

*“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers”
Psalm 24:1-2*

**Prayers for Paris
Together, we reflect, sing, act
and pray for climate justice**



PARIS 2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21·CMP11

Advent Collects

Produced by the Salisbury Diocesan Environment Group

O Key of David,
unlock our dry hearts,
that we may cry out loud
for Justice, Peace, and the
Integrity of your Creation,
through Jesus Christ the green shoot from the root of Jesse.

O Morning Star,
bright with hope that light will dawn,
mend our minds and hearts,
that we might have courage and conviction
to turn to life and love
through Jesus Christ the light of all.

Proud walker of ancient time
on these our hills and pastures,
shine on our clouded minds,
give us the vision and the strength
to build the new Jerusalem
through Jesus Christ the architect of all.

Maker of earth in all her glory
stooping to kiss her poorly hurts
gather us all her siblings in your arms,
that we may no longer be rivals,
but live in fruitful harmony
through Jesus Christ first born of all.

Great One in Three who caused to be
all matter, energy and life,
wrap us in your arms and blow your spirit into us
that we may know that we were made lovers not rivals
of all your wonders
that we may live as part, not sundered,
through Jesus Christ who gathers all things beneath his wings.

A Prayer for the Pilgrimage towards the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, 30 November to 11 December

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 prayer for our earth

Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united

with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle

for justice, love and peace.

A Christian prayer in union with creation Pope Francis

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every
creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it
groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world
in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!

Prayer of confession

**Almighty God — creator, shaper and sustainer of all life,
And loving Father.**

**We confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts;
We have been careless with the creation you so lovingly crafted,
And deaf to its song of praise.**

**We have taken to satisfy our selfish desires, rather than our need
And been indifferent to the consequences**

As your world's song of praise has been silenced.

**Because of our greed and carelessness, the world is hurting, and many of
your most vulnerable
children are suffering as a result.**

Please forgive our indifference.

Prayer of absolution

Almighty God — creator, shaper and sustainer of all life,
And loving Father.

Thank you for the forgiveness won for us by your Son – the redeemer of all
creation.

We receive your grace to us, and your love for us as we are.

Change us now into what you would have us be –

Move us to love and care for your world

And make us ready to work for the good of all creation

Through the love and power of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Composed by Sr. Marlene Kelly, GSIC

Introductory Prayer

Let us Pray:

***Gracious God, Creator of All, we raise our hearts in grateful praise for all the
beauty that surrounds us. May we learn to respect all as a sacred gift and do
what we can to repair the damage we have caused through our
consumerism, greed and carelessness.***

***Grant us an ecological conversion so that we can leave our next generation
with a future full of hope where there is enough for all. We ask this in the
name of Jesus.***

Amen

Responsive Prayers

We pray that the December UN Climate Change Conference in Paris will be a real turning point for a climate change policy and that all leaders will acknowledge that our present treatment of earth, our home, is abusive.

Creating God, help us change our ways.

We pray that our leaders will have the courage to take immediate action on the issue of climate change for the sake of all life.

Creating God, help us change our ways.

We pray in gratitude for the gift of God's creation and ask that we may learn to walk softly on this Earth.

Creating God, help us change our ways.

We pray that all will have an attitude of wonder and awe as we learn the history of our Universe and see the mystery and beauty of creation.

Creating God, help us change our ways.

We pray for all those who are victims of climate change and we ask that we who are responsible for this suffering may make choices which are life-giving for all.

Creating God, help us change our ways.

We pray in gratitude for all those who bring awareness of the suffering planet, acknowledge that all creation is sacred, and work to bring about a change in our attitude towards Earth, our common Home.

Creating God, help us change our ways.

We pray that all faith communities will have a prophetic voice, raise the moral issue of climate change, and inspire each of us to reverence and care for all of creation.

Creating God, help us change our ways.

We pray for all creatures with whom we share the Earth that they will continue to be a presence among us.

Creating God, help us change our ways.

We pray that we may bring to an end our dependence on gas and oil and transition to a green economy.

Creating God, help us change our ways.

Prayers of intercession

For people living with the affects of climate change now:

Leader: For the sake of those facing rising temperatures, drought and water shortages,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of those facing unpredictable weather, disrupted seasons and failed crops,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of those facing flooding, land loss and salination of vital water supplies,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of all those who fear the changing climate,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of the poor, the vulnerable, and the refugee

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of us all,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, recreate our hearts that we might partner with you to renew this damaged world.

For leaders and politicians:

Father, 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. Father, 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.

Father, 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.

Father, 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.

Lord, in your mercy, lead our leaders to truth, and transformation

Prayers and Religious/Spiritual Statements for your Environmental Pilgrimage

Buddhism

A Green Environment for Now and the Future

The Dalai Lama

From *Kalachakra Initiation at Samath*

<http://www.dalailama.com/messages/environment/a-green-environment>

Global warming has brought changes in climate, including making perennial snow mountains melt, thereby adversely affecting not only human beings but also other living species... . In the past the perennial snow mountains of Tibet had very thick snow. Older people say that these mountains were covered with thick snow when they were young and that the snows are getting sparser which may be an indication of the end of the world. It is a fact that climate change is a slow process taking thousands of years to realize its effect. Living beings and plant life on this planet also undergo change accordingly. Man's physical structure too changes from generation to generation along with the change in climatic conditions.

Because of the growth in the population, a large number of trees are cut for fuel, and to reclaim land for agricultural cultivation. In the case of Tibet, ancient trees have been destroyed in a similar way to shaving a man's hair off. ... Similarly, the continuing decline in forests in many parts of the world, including America, is adversely affecting the already changing global climate, thus upsetting the lives, not only of mankind, but also of all living beings.

Similarly, the harmful effect on the atmosphere brought about by chemical emissions in industrialized countries is a very dangerous sign. Although this is a new thing for us Tibetans, the world is paying a lot of attention to this problem. It is the responsibility of us, who speak of the welfare of all sentient beings, to contribute towards this.

Excerpt from Dharma Teachers Statement on Climate Change

<http://greenfaith.org/religious-teachings/buddhist-statements-on-the-environment>

As shocking and painful as it may be, we must recognize that without swift and dramatic reductions in fossil fuel use and major efforts to increase carbon sequestration, global temperatures will rise close to or beyond 2 degrees C. This increase will lead to injury and death for millions of people worldwide and the extinction of many of the Earth's species. Millions more will experience severe trauma and stress that threaten their physical, emotional, and psychological wellbeing. These stresses will, in turn, trigger social and political unrest. In a grave injustice, low-income communities, poor nations, and people systematically subjected to oppression and discrimination, who contributed little to climate change, will initially be harmed the most. Even worse, as frightening as it is, if we

fail to make fundamental changes in our energy, manufacturing, transportation, forestry, agricultural, and other systems along with our consumption patterns with utmost urgency, in mere decades irreversible climate shifts will occur that undermine the very pillars of human civilization. Only by recognizing these truths can we adopt a meaningful path toward solutions.

Come to This Dusty World

Prayer from Mahayana Tradition

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-interfaith.pdf>

Supreme One, you are an obscure mystery to us. You made all things and can purify all things. You are far beyond our understanding. Even to speak to you is to enter an unknown region. Yet your light shines on all creatures, and your wonder illumines their souls. We beg you to leave your bright celestial palace in heaven, and come to this dusty world. Reveal yourself to us. Use your power to extinguish all evil and banish all sickness. Give peace to troubled soul. Reconcile those who are enemies, turning them into friends. Show us how we should live, that we may learn to obey you in all things.

Time is Short

Sakyong Mipham

Joy comes when we see a yak
Dancing in the meadows.
Power comes when we see a mountain,
Full of heritage,
Displaying all its wonder.
In this world, where uncertainty seems to dominate space,
Let us at least say certainly that we don't know what certainty is.
Be heavy and walk light.
Smile and have a heavy heart.
Be open and always know that time is short.

(Unnamed)

Thich Nhat Hanh

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/3.html>

Be aware of the contact between your feet and the Earth.
Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet.
We have caused a lot of damage to the Earth.
Now it is time for us to take good care of her.
We bring our peace and calm to the surface of the Earth and share the lesson of love.
We walk in that spirit.

Hinduism

From *Hindu Declaration on Climate Change*

http://www.hinduismtoday.com/pdf_downloads/hindu-climate-change-declaration.pdf

The Hindu tradition understands that man is not separate from nature, that we are linked by spiritual, psychological and physical bonds with the elements around us. Knowing that the Divine is present everywhere and in all things, Hindus strive to do no harm. We hold a deep reverence for life and an awareness that the great forces of nature—the earth, the water, the fire, the air and space—as well as all the various orders of life, including plants and trees, forests and animals, are bound to each other within life's cosmic web.

Our beloved Earth, so touchingly looked upon as the Universal Mother, has nurtured mankind through millions of years of growth and evolution. Now centuries of rapacious exploitation of the planet have caught up with us, and a radical change in our relationship with nature is no longer an option. It is a matter of survival. We cannot continue to destroy nature without also destroying ourselves. The dire problems besetting our world—war, disease, poverty and hunger—will all be magnified many fold by the predicted impacts of climate change.

The nations of the world have yet to agree upon a plan to ameliorate man's contribution to this complex change. This is largely due to powerful forces in some nations which oppose any such attempt, challenging the very concept that unnatural climate change is occurring. Hindus everywhere should work toward an international consensus. Humanity's very survival depends upon our capacity to make a major transition of consciousness, equal in significance to earlier transitions from nomadic to agricultural, agricultural to industrial and industrial to technological. We must transit to complementarity in place of competition, convergence in place of conflict, holism in place of hedonism, optimization in place of maximization. We must, in short, move rapidly toward a global consciousness that replaces the present fractured and fragmented consciousness of the human race.

There is a Light

From *Chandogya Upanishad*

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/5.html>

There is a light that shines beyond all things on earth,
Beyond all of us, beyond the heavens,
Beyond the highest, the very highest heavens
This is the light that shines in our hearts.

Prayer for the Unity of All Life

(Unknown Author)

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/5.html>

May the winds, the oceans, the herbs, and night and days, the mother earth,
The father heaven, all vegetation, the sun, be all sweet to us

Let us follow the path of goodness for all times,
Like the sun and the moon moving eternally in the sky
Let us be charitable to one another
Let us not kill or be violent with one another
Let us know and appreciate the points of view of others
And let us unite

May the God who is friendly, benevolent, all-encompassing, measurer of
everything, the sovereign, the lord of speech, may He shower His blessings on us

Hindu Prayer for Peace

(Unknown Author)

From UN Day of Prayer for World Peace

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/5.html>

Oh God, lead us from the unreal to the Real,
Oh God, lead us from darkness to light.
Oh God, lead us from death to immortality,
Shanti, Shanti, Shanti unto all.
Oh Lord God Almighty, may there be peace in celestial regions.
May there be peace on earth.
May the waters be appeasing,
May herbs be wholesome, and may trees and plants bring peace to all.
May all beneficent beings bring peace to us.
May the Vedic Law propagate peace all through the world.
May all things be a source of peace to us.
And may thy peace itself bestow peace on all and may that peace come to me
also.

(Unnamed)

From *The Upanishads: The Prashna Upanishad Introduction*
Introduced and Translated by Eknath Easwaran

May we hear only what is good for all
May we see only what is good for all
May we serve, Lord of Love, all our life
May we be used to spread your peace on earth
OM shanti shanti shanti

Islam

From *Holy Qur'an* 24:35

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/6.html>

Allah is the light
Of the heavens and the earth
The smile of Allah's light
Is like a niche in which is a lamp,
The lamp in a globe of glass,
The globe of glass as if it were a shining star,
Lit from a blessed olive tree
Neither of the East nor of the West,
Its light nearly luminous
Even if fire did not touch it
Light upon light!

From *Holy Qur'an* 3:190-91

<http://greenfaith.org/resource-center/spirit/greenworship-resource/muslim-greenworship-resource/muslim-greenworship-verses-and-books>

Behold! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of night and day, there are indeed signs for men of understanding, men who celebrate the praises of Allah standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and contemplate the wonders of creation in the heavens and the earth, with the thought: "Our Lord, not for naught hast Thou created all this! Glory to Thee! Give us salvation from the penalty of the Fire.

Through the Silence of Nature

Hazrat Inayat Khan

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/6.html>

Through the silence of nature,
I attain Thy divine peace.
O sublime nature,
in thy stillness let my heart rest.
Thou art patiently awaiting the moment
to manifest through the silence of sublime nature.
O nature sublime, speak to me through silence,
for I am awaiting in silence like you the call of God.
O nature sublime,
through thy silence I hear Thy cry.
My heart is tuned to the quietness
that the stillness of nature inspires.

Sufi Prayer for Peace

(Unknown Author)

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/6.html>

Send Thy peace, O Lord, which is perfect and everlasting,
That our souls may radiate peace.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may think, act,
And speak harmoniously.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may be contented
And thankful for Thy bountiful gifts.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that amidst our worldly strife
We may enjoy thy bliss.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may endure all,
Tolerate all in the thought of thy grace and mercy.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that our lives may become a
Divine vision, and in Thy light all darkness may vanish.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, our Father and Mother, that we
Thy children on earth may all unite in one family.

Judaism

Let There Be Light

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-jewish.pdf>

Leader: *O Source of Light, by Your light we see light. (Psalm 36:10)*

"And God made the two great lights...and God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the Earth...and God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:16-18)

Creator God, may we have the wisdom to appreciate the goodness in Your creation.

All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.

Leader: *"Give thanks...to the maker of the great lights, whose loving kindness extends eternally." (Psalm 136:1,7)*

Gracious God, may we experience Your ever-renewing bounty with awe and gratitude, and may we use it wisely.

All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.

Leader: *"With a rising-place at one end of heaven, and a circuit that reaches the other, nothing escapes [the sun's] heat." (Psalm 19:7)*

Holy God, may this simple act of harnessing Your eternal light help us escape the global heating that our generation is causing over Your creation.

All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.

Leader: *"Arise, shine, for Your light has dawned -- the presence of the Eternal will shine upon you."* (Isaiah 60:1)

Loving God, Your gift of light enables us to shine. May we, created in Your image, be worthy reflectors of Your glory.

All: Amen.

First Berakhah before K'riat Sh'Ma

Rabbi Jules Harlow

From *A Prayerbook for Shabbat, Festivals, and Weekdays*

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-jewish.pdf>

Leader: Light and Darkness, night and day.

All: We marvel at the mystery of the stars.

Leader: Moon and sky, sand and sea.

All: We marvel at the mystery of the sun.

Leader: Twilight, high noon, dusk and dawn.

All: Though we are mortal, we are Creation's crown.

Leader: Flesh and bone, steel and stone.

All: We dwell in fragile, temporary shelters.

Leader: Grant steadfast love, compassion, grace.

All: Sustain us, Lord; our origin is dust.

Leader: Splendour, mercy, majesty, love endure.

All: We are but little lower than the angels.

Leader: Resplendent skies, sunset, sunrise.

All: The grandeur of Creation lifts our lives.

Leader: Evening darkness, morning dawn.

All: Renew our lives as You renew all time.

All Things Pray
(Unknown Author)

<http://www.arrcc.org.au/jewish-prayers>

It is not we alone who pray;
all things pray.
All things pour forth their souls.
The heavens pray, the earth prays,
every creature and every living thing prays.
In all life, there is longing.
Creation itself is but a longing,
a prayer to the Almighty.
What are the clouds, the rising and the setting of the sun,
the soft radiance of the moon, and the gentleness of the night?
What are the flashes of the human mind
and the storms of the human heart?
They are all prayers —
the outpouring of boundless longing for God.

We Pray for All
(Unknown Author)
From *Liberal Jewish Prayer Book*

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/7.html>

We pray for all who come here this evening.
Although differences in thought and belief divide us,
let the desire to serve you,
the love of truth
and the pursuit of holiness unite us.
Strengthen the spirit of friendship
among people of various faiths
and increase mutual understanding between us.
We look to a time
when greater knowledge of you and your word
shall bind all who serve you
into one holy fellowship.

Christianity

A prayer for leaders and politicians

From The Sanctuary Centre

<http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/resources/written-prayers-prayers-in-response-to-climate-change.pdf>

Leader: 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.

All: God, in your mercy, lead our leaders to truth, and transformation

(Unnamed)

St. Basil the Great

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-christian.pdf>

O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers, the animals, to whom thou gave the earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty, so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live not for us alone but for themselves and for thee and that they love the sweetness of life.

A Prayer for Gratitude

St. Francis of Assisi

This prayer was used for Earth Day, 1990

From: Interfaith Declarations and Worship Observance Resources; The North American Conference on Religion and Ecology; 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
to you all praise, glory and honour and all blessing;
to you alone, Most High, they belong
and no one is worthy of naming you.

Praised by you, my Lord,
with all your creatures,
especially Milord Brother Sun,
who brings day, and by whom you enlighten us;
he is beautiful, he shines with great splendour,
of you, Most High, he is the symbol.

Praised be you, my Lord, for sister Moon and the Stars:
in the heavens you formed them,
clear, precious and beautiful.

Praised by you, my Lord, for Brother Wind
and for the air and for the clouds,
for the azure calm and for all climes
by which you give life to your creatures.

Praised by you, my Lord, for Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble,
precious and chaste.

Praised by you, my Lord, for Brother Fire,
by whom you enlighten the night:
he is beautiful and joyous,
indomitable and strong.

Praised by you, my Lord,
for Sister our mother the earth
who nourishes us and bears us,
and produces all kinds of fruits,
with the speckled flowers and the herbs.

A Call to Prayer

Hildegard of Bingen

The earth is at the same time mother,
She is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human.
She is the mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all.
The earth of humankind contains all moistness, all verdancy, all germinating
power.
It is in so many ways fruitful.
All creation comes from it. Yet it forms not only the basic raw material for
humankind, but also the substance of the incarnation of God's son.

This prayer was used for Earth Day, 1990

*From: Interfaith Declarations and Worship Observance Resources; The North American
Conference on Religion and Ecology; 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005*

A Prayer of Awareness

Hildegard of Bingen

<http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/liturgy/prayers.htm>

God is the foundation for everything
This God undertakes, God gives.
Such that nothing that is necessary for life is lacking.
Now humankind needs a body that at all times honours and praises God.
This body is supported in every way through the earth.
Thus the earth glorifies the power of God.

Litany of Commitment

Jay C. Rochelle

<http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/liturgy/litany.htm#commitment>

Leader: As we seek to relax our grip so that the earth, our fragile sister, might rest
from our labors, help us to see our world more vividly than we have done in the
past.

**People: Grant us vision for the challenges of this age and give us hearts full
of courage for the future.**

Leader: As we seek to be wise stewards of the gifts of the earth in timber and oil,
coal, and gas, help us to know your world more humanely than we have in the
past.

**People: Make us learn that wisdom which we see among those wise and
humble people of the earth, that we might walk with care and reverence so
as to caress our fair sister.**

Leader: Sharing God, draw us to contemplation and silence so that we might see, in wonder, our lives intertwined with the squirrels and the cardinal, the creatures great and small, the beauty of each season. Help us to see the birth, growth, death, and rebirth so as to give us courage in the ongoing creation of our Creator.

People: Deepen our faith and enliven our thinking, nourish our bodies and strengthen our souls, that we may be your message in the world, your servants for the common wellness of the earth. Make us weavers of a new order, crafters of a new earth.

Leader: Grant us grace through the Christ of the Cosmos. Call us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, in the love with earth, and with our brothers, and sisters. Give us a measure of the Spirit that these commitments we make before you might make our work holy.

Let us go forth from this sacred ark with steady hand up lifted heart, with clear eye and alert mind, with firm step, and willing hands. May we arrive at fresh springs of renewal through God's holy Word, in our communities of faith, and in deep solidarity with all creation.

People: Amen. Let all the creation hear and bear witness. Amen.

Environmental Prayer

Carlos J. Correa Bernier

http://www.ucc.org/earthcare/pdfs/enviromental_prayer.pdf

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.

Interfaith

(Unnamed)

Service from August 1992, "Coming to See"

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-interfaith.pdf>

All people of the earth, each and every nation
Arise and rejoice at the continued creation
Of beauty, of springtime, the yearly rebirth
Of our protector, our home, our own Mother Earth!

Who despite our apparent lack of care
Creates bountiful splendour for all to share
From mountain tops to the deepest sea
All wonderful earthly miracles bursting free!

Yet this miracle of renewal requires the helping hand
Of the people to replenish and renew the land
From the largest of cities to the most remote farms
To unite in spirit and with the strongest arms.

Become a midwife to the birth of each flower
A guardian of our resources hour by hour
We must learn to take time to appreciate
The miracles of which we did not create.

For God has given this wonderful treasure
And its preservation will be the measure
Of people who recognize and will celebrate
The birth of each season before it's too late.

In citizenship, in willingness to toil
We must bend our backs and tend to the soil
In stewardship, arise and applaud the worth
Of the wondrous marvel of our Living Earth!
Consider creation. . . . Consider it now.

Earth Day Opening Prayer

Good God, Creator of the world, draw us into prayer and celebration as we gather to remember the gifts of your earth and the stewardship you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders in your image.

We know that in the gathering of the people, power is present among us; your Holy Spirit stirs and moves and gives us courage to remember that all good gifts come first from you.

We praise you for this creation in the words of the Psalmist, sung by our ancestors in faith for generations:

"God speaks: the heavens are made;
God breathes: the stars shine.
God bottles the waters of the sea
and stores them in the deep
All earth, be astounded,
stand in awe of God."

Keep us faithful to this gathering in faith and "bless this vine your right hand has planted." Now and forever, Amen.

*Taken from liturgy materials used on Earth Day 1997 at Seattle University
Provided by Earth Ministry*

Consider Creation

All people of the earth, each and every nation
Arise and rejoice at the continued creation
Of beauty, of springtime, the yearly rebirth
Of our protector, our home, our own Mother Earth!

Who despite our apparent lack of care
Creates bountiful splendor for all to share
From mountain tops to the deepest sea
All wonderful earthly miracles bursting free!

Yet this miracle of renewal requires the helping hand
Of the people to replenish and renew the land
From the largest of cities to the most remote farms
To unite in spirit and with the strongest arms.

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Of the wondrous marvel of our Living Earth!

Consider creation. . . . Consider it now.

Psalm of the Cosmos

Source unknown

Loving God, loving God,
all creation calls you blessed,
and so do we, and so do we.

Loving God,
all your creation calls you blessed.
Your spirit imprints the whole universe with life and mystery.
Yes, all creation proclaims your love.
We now join this chorus of praise.

Loving God,
all of nature calls you blessed,
and so do we.

For you have woven an intimate tapestry
and call it life
and called it good.

In love you have formed a universe
so diverse yet so related,
and into its web you call us forth
to walk the land and swim the sea
with all our natural brothers and sisters.

To the stars
we seem no more than blades of grass.
Yet to you, each of us,
as each blade of grass and each star,
is an irreplaceable treasure,
an essential companion on this journey of love.

Loving God, as you lure the whole world into salvation,
guide us with your Spirit
that we might not be only pilgrims on the earth,
but pilgrims with the earth,
journeying home to you.

Open our hearts to understand
the intimate relationship that you have with all creation.
Only with this faith can we hope
for tomorrow's children.
Amen. Alleluia!

Loving God, loving God,
all creation calls you blessed,
and so do we, and so do we.

Hymn of the Universe

Teilhard de Chardin

I live at the heart of a single, unique Element, the Centre of the universe, and present in each part of it: personal Love and cosmic Power.

To attain to him and become merged into his life I have before me the entire universe with its noble struggles, its impassioned quests, its myriad of souls to be healed and made perfect. I can and I must throw myself into the thick of human endeavor, and with no stopping for breath. For the more I bring my efforts to bear on the whole surface of reality, the more also will I attain to Christ and cling close to him. God who is eternal Being-in-itself, is, one might say, ever in process of formation for us.

And God is also the heart of everything; so much so that the vast setting of the universe might be engulfed or wither away or be creation's dust, which is vitalized by a halo of energy and glory, to be swept away, the substantial Reality wherein every perfection is incorruptibly contained and possessed would remain intact; the rays would be drawn back onto their Source and there I should still hold them all in close embrace.

A Reflection on our Present Plight

Hildegard of Bingen

The high,

the low

all of creation

God gives to humankind to use. If this privilege is misused,

God's Justice permits creation to punish humanity.

A Litany for God's Guidance

Service from August 1992, "Coming to See"

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-interfaith.pdf>

Leader: O sing to God a new creation song.

People: For God has done marvelous things.

Leader: We are born citizens of God's world.

People: For God has done marvelous things.

Leader: Let us see the earth as children of the earth.

People: Give us a clear vision, O God.

Leader: May our sights be greater than house to house.

People: Give us clear vision, O God.

Leader: Grant us the knowledge to make tough choices for our world.

People: God, year with us from the foundations of the earth.

Leader: Cause us to share life from generation to generation.

People: God, you are with us from the foundations of the earth.

Leader: Challenge our stewardship to renew the heights with living things.

People: God's hands are upon all creatures who live upon the earth.

Leader: Many and great are your things, O God, maker of earth and sky.

People: God's hands are upon all creatures who live upon the earth. Amen

A Call to Prayer

(Author Unknown)

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-interfaith.pdf>

We who have lost sense and our senses--our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are: we who frantically force and press all things, without rest for body or spirit, hurting our earth and injuring ourselves: we call a halt. We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the earth to rest. We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us, that is the ground of every unique expression of life, the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.

We declare a Sabbath, a space of Quiet; for simply being and letting be; for recovering the great, forgotten truths; for learning how to live again.

Viewpoint, park – or any attractive place

Psalm 104: 24, 31 and 33-34 (NIV)

“How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.

I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord”.

Penitential Prayer

Forgive us, Lord, for the damage we have done to the earth.

Forgive us that rivers and seas have been polluted by waste.

Forgive us that air has been turned foul by burning.

Forgive us that flowers and animals have become extinct when the places where they live have been destroyed.

Forgive us that we have too often valued making money over the things that you have made so well.

Help us to work towards a Kingdom where your creation is honoured in both earth and heaven.

We ask in Jesus' name, through whom all things were made, and we are remade.

Amen

*Adapted from The Lion Prayer Collection / Further Everyday Prayers
(Lion, 1994)*

Father God, we thank you for the beauty of the earth,

For the diversity of land and sea,

For the resources of the world and the food it provides.

Give us the will to cherish this planet,

And to use its riches for the good and welfare of all.

God of life, hear our prayer, Amen.

Almighty God, you have called us to keep and tend the garden of your creation,

Give us wisdom and reverence for all that shares this planet with us

And whose lives make possible our own.

Help us to remember that they too love the sweetness of life

And join with us in giving you praise,

Amen.

Prayer for Life

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.

A Litany for Preserving the Earth

All: Praise be to God, creator of the Universe,

Leader: Sun and moon, light and darkness;

Skies and water, atmosphere and biosphere;

Warm winds of dawn, cool winds of evening;

Planets and galaxies, microbes and algae:

All: Let all the Creation sing God's praise.

Leader: In time of planting,

In time of drought,

In time of harvest,

In time of famine.

All: We praise you, O God.

Leader: From the sudden storms and prolonged drought,

Loss of shoreline and loss of topsoil.

All: Save us, O God.

Leader: From acid rain and global warming,

From the sea's rise and poisoned soils.

All: Save us, O God.

Leader: From ozone depletion and greenhouse gases,

Toxic waste and ultraviolet radiation.

All: Save us, O God.

Leader: From the destruction of habitat and rainforest,

Misuse of marshlands and coastal waterways.

All: Save us, O God.

Leader: From the violence toward all majestic creatures,

Whales and dolphins, eagles and condors, elephants and lions;

From violence toward household and farm animals,

And from violence toward one another.

All: Save us, O God.

Leader: The trees of the forest clap their hands,

Mountains and hills dance in your presence,

Grain fields and gardens, great trees and sweeping plains.

All: Praise you, O God.

Leader: Oceans and lakes, rivers and brooks,

Deep wells and showers, clouds and storms.

All: Praise you, O God.

Leader: Flocks and herds, stray animals and children's pets;
All captive creatures and all who suffer.

All: Praise you, O God.

Leader: Through Job and Noah,
Through psalmists and prophets,
Through the darkness and earthquake at Calvary,
Through the beauty of the Easter garden.

All: You call us to repentance, O God.

Leader: Lord of the universe, you placed the earth in our trust;
Help us to preserve it wisely,
To understand dominion as responsible partnership with you,
And not senseless exploitation of the world's resources;
Save us from greed.

Give us the gift of prudent lifestyles,
Of treasuring the simple gifts of the earth, air, light and water.
Help us to cherish the earth in all its mystery,
Treasure its fragile beauty, and honour its diversity;
Help us to turn from the paths of selfishness and destruction;
Let all creation reflect God's wonder,
And all creatures, in their own voices, sing God's praise.

All: We thank you, God, creator and sustainer of life. Amen.

Written by Rev. Frederick Quinn, from *To Heal the Earth, A Theology of Ecology*
(Nashville, Tenn.: Upper
Room Books, 1994), 144-146, and first used at Earth Day at National Cathedral
on June 16, 1991.
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Speak Up For The Love Of... intercessions

CAFOD

*These prayers of intercession are to be read in church ahead of the
Speak Up For The Love Of... lobby on Wednesday 17 June 2015*

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of compassion for the
global family, and continue to share in the joys, hopes, griefs and anxieties
of people living in poverty. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for politicians: that God may move them to hear the voices of
vulnerable communities, and they may make just decisions which respect the
integrity of creation. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our neighbours around the world who are affected by droughts, storms and floods: that God may bring comfort, and they may look to the future with hope. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our local community: that God may inspire us to stand alongside our sisters and brothers who are affected by the changing climate, and speak up for the love of creation. Lord, in your mercy...

Open our eyes, Lord

CAFOD

God of all,
you made the earth and saw that it was good,
but like robbers we have stripped it of its treasure.
Open our eyes, Lord.

Now the earth cries out
and your people hunger and thirst.
Open our eyes, Lord.

Open our eyes to see the pain of your creation
and move us with compassion for your world.
Open our eyes, Lord.

Lead us to act as neighbours,
who do not pass by on the other side.
Open our eyes, Lord.

So that together we may care for all that you have made
and with all creation sing your praise.
Open our eyes, Lord.

Catherine Gorman/CAFOD



Lord's Prayer for Paris Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Cape Town

Holy God,
Creator of all that is integral to your sacred Earth,
You call us to live respectfully and sustainably now,
for a world without end.
May we use energy today
so as to not endanger the future.
Forgive us our excesses
as we seek to reduce our emissions.
Lead us away from the temptations
of consumerism,
and deliver us from greed.
For the planet is yours
its power and its glory,
now and for all time. Amen.

A prayer to be awakened Christian Aid

Call us out of our sleep;
awaken our hearts and minds to the reality
of so many lives.
Awaken us to our connectedness as a global
community.
Awaken us to a future free from poverty and
climate change.
Father, call us out of our sleep.

Call us out of our sleep;
awaken us to the suffering of others.
Awaken our hearts and minds to our choices
and their impacts.
Awaken us to the possibilities of a new way
of living.
Christ, call us out of our sleep.

Call us out of our sleep;
awaken our hearts and minds to your hope.
Awaken us to be renewed with creation.
Awaken us to the joy of enabling others to
live life to the full.
Holy Spirit, call us out of our sleep.

A prayer of praise

Christian Aid

Let us praise God!
With the roaring of the winds
and silence of the deepest sea;
with the blazing sun
and the shining of the stars.

Let us praise God!

With all that is created,
and all things beautiful and good;
from desert plains to fruitful lands,
with plants and creatures in all their kinds.

Let us praise God!

With one another today,
for love of all that God has made,
in wonder at a world of beauty
and reverence for a holy creation.

Let us praise God!

O God, our creator,
who, in Jesus Christ, walked the earth,
bless us with your Holy Spirit this day,
that our worship and our walking,
our praying and our politics,
may give you glory
and honour creation.

Amen.

Your kingdom come

CAFOD

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.

***Lead us to worship only you, Lord, and not money,
to put people before profit
and 'being' before having'.***

Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

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