

## **Day of prayer for COP26**

Welcome to the All Saints Weston day of prayer for COP26. I will send you Bible passages and prayer points on a different theme every hour from 10 am till 5pm There will also be a set prayer for those who are needing inspiration. It could also be used as a meditation. The prayers come from The Green Christian and Compassion International websites. Don't worry if you are busy, you can pray at any time during the day, evening or tomorrow.

I will send the 10 am reflection early this morning as I will be out at 10am so you can pray early or wait until 10am as suits.

Please keep in mind as you pray that much progress has been made, but it's not nearly enough to stay at 1.5 degrees. Urgent prayers are needed on our part and urgent negotiations by the delegates over the last 2 days of COP26.

If you are short on time, the prayers at 12 and 1pm most directly pray for COP26.

### **10 am Praise**

Bible verse:

<sup>8</sup> He covers the sky with clouds;  
he supplies the earth with rain  
and makes grass grow on the hills.

<sup>9</sup> He provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they call. Psalm 157 v8-9

Prayer points:

Thank God for his amazing creation.

Spend some time meditating on something you find particularly beautiful, the view from your window, a special place on holiday, a particular plant or animal. Use this to help you praise God.

Set prayer:

Father of Creation, God of compassion. You created a world of wonder, of possibility and potential. You declared it to be good. For that we give thanks.

### **11 am Lament and Repentance**

Bible verse:

<sup>13</sup> "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, <sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7 v 13 and 14

Quote:

'It becomes ever clearer that climate change is the greatest threat we and future generations face. A true horseman of the apocalypse. -Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Prayer points:

We all must acknowledge our part in the mismanagement of God's creation and our involvement in the systems that make it difficult to solve the problem of climate change. Ask for God's forgiveness on behalf of ourselves, the church, our neighbours and world leaders. Ask God to help the nations repent (literally to change one's mind) over climate change. Ask for a collective international desire to take this issue more seriously and give it the urgency it needs.

Set prayer:

Father of Creation,

God of Compassion,

This world is no longer as you intended it to,

Humanity has betrayed its calling,

To tend and keep,

**Creation groans.**

For this we weep,

**Lord have mercy.**

For this we mourn,

**Christ have mercy.**

And so now with tears in our eyes we look to you,

With regret,

With repentance,

Knowing the difficult decades that we face,

**As temperatures rise,**

**Extinctions increase,**

**As we come to terms with our existential plight.**

For our children,

**Lord have mercy.**

For our Grandchildren,

**Christ have mercy.**

For the worlds most vulnerable,

**Christ have mercy.**

Father of Creation,

God of Compassion,

**Wake us from our slumber,**

**Equip us afresh to be the justice shaped people of God.**

**12 am 1.5 degrees**

**Bible verse:**

Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations. Proverbs 27 v23-24

Prayer points:

Despite pledges made at the climate summit COP26, the world is still nowhere near its goals on limiting global temperature rise, a new analysis shows. It calculates that the world is heading for 2.4C of warming, far more than the 1.5C limit nations committed to. COP26 "has a massive credibility, action and commitment gap", according to the Climate Action Tracker (CAT). BBC news

This is actually pretty terrifying. It means that even with the pledges so far, climate change will have a significant impact in their lifetime on everyone under 60, possibly devastating to those under 30.

Thank God for COP26 and the pledges already made.

Pray for even more pledges at COP to get the world on track for 1.5 degree warming.

Pray for renewed energy for fatigued delegates.

Pray for leaders to be generous.

Pray for last minute conversations at COP to be successful.

Pray for nations who are hesitant to make pledges or who have not attended COP to make firmer and more urgent commitments.

Pray for an awareness amongst ordinary people that they need to make changes in their own lives to achieve this.

Set Prayer:

We lift before you the COP climate talks and the future of the planet.

We are sorry for the damage that has been done,  
but we come before you knowing that you are a God of mercy and miracles.

We pray for the world leaders gathering in Glasgow,  
that they would do what is right and fair.

May the common desire to protect the world enable good conversations, positive actions and bring about unity.

### **1pm Pledges to Policies**

Bible verse:

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2 v14-17

Prayer points:

The agreements and pledges made at COP need to be turned into policy by each nation.

Pray that talk is turned into action. Pray for strong legal frameworks in each country to

make climate action legally binding. Pray against delay and for decisive action now. Pray for populations of each country to be positive towards leaders pledges.

### **Set Prayer:**

Father, we pray that the decisions made during COP26 won't be empty words. We ask that those in positions of power will be held accountable to the targets that have been set and that they will work with conviction to not only achieve these but go beyond them. We ask that the momentum is not lost after the talks have finished. Amen.

### **2pm Justice for the poor**

#### **Bible Verse:**

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly<sup>Ⓜ</sup> with your God. Micah 6 v8

#### **Quote:**

Listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, who suffer the most. The urgent need for interventions can no longer be postponed." -Pope Francis

#### **Prayer points:**

It is the richest nations who have contributed most to climate change but the poorest nations who are already suffering most from it. This is a justice issue. Justice for the poor is close to the heart of God.

Pray that rich nations will be generous to poor nations. Pray for debt cancellation. Pray for funding and support to help poorer nations adapt to climate change and to meet their climate pledges. Pray that rich nations will live up to their obligation to take the largest share of the burden to reduce carbon emissions. Pray that developing nations, who understandably want to get richer, can be enabled to move away from the desire to use coal.

#### **Set prayer:**

Lord God, our hearts break at the devastating impact the climate crisis is already having on those living in extreme poverty. We pray that this injustice will not be ignored, that more will be done to protect those left vulnerable and that governments will take action to protect those most vulnerable around the world, not just those in their own country. God of justice, we pray for fairness during the COP26 talks. Lord, we know that those who are worst hit by the climate crisis are those who have done least to contribute to it and have the fewest resources to implement

change. We therefore pray for radical justice and for fairness in the decisions made at COP26. Amen.

### **3pm Youth**

#### **Bible Verse:**

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." Jeremiah 1 v4-8

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29 v 11

#### **Prayer points:**

The youth are not a homogenous group. Some are passionate advocates for the environment. Many are suffering from "climate anxiety". Some are apathetic. However, all will experience a deepening catastrophe that is largely not of their making. It is up to us, the older generations to act now to secure their future.

Pray for young people. Pray for them to have hope, to find God and his promises in this time of deep anxiety.

Thank God for the passionate youth who are challenging the older generations to move on climate change.

Pray for all young people to be willing to make changes to their own lifestyles to combat the climate crisis.

Pray for an awareness in the older generations that they can't leave it up to the young to solve this crisis.

Pray that the words on Jeremiah 29 v11 will be true for our youth and children.

Pray for children in developing countries whose lives are at risk due to the effects of climate change.

#### **Set prayer:**

Loving Lord, your word reminds us how much you value and love children and young people. We pray for the climate crisis and the devastating impact it is having on children's lives. We thank you for young people and their passion and conviction to care and protect your world. We pray that their actions and words will be taken seriously. We ask that as adults we will strive to protect the world that they will grow up in.

## 4pm Action

Bible verse:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.  
<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,<sup>[a]</sup>  
but deliver us from the evil one Matthew 6 v 9-10

Prayer points:

The pledges and policies made by governments will only go so far to solve the climate crisis. We must all play our part too. As you reflect on the Lord’s prayer, consider how it might apply to you in the midst of this climate crisis.

Think and pray about the next steps you will personally take to reduce your carbon footprint. What will you do personally to spread awareness about climate change and to hold leaders accountable? Make a personal pledge to God to make a change in both these areas and then do it!

## 5pm Hope

Bible Verses:

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him Psalm 40 v1-3

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand Isaiah 41 v 10

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1 v 3-4

Prayer points:

It is easy to lose hope and give into fear when faced with such a seemingly insurmountable problem as climate change. We share a faith in a God who promises to be with us in our darkest times and who ultimately has promised to renew the heavens and the Earth. It is also a temptation to brush it all aside with an “everything will be alright because God will look after us” attitude. Ask God to give you a hope that goes hand in hand with action. Pray that more people will find their hope in Jesus instead of giving into despair.

Set prayer: Father of Creation, God of Justice. Your kingdom is one of love, joy and peace. For this, we give you praise. In this time of climate breakdown, temperature rises will act as a threat multiplier. In a world of climate grief, prepare your church for hope and joy, that we would be those who speak truth in a culture of despair. Prepare your church for hope and joy, that we would be those who celebrate the gift of life, with simplicity and gratitude. Prepare your church for hope and joy, that we would be those who are rooted and grounded in the hope and joy of Jesus.