Prayer points – November 2026

This year, the 1st of November, All Saints Day, is a Sunday – and in many churches, people will read the Beatitudes as the Gospel. As we pray today for the climate, we take the Beatitudes as our guide.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Poverty of spirit, commentators through the ages have agreed, is a willingness to recognise that we are dependent creatures, empty of our own virtue or power and wholly dependent on God. It is the first of the virtues mentioned in the Beatitudes because it is the precondition for openness to God, on which all other virtues rest. If we are full of ourselves, we leave no space for God's will and God's word.
So much of the harm we as humans do to Creation stems from a lack of this poverty of spirit. We make ourselves centres of the universe for whom the rest of Creation is an object to be used, instead of humbly joining with the rest of Creation in listening to and praising God. Lord, we ask forgiveness for our pride, individually and collectively. Help us to reach that place where we empty ourselves and are freed to live in blessed harmony with Your creation and Your will.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

As this year's El Nino gathers force, we hear from brothers and sisters around the world who are mourning loss of lives, homes and livelihoods. We pray for all of them. We remember, in this time of All Saints and All Souls, everyone who mourns friends, relations, or colleagues who were among the hundreds of thousands of people whose deaths have already been caused or will be caused by excessive heat or other climate impacts. We pray for fishers in Peru where key fish stocks have collapsed; for people and nature in Indonesia, where drought-fed wildfires have created a toxic haze; for farmers in India suffering because of low monsoon rains, for people in the Pacific battered by powerful storms.
We pray for scientists, struggling with anxiety, guilt, and frustration as they see the world they study and love changing, and societies failing to respond adequately to their warnings. We remember especially those dealing with delays in deciding the timing of the next major IPCC climate report. We pray for young people who wrestle with climate anxiety and grief. May all who mourn know Your comfort, O Lord.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Meekness in the Bible is used of both Moses and Jesus – it is not a quality of weakness or uncertainty, but of 'strength under control,' a quality found in leaders who seek after and follow God in poverty of spirit. This month, there are elections in several countries, including the United States, New Zealand, Spain, and Cabo Verde. We pray that voters will recognise the worth of and elect leaders who exhibit meekness. We pray, too, for newly elected officials, including President Lula and the new Congress in Brazil, the new government in Serbia, and the newly elected members of the Knesset in Israel. And we pray for leaders already in post. May all who hold positions of authority be led, by God's grace, to govern with meekness. We pray especially that this will be in evidence when heads of state and country representatives speak at the forthcoming UN climate conference. May leaders articulate there a willingness to seek the common good together, so as to enable breakthroughs on difficult issues.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

The call to hunger and thirst for righteousness is a call for each person and society to seek the right relationships which manifest the reality of God's rule. We pray for all people who quietly work in their communities to build right relationships with God, other people, and the whole created order, remembering especially church creation care groups; members of local accountability, development, or sustainability groups; and people organising local climate-related events, such as showings of the People's Emergency Briefing. We pray for the leadership and members of A Rocha, the Laudato Si' Movement, the Lausanne/WEA Creation Care network, and other international Christian coalitions, and for local and national Christian charities and organisations focused on creation care and environmental justice. We pray especially for Christians delegates to the climate summit in Turkiye. May God give them wisdom in their roles and help them to promote all that builds right relationship. And we pray for all people of good will who are seeking environmental and climate justice. Help them to help others see that questions around climate finance, a just transition, rights of indigenous peoples, and other areas under negotiation at the COP are opportunities to restore broken trust and to create a world where all can be fulfilled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Commentators on this verse have a variety of interpretations of mercy. For some it is equivalent to forgiveness, for others treating people *"better than they deserve*," for others a form of active compassion which helps people in need, whether or not they have a claim on us. In developed-country narratives, funding for adaptation and nature conservation; funding for loss and damage; and sharing of benefits from genetic resources, their digital sequencing (DSI), and traditional knowledge associated with them are often framed as acts of generosity where wealthier countries and companies determine the scope and scale of contributions based on their feelings about how much compassion they can afford to 'give'. Even with this framing, the scale of contributions to the funds for these areas shows a distinct lack of mercy: funding for adaptation and nature conservation is running well below what was agreed; the loss and damage fund has only $350 million available to disburse at a time where countries are affected by multi-billion dollar disasters; and as of August this year, the voluntary contributions to the Cali Fund (for sharing benefits of genetic resources) stood at $6,000.

But we know that a climate and environmental justice narrative flips that framing, much as John Chrysostom once challenged the perceptions of wealthy Byzantines by saying: "*Not to share your own wealth with the poor is theft from the poor and deprivation of their means of life; we do not possess our own wealth, but theirs*." Help all people and nations, Lord, to recognise that it is those of us who have benefited from resource usage at the expense of others who need to seek forgiveness and mercy. And may such an understanding inspire political will for increased sharing, even if it comes at the cost of some domestic priorities.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Does anyone else find it hard *not* to be distracted? 24-hour news feeds, social media posts, entertainment on demand, advertising that bombards us with suggestions of new purchases to make … we are surrounded by noise. Amidst its clamour, it can be hard to focus on God and God's call to us. And if that is true for ordinary people, imagine how much more true it must be for political and business leaders, constantly buffeted by media stories focused on their activities, the latest polls, investor demands, and the latest social or economic crises.

Lord, we ask that each person you have created may be able to find a still place within themselves to focus on you. We lift up local and national politicians and business leaders, and especially those who will be negotiating at the forthcoming COP talks – which can be a maelstrom of events, meetings, and discussions with stakeholders 'at home'. Give them spaces that are hedged around with peace, where they can listen and be guided by you.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

We've probably all read books or seen talks by Katharine Hayhoe – she's one of the best known climate communicators in the world. The key to her success? She combines rigorous intellectual honesty, a willingness to meet people on their own terms, and a commitment to search for shared values and humanity as a basis for action. She is a genuine Christian peacemaker, not someone who superficially smooths over rifts, but someone who brings together people who might never have thought they could work with each other. Reverend Joe Albright, describing her work, shares that her favourite verse in the Bible is "*For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of love and power…*"

God's love and power underlie the work of all Christian peacemakers. We thank God for them and pray that God will raise up more and more people filled with this spirit, who can both name issues and mend divisions.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The 29th of November is International Women Human Rights Defenders Day. Women Human Rights Defenders may be women who defend any form of human rights – including women environmental defenders, who "*in their personal or professional capacity and in a peaceful manner, strive to protect and promote human rights relating to the environment, including water, air, land, flora and fauna*."

Because protecting land and water often involves countering powerful economic interests, environmental defenders are often under threat. Women environmental defenders are often particularly targeted, facing digital and physical harassment and violence, sexual assault, and even murder.

Lord, we thank you for the courage of men and women who work to preserve your beautiful creation even at the risk of their own safety. We ask for protection for them – and for success for their endeavours.