



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Environment Programme

Creation Care Prayers

This document contains a selection of prayers in the following sections:

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Praise

Creator God

In bright light and dull darkness

In the energy of each day and the rest that comes with night

We remember the goodness of God

In the heavens high above our heads

In waters that run deep around the world

We remember the goodness of God

In solid land and flowing seas

In vivid flowers and fruit laden-trees

We remember the goodness of God

In the rising and setting of the sun

and the cycles of the seasons

In the patterns of the shining stars

We remember the goodness of God

In oceans teeming with fish

In skies filled with birds

We remember the goodness of God

In a world filled with animal life

And in ourselves as human beings

We remember the goodness of God

And God looked and saw all that he had made, and indeed it was very,

very good.

In rest and reflection, in wonder and worship

We remember the goodness of God.

Amen

The world around us is full of beauty

All **We praise your name O God.**

For the gift of life on earth

All **We praise your name O God.**

Open our eyes to see your artistry

All **Your image in all that you have made.**

Where our praise is short or silent

All **All creation sings out with joy.**

Here we join creation's song

All **We praise your name O God**

Canticle of the Creatures *St. Francis of Assisi*

All praise be yours, My Lord, through all that you have made.

And first my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day....

How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendour!

Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars;

In the heavens you have made them, bright and precious and fair.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air....

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water, so useful, lowly, precious and pure.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten up the night....

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our mother,

Who feeds us...and produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs....

Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks,

And serve him with great humility.

Benedicite English (Common Worship):

Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord:

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you heavens:

sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord:

bless the Lord all you his hosts;
bless the Lord you waters above the heavens:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord sun and moon:
bless the Lord you stars of heaven;
bless the Lord all rain and dew:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord all winds that blow:
bless the Lord you fire and heat;
bless the Lord scorching wind and bitter cold:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord dews and falling snows:
bless the Lord you nights and days;
bless the Lord light and darkness:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord frost and cold:
bless the Lord you ice and snow;
bless the Lord lightnings and clouds:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
O let the earth bless the Lord:
bless the Lord you mountains and hills;
bless the Lord all that grows in the ground:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord you springs:
bless the Lord you seas and rivers;
bless the Lord you whales and all that swim in the waters:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord all birds of the air:
bless the Lord you beasts and cattle;
bless the Lord all people on earth:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
O people of God bless the Lord:
bless the Lord you priests of the Lord;
bless the Lord you servants of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit:
bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.

Urban Benedicite (cf Dn 3:57-88)

O let our city bless God,
'To You be glory and praise forever,'
O let our city bless God,
'To You be glory and praise forever.'

O bricks and mortar, bless God,
O concrete and glass, bless God.
O underground pipes and wires, bless God,
O tarmac and paving stones, bless God,
'To You be glory and praise forever.'

O dandelions and daisies, bless God,
O cherry trees and geraniums, bless God.
O pigeons and seagulls, bless God,
O cats and dogs, bless God,
'To You be glory and praise forever.'

O homes and gardens, bless God,
O shops and offices, bless God,
O hospitals and police stations, bless God,
O factories and depots, bless God,
'To You be glory and praise forever.'

O bikes and buses, bless God,
O cars and vans, bless God,
O lorries and trams, bless God,
O shopping trollies and pushchairs, bless God,
'To You be glory and praise forever.'

O work of our hands, bless God,
'To You be glory and praise forever.'
O work of our minds, bless God,
'To You be glory and praise forever.'

O families and loners, bless God,
O babies to oldies, bless God,
O street cleaners and traffic wardens, bless God,
O property developers and planners, bless God,
'To You be glory and praise forever.'

O Daniel, Aisha and Harriet, bless God,
O Uncle Kah Wan and all, bless God,
'To You be glory and praise forever.'

May you be blessed, O God, in Your city,
'To You be glory and praise forever.'
May You be blessed, O God, in Your city,
'To You be glory and praise forever.'

I. Opening responses

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.
Your word brings on the dusk of evening.

Your wisdom creates both night and day.
You determine the cycles of time.

You arrange the succession of seasons
and establish the stars in their heavenly courses.
The Lord of hosts is your name.

Living and eternal God, rule over us always.
Blessed be the Lord, whose word makes evening fall.

Creator of the cosmos,
of eternity and time:
Be with us in *this* time

Saviour of the world,
healer of the nations:
Be with us in this place

Breath of all that lives,
of people near and far
Stir within our lives

Maker-Spirit-Son
God of here and now:
**Be present in our worship,
that we may find new ways
to be present in your world.**

Iona Abbey Worship Book ISBN 1-901557-50-2

Thanksgiving and Call to Worship

Leader: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
Creator God, you formed our universe from a shapeless void;
You fashioned the planets and forged the stars;

You established the seasons and determined life's rightful order:

All: Creator God, we worship you!

Leader: Word of Life, you spoke over your creation and made it live;

You painted nature into beautiful colour;

You stirred seas and rivers to song;

You called forth creatures of every shape and size:

All: Word of Life, we respond to you!

Leader: Spirit of Life, you gathered the dust of the earth and made a man and a woman;

You breathed life into them, that they might know you;

You filled your earth with tribes and nations;

You entrusted your precious world to us your family:

All: Spirit of Life, we receive you!

Leader: "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

All: Almighty God, today we celebrate the good gift of your creation;

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, today we rejoice in the gift of relationship with you.

Amen.

(Inspired by Genesis 1; quotes from verses 1:1 & 31, NIV)

Lyndall Bywater

Call to Worship

Leader In the beginning
 before time, before people,
 before the world began,

All **God was.**

Leader Here and now,
 among us, beside us,
 enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven,

All **God is.**

Leader In the future,
 when we have turned to dust
 and all we know has found its fulfilment,

All **God will be.**

Leader Not denying the world but delighting in it,
not understanding the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
All **God was, God is, God will be.**

Call to Worship

Leader Sisters and brothers, rejoice.
We are sustained and nourished by God's presence and love.
All **Thanks be to God.**
As we mourn the distress and wounds of God's creation,
God weeps with us.
As we face rising waters, hunger and displacement.
God suffers with us.
As we struggle for justice,
God struggles with us.
As we expose and challenge climate justice
God empowers us.
As we strive to build alternative communities,
God works with us.
As we offer our gifts to all,
God blesses us.
Sisters and brothers, rejoice,
Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.

Thanksgiving and Call to Worship

(Inspired by Genesis 1; quotes from verses 1:1 & 31, NIV)

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Leader: “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”

All: Almighty God, today we celebrate the good gift of your creation;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, today we rejoice in the gift of relationship with you. Amen.

2. Collects

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for your gracious providing
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect for Environment Sunday

Living God, you call us to be good stewards of this earthly home, strengthen us to care for your creation; forgive us when, through our greed and indifference we abuse its beauty and damage its potential. Empower us, through your Spirit to so nurture and love the world, that all creation sings to your glory.
Amen

God of Creation and Lord of Life

God of creation and Lord of life, you entrusted us to care for our environment, but in many parts of the world we have failed. Help us to realise how fragile and unstable our surroundings are, because we are not looking after creation. We need to be true stewards and to understand how the most insignificant little flowers, and the tiniest insects, each creature and individual people are all part of a wondrous whole.
Amen

Margaret Pickford

2018 Women's World Day of Prayer

Tearfund "Hope for Creation" prayer

Lord, make us people who recognise, nurture and act towards a more sustainable world for the benefit of all who draw life from this planet. Raise up campaigners who will speak out for wisdom, restraint and compassion. And teach us to partner you in protecting this precious world and the lives of our most vulnerable global neighbours. Amen

3. Laments

Bless our Lament

Creator God,

Bless the tear we shed for the resources we have squandered.

Bless the sigh we breathe out for the atmosphere.

Bless the head we hang for the creatures lost and exploited.

Bless the hands we wring for the things we have broken and wasted.

Bless us as we lament.

Cradle us as we regret.

Restore us as we start afresh. Amen

John Polhill

GOD has entrusted to us the stewardship of creation,
the pursuit of truth and justice,
and the task of building communities of reconciliation and worth.
Often we fail.

Silence for reflection.

Poem of Lament

"It's 3:23 in the morning
and I'm awake
because my great great grandchildren
won't let me sleep.
my great great grandchildren
ask me in dreams
what did you do while the Planet was plundered?
what did you do when the Earth was unravelling?
surely you did something
when the seasons started failing?"

as the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying?
did you fill the streets with protest
when democracy was stolen?
what did you do
once
you
knew?..."

Excerpt from "Hieroglyphic Stairway" by Drew Dillinger

4. Confessions

For our unwillingness to feel the suffering of others,
and our readiness to live comfortably with injustice.

Forgive us, O God.

For our self-righteousness that denies guilt,
and our self-interest that strangles compassion.

Forgive us, O God.

For our abuse of this planet
and our exploitation of its resources.

Forgive us, O God.

For our failings in community
and our reticence to become involved.

Forgive us, O God.

For the times we were too eager to be better than others,
when we were too rushed to care,
when we were too tired to bother,
when we were too preoccupied to listen,
when we were too quick to act out of motives other than love.

Forgive us, O God.

May God forgive us, Christ renew us,
and the Spirit enable us to grow in love. **Amen.**

Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness.

God Laid the Earth's Foundations

When we consider the awesome works of God, we know we have sinned.

How can a mortal be righteous before you, O God?
You laid the earth's foundations;
You fixed the limits for the sea;
You give orders to the morning;
You tip over the water jars of the heavens;
You hunt prey for the lioness;
You know where the mountain goat gives birth;
The eagle takes flight by your wisdom.
You can do all things:
No plan of yours can be thwarted.
We have spoken of things we do not understand:
Therefore we repent in dust and ashes.
'Fear not,' says the Lord, 'for I have redeemed you:
I have summoned you by name: you are mine.'
Eleanor Harris

**Creator God, you reveal yourself to us as
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so as we gather
in this place, come amongst us.
Help us to discern your Spirit in the world
around us. Let us find joy in the world that
you created. Help us to worship you with
all our being, and to hear and receive your
word and your gifts.
As we think about our local community and
the glory of the natural world may we
respond to you in love for our neighbours
and for your creation, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.
Amen.**

Father God, you formed us from the dust of
the earth and placed us in a garden. Remind
us of our place as your creatures at home in
your creation. Forgive us when we forget our
connection to the earth, and our dependence
upon the goodness of your world. Lord have
mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Our Saviour Christ, you were born into this
world, and made your earthly home in
Nazareth. Help us to know and love the
people and places where you have set us.
Forgive us when we fail to care for our
homes, our communities, and your

creation. Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Spirit of God, you desire to grow in us your fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and selfcontrol.

Forgive us when our roots are so shallow, and our hearts so restless, that our lives fail to bear fruit. Enable us to find our home in you, and in the places to which you call us. Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

May the God of all grace forgive us our sins, settle us in a place of belonging, and enable us to bear fruit for His Kingdom; in the name of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Prayers for Forgiveness for Climate Sin

One voice Climate Change is prompted by our sinfulness:

- our greed, gluttony and lust for more
- our pride and arrogance
- our anger, envy and vanity
- our dishonesty and maliciousness
- our indifference and laziness

All *Creator God, forgive*

One Voice Climate Change is fed by our failure to accept limits:

- of the Earth's capacity
- to consumerism and excessive materialism
- to an economy that demands insatiability
- to our crude desires
- to our human aspirations

All *Saviour God – forgive*

One Voice Climate Change is enhanced by our falling short of our deeper potential:

- to respect all life
- to live compassionately
- to think beyond the short-term
- to seek peace through justice
- to express solidarity with the vulnerable

All *Inspiring God – forgive*

One Voice Climate Change is addressed when we actively work to change our economic lifestyles:

- campaigning for fairness and equality
- putting community before self
- sharing resources and cooperating together
- acting to regenerate the Earth
- recognising the deep holiness of life itself

All *Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer God: In the face of Climate Change forgive us our wrongdoings; challenge our apathy; strengthen our resolve; inspire us with hope; and enthuse us with love to make a world of difference now and for ever. Amen.*

[Martyn Goss, May 2016]

Confession www.operationnoah.org/day_of_prayer

When we are unkind to people,
and forget they are God's children,
When we are careless with the beasts,
and forget they are God's creation,
When we ill-treat the land,
and forget the splendour of God,
Forgive us, O God of love,
and reconcile us to yourself,
to one another and to the Creation.
Teach us that the earth and all its fullness is yours,
the world and all who dwell in it.
Remind us that your Son too enjoyed the fruits of the harvest in Galilee and joins
us now as we celebrate your good gifts together.
Call us again to safeguard the gift of life, now and forever. Amen

Forgive us Lord for our thoughtless wasting
For heat blasting in open doorways
for lights burning in empty rooms
for homes basking in T-shirt warmth
forgive our thoughtless wasting.
For leaving windows draughty,

for lagging left undone,
for lofts un-insulated
forgive our thoughtless wasting.
For cars that guzzle petrol
for driving little journeys
for cheaper fares on planes
forgive our thoughtless wasting.
God grant us clear thinking, right action, and a gentle life-style.

Anon

All O God, gladly we live and move and have our being in you
Yet always in the midst of this creation glory,
We see sin's shadow and feel death's darkness:
Around us in the earth, sea and sky, the abuse of matter;
Beside us in the broken, the hungry and the poor,
The betrayal of one another;
And often, deep within us, a striving against your Spirit.
O Trinity of love, Forgive us that we may forgive one another,
Heal us that we may be people of healing,
And renew us that we also may be makers of peace. Amen

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society,
in the misuse of God's creation.

God our Father, we are sorry
for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly,
and acted ungratefully.
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.
Father, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,
but ignore the cry of the hungry.
Father, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made.
Father, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no
heaven.
Father, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We Confess,

That we have considered the earth to be our own, Believing God gave us dominion and thus absolute control over it.

We affirm,

“..... that the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it: For, he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.” (*Psalm 24. 1-2*)

We repent,

We know we need to change our understanding of creation, taking our share of responsibility for its care and protection.

We believe,

That the spirit, God's recreating power is active in us: and in the world.

Absolution

God creator of all, May humankind be freed from the greed which is destroying the earth: and may your churches be courageous in taking up causes against the forces that threaten life. **Amen**

Rainbow Prayer for Operation Noah

Creator God, how deep are your designs!

You made a living earth, cloud, rain and wind, and charged us with their care.

We confess that the way we live today is changing the climate, the seas and the balance of life, dispossessing the poor and future generations.

Build our lives into an ark for all creation,

and, as you promised Noah never to repeat the Flood,

so make us heralds of a rainbow covenant:

choosing life for all that is at risk –

for creation, for neighbours near and far, our children and ourselves.

Amen.

From Operation Noah launch, Coventry Cathedral, 2004

Leader: God of Justice, you instructed your people to treat your world with respect and care:

All: Lord, we confess that we have often taken your creation for granted; We have taken what we needed, without respecting the balance of nature; we have pursued a lifestyle which our fragile world cannot sustain. God of Grace, forgive us our greed and teach us restraint.

Leader: God of the Poor, you instructed your people to share your natural resources with those in need:

All: Lord, we confess that we have taken much more than our fair share of this beautiful world;
We have allowed our wealth and power to strip the earth bare, leaving nothing for the poor;
We have enjoyed cheap goods and convenient lifestyles, made possible by the exploitation of those in need;
God of Grace, forgive us our blindness and open our eyes.

Leader: God of love, you instructed your people to treat every human being with equal value:

All: Lord, we confess that we have let greed blind us to the needs of other human beings; We have treated your good earth as a commodity, rather than as the home we share; We have let apathy and consumerism blind us to our God-given responsibilities;
God of Grace, forgive us our complacency and stir us to action.

Leader: “with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.”
God of Grace, we thank you for the gift of forgiveness, won for us by your son’s death on the cross;
Through him, we gladly claim our glorious freedom, and look forward to the day when all creation will share it with us. **Amen.**

Lyndall Bywater

(Inspired by Deuteronomy 24:10-21; quote from Romans 8:20-21 NLT)

GRACIOUS GOD

we thank you for inviting us
to share the hospitality of your table
and to enjoy the blessings of a bountiful earth.
Call forth in us the same generosity
as we find in you.
In the power of your Spirit,
raise up in us a hunger for justice,
a commitment to kindness
and a passion for service,

that we may be a blessing in the world,
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

5. Intersessions

Gracious God, your amazing love extends through time and space,
to all parts of your creation, which you created and called good.
Your covenant with the human family is remembered in every rainbow in the sky,
symbolizing your promise of love and blessing to every living creature,
and to all successive generations.
In Jesus, you invite us to enter into a new covenant,
in communion with all who seek to be faithful to you and to do justice.
As people of faith, we are called into covenant.
Your covenant of faithfulness and love extends to the whole creation.
Today we pray for the healing of our planet
that present and future generations may enjoy the fruits of creation,
and continue to glorify and praise you.
Carlos J. Correa Bernie

Spirit of God, You established the dance of Creation;
bring life out of death
bring order out of chaos.
Call us to radical action:
to care for the web of Creation
to share our resources justly
and to work for the renewal of our Mother, Earth.
We light this candle as we commit ourselves to fast and pray for climate justice.

Most Revd Dr Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town

A prayer for leaders and politicians

God, we pray for you to raise up a generation of leaders with the courage to take responsibility for our changing climate, and the part we have played in it. We intercede for our politicians and leaders – cause them to act in the best interests of all nations today, and all peoples' in the future, in order to avoid catastrophic changes. We ask for a generation of leaders who will be willing to act justly so that those who have contributed so little to the problems we are facing, and have fewer resources with which to face it, are not left to shoulder our burden. We ask for you to fill the hearts of all who lead rich nations – give them your mercy and compassion on poor countries already suffering the effects of a changing climate. Just as they have been moved to cancel debt in the past, encourage them also to release funds so that poor communities can adapt to the effects of climate change, and develop cleanly. Creator God,
The Sanctuary Centre

You have called us to be keepers of your Earth; through greed, we have established an economy that destroys the web of life. We have changed our climate and drown in despair. Let oceans of justice flow. May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother, Earth. We pray for our leaders, custodians of Mother Earth; as they gather in Paris at the climate talks. May they negotiate with wisdom and fairness, May they act with compassion and courage, and lead us in the path of justice for the sake of our children and our children's children.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

A bidding and response for use in intercessions:

We can make a difference.

Let us change the direction of the wind.

Gracious God share with us your heart for creation.

That we may cherish all life, working together to heal the damage we have done.

Knowing that in all our struggles you are beside us, to inspire, strengthen and transform us.

Chris Polhill (From "A Heart for Creation")

Show us how to change

Lord, show us how to do things well today,

So that others may not suffer,

Here and there,

Now and in the future.

Show us how to make our contribution

As we change the way we live,

Travel, make and consume,

Distribute and sell,

Use and reuse

Energy and products.

Show us how to do simple things well in our home,

Places of work and daily lives.

Show us how to protect the world you made,

In all it's diversity and goodness,

From our carbon emissions –

Global warming and climate change,

Rising temperatures and sea levels,

The displacement of peoples, environmental poverty,

Harm and destruction.

Show us how and show us why,

So that alone and with others

Our contribution will make a difference.

Amen

Robin Morrison (From "A Heart for Creation" Chris Polhill)

Living God,
from ice melting to polar bears dying,
we are damaging your creation.
Forgive us and free us from fear and denial.
May your Spirit so envision us,
that governments gladly choose
policies for healing and gentle change.
Bless us, so that our lives honour your gift of life.
Amen.
Chris Polhill (From A Heart For Creation)

Renewing God's Earth COURSE PRAYER

Creator God, whose love was poured out in Jesus, give us the strength and the vision to so care for your world and its peoples, that we may be faithful stewards of all your creation, working in the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen

Dear Lord
Thank you for making this amazing world.
Thank you for making it so beautiful.
Thank you for loving every person you've made in the whole world.
Please help us to look after the world.
Please help us to look after each other.
Please stop climate change hurting people and all your creatures.
Please help us not to be greedy, and trust you to give us enough.
Please help us to share what you've given us.
Thank you because today thousands of people around the world are praying these prayers.
Amen
From Tearfund "Hope for Creation "

God of creation, the earth is yours
With all its beauty and goodness
Its richness and overflowing provision

But we have claimed it for our own
Plundered its beauty for profit

Grabbed its resources for ourselves

God of creation forgive us
May we no longer abuse your trust
But care gently and with justice for your earth
Amen

Lord Jesus Christ,
In you will all things in heaven and earth find their completion.
You are beyond all things and in you the whole universe holds together.
All that is finds its fulfilment with you.
To you be all praise and all power.
Help us to be at one with the earth,
so that we know it as home.
Help us to be reconciled to other living creatures,
so that we know them as neighbours.

Help us to be at peace with each other,
so that we may live together in harmony.
Just as you hold the whole world in your hands, hold us too.
Bless us with strength.
Fill us with love.
And inspire us to care for all that is.
In the name of Christ.
Amen.

A prayer to aid reflection: A fast changing tapestry

Creator God, what a complex tapestry your creative fingers have woven;
We delight at the daily reminders of your creative power.
This tapestry is closely interwoven, fragile, changing; changing too fast.
Scientists confirm what our hearts already know – and we are fearful.
We are fearful of seasons that have lost their pattern; of all the uncertainties
that climate change is bringing.
Politicians bend and bow to meet national priorities while greenhouse gases
build, oceans acidify and air streams shift.
Forgive us for our lack of response;
For seeing the scale of this crisis as reason not to engage.
Grant that through our prayers your Holy Spirit may give wisdom, inspiration
and resolve
To our politicians, leaders and negotiators, enabling them to make the tough
decisions necessary for all people to live, to hope and to shape a greener
world.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

Pray and Fast for the Climate

God our Father,

You never cease the work you have begun

and prosper with your blessing all human endeavour.

Help us to be good neighbours to those who share our world today,

and those who will inherit our world in generations to come.

Make us wise and faithful stewards of your creation,

living lightly on the Earth

so that it continues to blossom and flourish now and in the future.

In the name of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Creation the sacred gift of God - A Prayer

Creator God, we see your hand in your creation;

On the earth we see and feel your love and care for us;

Your earth feeds us and clothes us.

Lord forgive our greed and selfish use of your gifts.

May we learn to share the earth, to work it and to care

For every part of it,

So that all who live now and in the future may enjoy its

Care for us.

Amen

Prayer for Faithful Leadership on Climate (from CRC)

Creator God, we declare with joy and trust that our world belongs to you.

For the fierce love with which you hold us and the rest of your creation, we declare

Our world belongs to God.

For creation's awesome beauty and its bountiful provision, we declare

Our world belongs to God.

For the manifold ways that it reveals your glory and draws us closer to you, we declare

Our world belongs to God.

Amidst its present groaning, we declare

Our world, broken and scarred, still belongs to God.

To our leaders, working to seek answers to the climate crisis, we declare

Our world belongs to God.

May our leaders be motivated by compassion, and not by fear. May their goal be justice and equity, not political posturing.

For the sake of the people and the ministries of your Church across the globe already being affected by climate disruption, may we seek consensus over controversy; action over apathy.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, we confess our complicity in creation's degradation, recommit ourselves to our earthkeeping task, and gratefully declare

Our world belongs to God.

As your people, participating now in your ongoing work of renewal and longing for the day

when you will bring that work to completion, we declare

Our world belongs to God.

Our world belongs to you, O God.

Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus.

God's World

God who made the world and loves it
grieves to see the way we've hurt
the good earth and diverse creatures.

Wake our guilt, make us alert
to our part in global warming
floods and drought, polluted seas
starving people, loss of species
dried up farmland, burned up trees.

Wake us, God, to thought and action
spur us, show us how we can
turn the tide and ease the suffering,
live on earth as you have planned.
God who let us split the atom,
speed through space and reach the moon
teach us how to use such powers
peacefully, for everyone.

When the world of good and evil
forces us to make a choice

may we give due weight as you do
to each suffering, pleading voice.
God who speaks, help us to listen,
work and vote, pray and sing,
change our values, live more simply
build a world where love is king.

Averil Stedeford

God Creator of the Universe

God
Creator
Of the Universe
Of the earth and sea
Of the earth's fruits and flowers
Of all humans, habitats and creatures
Help us to value and care for your world
In all its beauty and fragility
In trust for you
Creator
God.
Amen

Helen Mason

2018 Women's World Day of Prayer

Leader: "Everything got started in Christ and finds its purpose in him."
Lord Jesus, Sustainer of Life, you hold creation together by your
powerful word.

All: May we learn to partner you in your work of protecting and preserving
this precious world;
Show us how to live lives which impact our environment in a positive way,
giving back to the planet we have so often plundered.

Leader: "Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together,
whole and holy in his presence."
Lord Jesus our redeemer, you paid the price for our world to be made right
again.

All: May we live responsible lives, worthy of the price you paid for our redemption; In this world of greed and selfishness, we pray that you will overthrow the corrupt systems which prevent the poor from having enough to eat; Raise up campaigners who will speak out for wisdom, restraint and compassion in the distribution of natural resources.

Leader: “All the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death.”
Lord Jesus, Author and Finisher, you will one day restore all of creation to wholeness again.

All: May we never lose hold of the hope that is in you;
We pray for our beloved planet, scarred by conflict and natural disaster: bring healing to its lands and cleansing to its waters; bring justice to its peoples and peace to its nations; bring life for today and hope for the future.
God of all Eternity, ignite in us, your people, the faith to believe that you will one day heal our broken world, and grow in us the perseverance to keep praying and working towards that day when your creation will once again be whole and free.
We ask all these things in and through the matchless name of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Written by Lyndall Bywater
(Inspired by Colossians 1:15-23; quotes from verses 17, 20 & 22, the Message)*

Jesus, you loved the land and fields of flowers; bless farmers, gardeners and all who till and care for the soil.

Lord hear us.

O God we are one in you, and all that we do affects the whole; make us aware of our power to seed the world with good or ill by every thought, word and deed.

Lord hear us.

In taking flesh among us you raised all creation to a new dignity; teach us to have an ever growing reverence for your bountiful creation and a sense of responsibility for its preservation.

Lord hear us.

Creator God, there is a renewed interest in "grow it yourself", allotments and community gardens. May these movements continue to develop and expand.

Lord hear us.

Creator God, you adorn the earth with the beauty of each season; awaken us to your loving care for all that exists as you lift up our hearts with colour and surprise.

Lord hear us.

Christ Jesus, You assured us of God's love for us. May we always respect our bodies and spiritual welfare by the moderate use of the good gifts of our world.

Lord hear us.

Eco congregation Ireland for Creation Tide 2016

6. The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer – for two voices

Our Father, who art in heaven...	You are also at home in the air, the soil, the forests and the oceans,
Hallowed be Your name...	by the care we take of your creation,
Your kingdom come...	all that you see is good,
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...	Your will to till and care,
Give us this day our daily bread...	that all may have sufficient to live life in fullness,
Forgive us our trespasses...	our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations,
As we forgive those who trespass against us...	by reconciliation with justice and peace,
Lead us not into temptation...	the temptation to equate dominion with exploitation,
And deliver us from evil...	the evil of destroying your gift of creation,
For Yours is the Kingdom...	Yours Lord, not ours,
The Power and the Glory...	in the cross and the resurrection,
For ever and ever...	And so be it.
Amen.	

The Lord's Prayer
(An environmental responsive Lord's Prayer)

Leader : Our father who art in heaven

People : You are also at home in the air, soil forests and Oceans

Leader : Hallowed be your name

People : By the care we take of your creation

Leader : Your kingdom come

People : All that you see is good

Leader : Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

People : Your will to till and care

Leader : Give us this day our daily bread

People : That all may have sufficient to live life in fullness.

Leader : Forgive us our trespasses

People : Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations

Leader : As we forgive those who trespass against us

People : By reconciliation with justice and peace

Leader : Lead us not into temptation

People : The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation

Leader : And deliver us from evil

People : The evil of destroying your gift of creation

Leader : For yours is the kingdom

People : Yours, Lord, not ours

Leader : The power and the glory

People : In the cross and resurrection

Leader : For ever and ever

People : You are the beginning and you are the end.

Amen. (So be it)

The Lord's Prayer – for two voices

Loving God, we remember that Jesus taught us to pray saying, "Our Father..."

You created us, you made this world, and you called your creation very good. Yet often we forget that you are our loving Parent who continues to bless your world.

Jesus told us that you are "...in heaven..."

Yet we fail to live in awe of you. We take you for granted, and we don't see the awesome beauty of the world you have made.

We pray, "Hallowed be your name..."

We confess that our reverence for you does not always lead us to care reverently for your earth, sky and sea. The floods in Mexico and Colorado are a result of our lack of reverence for this beautiful planet. The increase in global temperatures by our selfishness has caused climate change. But we thank you Lord for those who are working hard to make sure that we do not forget that we are a worldwide community and that each one of us affects the other when we are careless.

We pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."

We confess that we often put our own interests first-exploiting your creation, and living for our own convenience and self-interest. We pray particularly for the governments of the USA and China who are the greatest producers of Co2 on the planet. May they and all governments understand that our way of life on this beautiful planet is unsustainable at this rate. Give them wisdom by your Holy Spirit and the courage to undo the damage we have done in the name of progress.

We pray, "Give us today our daily bread."

We confess that we consume more than our share of the world's resources, while billions go hungry every day and your whole creation suffers. Where children in third world countries, , are going to bed hungry every night, who are dying from or made orphaned by HIV/Aids, and who do not have clean water to drink or schools to go

to.

We pray, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

Lord please forgive us for not obeying your 2 greatest commandments, to love You with all of our hearts, all of our souls and all of our minds and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Lord forgive us for not demonstrating our love for You in all that we do. Forgive us for destroying this beautiful world that you have placed us in by putting our desires before Yours. Forgive us for not considering the impacts that our actions have on our global neighbours who are unjustly suffering the consequences of our pollution of your earth.

We pray, "Save us from the time of trial."

Help us to resist the temptations of spending more, using more, acquiring more, and wasting more. Show us Lord how we can spend less by using charity shops and freecycle sites, to share what we have with others and to shop for only the food we can eat. Help us to understand the implications for our planet of our way of life.

We pray, "Deliver us from evil..."

Free us from greed and self-centeredness that separate us from you and others.

We pray, "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever."

Help us to know that in caring for your wonderful world, we are working for your kingdom, being good stewards of your creative power and giving you glory.

We pray, "Amen."

7. Commitment

Resurrection Homes

Jesus Christ
In changing weather, vanishing species
And impoverished neighbours,

The heavens and earth bear witness against us.
As you lit an Easter fire and cooked breakfast,
Fashioning God's kingdom
From the stuff of this earth,
So when we cook and light and warm our homes
Make us people of your resurrection,
Choosing life
Through simplicity, ingenuity and obedience.
Amen

Eleanor Harris

Prayers of commitment

Let us ask the God of creation to pour his love upon us
as we commit ourselves to care for God's creation.
Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord.

**Let the earth be fruitful and creation's treasures holy.
Inspire us to love your world and all its people.**

Upon the produce of the earth send a blessing, O Lord.

**Guide us into a sustainable future,
and give us the will to share the produce of the world.**

Upon the seas and waters send a blessing, O Lord.

**Teach us to cherish the water of the earth,
to help preserve the purity of rivers, lakes and seas.**

**Where the earth is parched and the well has run dry;
where war brings want, and children go hungry;
where the poor cry out for bread and for justice,
give us caring, healing hands.**

Compel us to be generous with our talents and our time.

For the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

God without us will not;
we without God cannot.

Christ has no body but ours,

No hands, no feet on earth but ours,

Ours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,

Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Ours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Ours are the hands, ours are the feet,

Ours are the eyes, we are his body.
Christ has no body now but ours,
No hands, no feet on earth but ours,
Ours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but ours.

Prayer of commitment

We join with the earth and with each other.
To bring new life to the land
To restore the waters
To refresh the air

We join with the earth and with each other.
To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures

We join with the earth and with each other.
To celebrate the seas
To rejoice into the sunlight
To sing the song of the stars

We join with the earth and with each other.
To recreate the human community
To promote justice and peace
To remember our children

We join with the earth and with each other.
We join together as many and diverse expressions
of one loving mystery: for the healing of the
earth and the renewal of all life.

U.N. ENVIRONMENTAL SABBATH PROGRAM

8. Psalms

A setting of Psalm 8

Wonderful creator the universe demonstrates your greatness

Left side of Church: The scale of creation is beyond our comprehension

Yet babies and children wonder at its detail

Right side of Church: Creation is ordered by you there is no power beyond your control

L: When we look at the stars set in the night sky even the moon where humans have set foot

R: We know we are insignificant and wonder that you care for us individually

L: Yet you have given us the power to investigate our surroundings and learn a little of how matter is formed

R: You have offered us shared responsibility for other living creatures, for plants

For preserving the beauty of landscape

L: And to work with us to complete your creation here on earth.

Psalm text by the Iona Community

9. Closing Prayers

A Gaelic Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ,
of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.

May God who established the dance of creation;
who transforms chaos to order,
lead us and empower us
to transform our lives
the witness of the Church
and the governments of nations

so that all might preserve and reflect
the glory of God revealed in creation;
and the blessing of God almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field.
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To reflect God's glory in creation.
(From Eco-congregation)

May God the Father, who clothes the lilies of the field and feeds the birds of
the air, provide us with all we need for life in its fullness. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine,
feed us with his life and transform us in his love. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters of creation
and formed the world from chaos,
form us in the likeness of Christ and renew the face of the earth. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of
righteousness. Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Peace Blessing

Peace of the world
Peace of the city
Peace of the village
Peace of the desert
Peace of Mother Earth
Peace of the cosmos
Peace to you
Peace to me
Peace to my neighbour
Peace to whom it may concern
Peace. Peace, Peace!

10. Creeds

We Believe

We believe in God the Creator,
who reminds us, in the drawing of the every new day,
that new life is possible.

We believe in the wonder and grandeur of a universe
where the whole of life is called to live
in harmony of care.

ALL: THIS WE BELIEVE

We believe in Jesus Christ,
who prayed in mountains of peace,
and brought us the Word
in mustard seeds of faith and fig trees of blessing,
whose footsteps touched the earth in love
and who invites us to follow.

ALL: THIS WE BELIEVE

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
whose wisdom often lies
embedded in ancient peoples.
They trod lightly across deserts and
lived gently among plants and creatures.
They reached respectfully for the mystery,
which is God-with-us,
the One who never leaves us nor forsakes us.

ALL: THIS WE BELIEVE

We believe in the everlasting hope,
the great calling of the people of God, the church,
for the transforming of all things,
which is possible in God.

ALL: THIS WE BELIEVE.AMEN

11. Seasonal Prayers

Ash Wednesday

Receive this cross of ash upon your brow,
Brought from the burning of Palm Sunday's cross.
The forests of the world are burning now
And you make late repentance for the loss.
But all the trees of God would clap their hands
The very stones themselves would shout and sing
If you could covenant to love these lands
And recognise in Christ their Lord and king.

He sees the slow destruction of those trees,
He weeps to see the ancient places burn,
And still you make what purchases you please,
And still to dust and ashes you return.
But Hope could rise from ashes even now
Beginning with this sign upon your brow.

Malcolm Guite

Easter

Alleluia! He is risen!

Joining with all creation I rejoice in Christ's resurrection victory over death
and decay and celebrate in the liberation and renewal for us and all things that
it brings.

Risen Lord, show me one thing that I can do today to show your love and
hope of renewal for the natural world around me.

Amen