



Prayer points – October 2026

Call to prayer (Marie Birkinshaw/A Rocha, [Just Food](#), alt)

We come to pray remembering God's care and provision.

We come to pray recognising that we have made poor choices in our use of God's abundance.

We come to pray realising that God can change us and bring us into a right relationship with him and the whole creation. We come to pray to love and to serve our God.

Limiting overshoot

Last month, the United Nations Environment Programme released '[Limiting overshoot](#)'. The report acknowledges that earth is likely to exceed the threshold of 1.5 degrees of warming "*in the next few years*" and offers a pathway to bring temperatures back down while adapting to "*intensifying climate impacts*." The authors are clear about the scientific, political, and economic challenges ahead in both mitigation and [adaptation](#). [But countering those who say ever-rising temperatures are now inevitable, they emphasise that](#) "*Every fraction of a degree avoided and every year by which overshoot is shortened will save lives, protect ecosystems and reduce economic losses*." "*We must,*" they say, "*hold fast to global commitments under the Paris Agreement, try to return to below 1.5°C by the end of the century and adapt...*"

The report calls for three phases of action. The first two run in parallel: urgent measures to protect the most vulnerable and deep emissions cuts to slow warming, alongside longer-term work on climate resilience and work towards net zero. After net zero is achieved, the report proposes "*a long-term resilience phase... combin[ing] sustained net-negative CO₂ emissions and further methane reductions with continued adaptation and broader efforts to strengthen sustainability and societal resilience*."

Lord, we repent of the sin that has led us to this point. We give thanks for this report's honesty. And we pray that there may be a genuine turning – in attitudes, in emissions, and in willingness to cooperate for the common good – that leads to an equally genuine turning around of trends in global heating.

El Nino and its impacts

Early in its cycle, the current El Nino [has set new sea-surface temperatures](#) in the tropical Pacific, confirming it as likely the strongest El Nino on record. Consequences are already visible: Indonesia's [drought is exacerbating wildfires](#); unusual numbers of tropical storms are dumping rains on countries such as [Japan](#), [Hawaii](#), and [China](#); California [has declared a state of emergency](#) in response to [current and forecast sea rises and storms](#); and Indian and [Caribbean](#) farmers are praying for rain. Southern Africa is bracing for drought, [East Africa for floods](#), and [countries across the world for deaths caused by heat](#) ([Germany alone had over 16,000 this summer](#)). Lord, we know that behind each number is a person – somebody's child, a child of God – affected by rising heat. We pray for each person suffering. We pray for wisdom and resources as people seek to adapt – and especially for those who, like the [Kenyan Human Rights Commission](#), work to guarantee human rights and justice in adaptation.

Preparing to avert hunger

As northern countries celebrate harvest and southern ones look to seedtime, there is grave concern that El Nino-related floods and droughts will join with conflict, lack of capital, and other factors to deprive [millions of people of access to sufficient food](#). But in areas that are particularly at risk, the [World Food Programme](#), governments, [charities](#), and businesses are already working hard to avoid the worst impacts through '[anticipatory action](#)': establishing early-warning systems, making cash payments to help farmers protect animals and crops, and providing means of storing food for difficult times.

The El Nino shortages, however, are not restricted to particular countries. As [UK Foreign Secretary Ed Milliband pointed out at the UN General Assembly](#), El Nino shortages pose a risk for people in all countries, even those which historically have not done a lot of preparation and could learn from countries, [especially in Africa](#), which have.

We give thanks for the preparations that are already in place and pray that they are effective. We pray for additional funding to help the most vulnerable communities adapt. We pray that all countries will take El Nino's food security risks seriously and help their citizens to prepare adequately.

UN General Assembly

Major differences around climate action were [evident in talks at the UN General Assembly](#), but outgoing UN Secretary General António Guterres' speech set out key points clearly and powerfully. Guterres [framed the increased divisions around the environment, poverty, conflict, and AI as a crisis of power](#), which current systems of global governance are ill-equipped to manage. On climate, he condemned *"One generation consuming the future of the next. One group profiting, while those least responsible suffer first and worst"* and contrasted profits of *'nearly half a trillion dollars'* made by 5 major Western oil companies since March 2022 with relatively paltry sums spent on public adaptation finance. He pointed, however, to the rise of clean energy as *"one of the most promising shifts in power of our time."* *"The sun belongs to no one,"* he said. *"The wind cannot be embargoed. Innovation can come from everywhere. This is a profound rebalancing of power relations."* Guterres called *"on every government to adopt a national plan to transition away from fossil fuels aligned with 1.5 degrees."*

During the General Assembly, Germany [pledged to transition to exit fossil fuels by 2045](#). The General Assembly [also adopted a key declaration on sea-level rise](#), which among other things confirms the continued statehood – with all its rights – of States that lose their territory to the sea. We give thanks for the agreement on sea-level rise and for António Guterres' leadership. As the [selection process for a new Secretary General continues](#), we pray that [his successor is committed to climate action and justice](#).

Loss and damage for Nepal ... and others

During the General Assembly, Nepal's Prime Minister [called afresh for loss and damage payments](#) to help his country cope with the devastating consequences of the glacial collapse and floods suffered in August. Nepal's initial claim has been \$20 million, the [maximum countries are permitted to request for a single project](#) – but [a tiny \(0.03%\) fraction of the total needed for relief, recovery, and reconstruction](#). The lack of rapid response at a time where needs are urgent has led to [renewed criticism of the low-level of funding and the management of the fund](#). We pray for more funding and for the Fund to be more responsive to the needs of climate-affected countries.

Switching makes sense ...

Renewable energy has become *"offensively cheap"*: solar power costs have tumbled from \$5 to \$6 per watt of generation capacity to 12 cents per watt, and increases in efficiency of panels and storage are transforming what is possible. In Pakistan, [one report suggests](#) that widespread use of solar panels has saved the country \$12 billion in fuel imports; [Carbon Brief estimates](#) that wind and solar have allowed the UK to avoid £5.9 billion of gas imports during the Strait of Hormuz crisis alone. Still needed? Among other things, investment to enable manufacturing in a range of countries, reductions in energy demand, and updated grid capacity – which is [why the UK's new Prime Minister has pledged increased public investment in the grid](#). We give thanks that renewables are helping to reduce emissions and costs of living and pray for global, sustainable manufacture of renewables, increased efficiency in energy usage, and updated grid systems.

Our part in fair (and unfair) finance (from BRF's [Ethical Finance with Sarah Edwards](#))

"The consequences of ... brokenness in our relationship to money are visible all around us ... Our natural world... bears the scars of our economic model of taking more and more: nature depletion, deforestation, and climate crisis. We are directly connected to the wider financial system and its harms in many ways. Many of our high street banks lend to and invest in companies involved in nuclear weapons, fossil fuels, gambling, and tax avoidance. Trillions of pounds are invested through our pension funds in fossil fuel expansion, deforestation, and other harmful activities What might God be saying to you about your attitude towards money and how it shapes your relationship with others and the world God has made?" Lord, help us to invest more wisely for a world we want to see.

Praying for all creation

As we close, we remember in prayer the [UN biodiversity summit taking place this month](#). As delegates meet, we pray that they will take measures to protect habitats and species. May we gain hope from a [prayer attributed to Black Elk](#): *"Here I stand, and the tree is withered. Again, I recall the great vision you gave me. It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives. Nourish it then that it may leaf and bloom and fill with singing birds!"*

www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk