



Prayer points – July 2026

Creator God, Abundant Life your Mark

All verses throughout these prayer points come from a hymn written by Mrs Pat Bennett, which can be found on the [Green Christian website](#).

*Creator God, abundant life your mark,
You once poured speech into the formless dark
And from those words sprang forth a living spark
Your inspiration – Awoke creation*

*Throughout this world, in which we live and move,
All that we sense below, around, above
Displays the imprint of your longing love
Its revelation – Throughout creation.*

As we begin our time of prayer, we give thanks for the abundance of creation and the many ways in which the created world speaks to us of God's love and power. Look around you or close your eyes and recall scenes of past wanderings: what makes your heart sing with praise?

All creation groaning ...

But yet the earth is fractured, frayed and torn,/Poisoned, polluted, ravaged, scarred and worn/ Its treasures plundered and its beauties scorned/ Our transformation – Of God's creation.

As we pray, there is no escaping the evidence of human impacts on the climate. The recent [European heatwave](#) has obliterated temperature records across the continent and is estimated to have [caused over 1,000 deaths in France alone](#). [Intense heat is forecast for early July in the Eastern United States, and wildfires are devouring scorched land in the country's West](#). [Parts of Mexico](#) and [Costa Rica](#) have had their hottest June nights in history. North Africa and Asia have also suffered: from [Morocco to Indonesia to Tajikistan to Japan to the Philippines](#) June night records fell. In the Arctic, records were apparently exceeded by an unprecedented 9.2 degrees Celsius.

How much of this is climate change? World Weather Attribution scientists did a [rapid attribution study](#) on the European heatwave. Their conclusion? Such intense heat would have been virtually impossible in June 50 years ago: an equivalent heatwave then would have had daytime temperatures 3.5 degrees cooler, and nighttime temperatures 2.4 degrees cooler.

As heat extremes place stress on people and on the plants and animals that live around us, we lament the destruction we are causing. We pray for all people affected by the extreme heat, especially those whose economic status, work, age, or health make them particularly vulnerable. And as scientists [forecast even worse heatwaves in future](#), we pray for wisdom for all with power to make "choices that keep us safer"

Joining the dots ...

Amidst the heat, people who want to see climate action have been frustrated by media reporting of the situation and the failure to join the dots between heat, climate change, and net zero policies. In a letter to the press, [a coalition of UK scientists wrote](#): "News stories about heatwaves often do not mention the influence of climate change or the burning of fossil fuels on increased temperatures – for example, three in five stories during the May heatwave did not– while two-fifths of those about net zero make no mention of climate change. In this context, it is unsurprising that the public often do not understand these issues or the connection between them ... While it is right to debate policy and implementation, coverage increasingly overlooks the fundamental "why". Net zero is not an arbitrary slogan, but a boundary dictated by the laws of physics."

We pray that media in the UK and worldwide may report on climate science and policy accurately and well. We pray that people of good will can effectively challenge misinformation. We give thanks for the [thousands of people who have come together to restore access to key climate data](#) – and for climate communicators such as [Katharine Hayhoe](#), Ed Hawkins ([climate stripes](#)), and [Bill McKibben](#). And we pray for increasing awareness of climate science, climate impacts, and ways to reduce emissions – a vital foundation of public [support for just climate action](#).

A possible tipping point

While we think about climate change in terms of increased heat, that is not the only possible outcome for the UK and northern Europe. In June, [Professor Stephen Rahmstorf gave a talk on the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation](#) (AMOC), the oceanic 'conveyor belt' that brings heat from the equator to the poles ... and that gives the UK its current temperate climate. The gist of his talk? He felt that the possibility that this circulation would 'shut down' had gone from high impact, low probability to likely and maybe even very likely: only a Paris compliant scenario would keep the Atlantic from reaching the tipping point. Moreover, the initial stages - a subpolar gyre flexing, causing abrupt cooling - could start to affect the UK as early as the late 2030s or 2040s. Lord, the consequences of the AMOC shutting down would be catastrophic for many parts of the world. We pray that governments, businesses and individuals will take the rapid action necessary to avert this, and other, tipping points.

Praying about obstacles to progress ...

From blight and guilt, we cannot walk away/ Our will and actions shape the world today/ And ours the greed, insisting on its way,/ Whose depredations – Despoil creation.

The current US government continues to roll back climate protections and [is actually paying firms \\$2.5 billion not to continue renewable projects](#), while its Energy Secretary [refers to climate change as a 'slow moving phenomenon' and urges the UK to embrace fossil fuels. India, Saudi Arabia, and other countries have also been accused](#) of promoting fossil-fuel companies' messaging and undercutting climate science. And journalists [revealed](#) that an often-cited study that promoted fossil-fuel use as part of the transition was funded, and partly framed, by BP.

Meanwhile at the Bonn climate talks, [progress was slower than hoped](#). While the UNFCCC head [noted](#) some movement on areas such as the just transition mechanism and the just transition work programme, he also commented on "*side-stepping and stalling*", warned against countries' and negotiating groups' backsliding on existing finance, mitigation and adaptation commitments, and condemned "*a familiar tendency towards you-first-ism [in which] Groups refus[e] to deliver commitments or allow the process to move forward unless others go first.*" Lord, where self-interest stands in the way of common good, please grant a conversion of hearts and minds, inspire leaders to show a different path, and create a way that overcomes these obstacles.

Hope for Cooperative Progress

Come Holy Spirit, challenge mind and heart!/ Inspire our living so that we will start/ To make those choices which may yet impart/ Love's liberation – To your creation.

We rejoice where parties, countries and blocs are coming together to create larger-scale change. The UK Parliament [approved its seventh carbon budget, with a legally binding target of cutting emission by 87% in the period 2038-2042](#). The [EU is accelerating its energy transition](#). [Turkey, Australia, the EU and UK are among countries](#) promoting a pledge for 35% of final use energy to be electric by 2035:, which would require a doubling of investment in renewables. The EU and UK [have joined to form a global platform to help coordinate global progress](#).

The launch this month of the [report on the 1st International Conference on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels](#) showed how participants have moved from debates about *whether* to decarbonise to productive conversations about "[how to advance a just, orderly, and equitable transition](#)." The report elaborates the conference's ten-point vision, which reaffirms that moving from fossil fuels is both necessary and feasible; emphasises the need for better global cooperation, governance, and coordinated planning; and addresses head on the constraints different countries face. The report also sets out the next steps for the process – steps deliberately designed to provide continuity despite political changes in coalition members, such as Colombia's [electing a new president who is an advocate for fossil fuels](#). The next conference will be chaired by Tuvalu and Ireland.

We give thanks for all signs of hope, and pray that countries may implement their commitments effectively.

A pledge taken in faith and hope

Finally, we know that God loves us and loves all creation, offers us guidance and strength to choose life, and is the source of ultimate hope. And so, in faith: *We pledge to touch all things with holy care/ Until your coming Kingdom ends despair/ Then all the world will witness and will share/ The jubilation – Of healed creation.*