diversity of God's creation around us, the intricacy of which is visible in everything from the [tiniest particles](#) to [microscopic organisms](#) to [plants](#) and [animals](#) and the larger structures of [the earth](#) and the [heavens](#). We give thanks for the incarnate Word, who lived among us in this world. And we give thanks for the Holy Spirit, who inspires love and care for God's world today. Thanks be to God!

### Lament and Repentance

We lament for and alongside people who, during the past year, have lost lives, loved ones, and/or livelihoods because of the climate and ecological crises. Christian Aid's '[Counting the Cost](#)' report on 2025's climate-related extreme events estimates that the 10 disasters that were most severe in their economic impact caused thousands of deaths and USD \$124.3 billion in damage. But, as the report's authors say, it is not only the huge events that matter: there were many more that caused multiple deaths and serious damage, and "every event that could have been minimised by climate action is already too costly." As we lament these, we recall, too, the [rapid Arctic warming](#) and [record-lows for Arctic sea ice](#) and the [first breaching of a 'tipping point' in coral deaths](#) in 2025.

And we lament, and repent of any part we have played in, missed opportunities for action – governments' backpedalling on clean energy; the failure of the climate, [biodiversity](#), and [plastics](#) summits to make sufficient progress; cutbacks in aid; and the omission of small personal and local changes that together can have real significance. Lord, have mercy.

### Giving thanks for action

We all will know people or institutions whose actions have inspired us. If you'd like more inspiration, take a look at the [Earthshot Prize finalist videos](#) showing cities cleaning their air by electrifying transport, an organisation helping 7.5 million people in Bangladesh with human development and environmental protection, the creators of innovative battery storage and microplastics removal mechanisms, the architects of the high-seas treaty and Gujarat's cap-and-trade mechanism and more. From the New York Times' survey of local climate solutions, find out about the climate action plan in the [city of Fayetteville in Arkansas](#) and the [evangelical churches and universities in Indiana](#) that have adopted creation care and put on the [Indy Creation Fest](#). Read [how Bloomberg estimates that the rise of e-bikes](#) – there were 280 million two-wheeled e-vehicles on the road last year – is reducing global oil demand by 1%. Read about [the Texan who is leading efforts to cap methane from abandoned wells](#); the [Peruvian indigenous campaigner who won protection](#) for – and the right of her tribe to protect – the Marañón River, and the [Mongabay journalists who reached an estimated 110 million people with key stories](#), some of them leading to significant environmental action by governments. Thanks be to God for action that shows love of God, the earth, and our neighbour.

## Hope (From an [article by Dr David De Steno](#))

*"Hope is a way to be. It's a norm or, as Aquinas put it, a habitual movement toward the good. Hope compels you to pursue goals with urgency but without the fear that if your hopes aren't realized, you've failed... It is to resist the darkness daily, whatever may come."*

## Praying a prayer of commitment

The prayer below is the traditional prayer of yielding to God from the Methodist Covenant service. If it does not express your thoughts, please pray whatever prayer of commitment you feel best represents you.

*I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.*

## January's opportunities

We pray that

- [Plough Sunday](#), where it is observed, will enable people to give thanks and pray for all who till the soil and produce food and will strengthen care for creation in these areas.
- Veganuary will encourage people to explore vegan options and reduce the carbon footprint of their diets.
- The [Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity](#) (18 to 25 Jan) will increase Christians' willingness to work together.
- The [International Day of Clean Energy](#) (26 Jan) will provide an opportunity for Christians in all contexts to pray and advocate for a just transition and increased climate finance.

## 2026's opportunities and challenges

We expect 2026 to be [another of the world's hottest years](#), highlighting the need for greater emissions reductions and climate resilience. Pray for all who are pioneering solutions, including the countries which, in April, will be [meeting to take forward the Belem Declaration on the Transition away from Fossil Fuels](#).

Looking at the world's three largest emitters, China's next 5-Year Plan, to be published in March, is critical. [Pray that officials prepare a plan](#) that is committed to transparency, justice and peace, and that helps China meet its climate targets and limits coal-power and chemical-industry growth. The federal government in the US continues to dismantle [key climate science institutions](#), as well as [clean energy plans and environmental protections](#); pray for a change of heart. Pray, too, for effective state and local climate action. In the EU and UK, [countries have recognised that they are too dependent on others for their clean energy materials and equipment](#); pray for wisdom and the political will to invest well in home-grown clean technology and a just transition. Across all these countries, and many others, pray for wisdom about how to manage AI and its resource requirements.

Finally, pray that this may be the year when the billions worldwide who profess faith in Christ allow God to lead us in creation care, working in us for the glory of God's name and the good of the earth.

## Communities of love and action

*"And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken."* (Ecclesiastes 4:12) Turbulent times are best faced together. This community of people praying on climate issues is always an encouragement. This year, can you increase the options for mutual encouragement and build up your church community? You might invite others to pray with us at [Pray and Fast](#) and/or [Climate Intercessors](#). Or you could join and encourage others to engage with international networks like [A Rocha](#), the [Laudato Si' Movement](#) or the [Anglican Communion Environmental Network](#) or national organisations such as [Green Christian](#) (UK), [Green the Church](#) (US), the [Evangelical Environmental Network](#) (US), or [Green Anglicans](#) (SA). Pray for these organisations and the people they work with – and for God to show you next steps for you and your church's journey.

## Closing prayer (adapted from the Covenant Service)

*Lord our God, you have helped us by your grace to make these prayers, and you have promised through Christ our Lord that when two or three agree in his name you will grant what they ask. Answer now your servants' prayers and grant that all people and all creation may reflect your glory.*

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