

tearfund

*Praying*  
**For All  
The Earth**

A prayer guide to equip and inspire your individual and corporate prayers for creation and climate change.







## Climate Change & Prayer

Action on climate change is growing more urgent each day. We are on course for disastrous global temperature rises that will put millions of lives at risk – and it's hitting the world's poorest people hardest. We know this is not God's heart, and we can help change this. As Christians, we are all called to play our part in shaping a better future. God calls us to love one another and to help build His Kingdom on Earth. One of the ways we can help is by prayer.



**NEW RESEARCH SHOWS THAT UP TO 132 MILLION PEOPLE WILL BE PUSHED INTO EXTREME POVERTY BY CLIMATE CHANGE BY 2030.** (World Bank, Revised Estimates of the Impact of Climate Change on Extreme Poverty by 2030)

Already, more people are going hungry, extreme weather events are more frequent and severe, and entire communities are being displaced. Unless we act urgently, climate change will push 132 million more people into poverty this decade. Even faced with these facts, the issue of climate change can still be hard to grasp: it's big, it's global, and it can feel difficult to know how we should respond. However, our generation has a choice no other generation will have – we're the ones who can act and make sure everyone has the chance to live well, as God intended. The first action we can take is praying to the God that created all this Earth.



## Prayer For All The Earth

We can all play a part in responding to the changing climate by putting our faith into action. Speaking up for change and adjusting our lifestyle are great ways to respond. However, prayer is the most important way that we can take action. We're commanded to "pray in the Spirit... with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Ephesians 6:18), and when we pray, we speak to a mighty and powerful God. Praying is a way of partnering with God's transforming work! As we lift up prayers and requests about these issues, injustices and difficulties, we also need to give thanks and praise for the beauty of the world we're part of, and praise God for the created Earth we live on. Through our prayers, conversations and actions, we'll show others that we care about a fair and sustainable world, for the love of God and our neighbours.

# Introduction to this guide

Prayer is a crucial part of our individual and communal faith in God. And prayer is useful and meaningful for all subjects and issues, including climate change. This guide will give you suggestions for how to pray about the issue of climate change. Whether you want to pray alone or with people, this guide will provide suggestions and ideas for both.

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# Praying for the Climate:

## Individual



### Where Do I Begin?

Praying is not always the easiest thing. Prayer can be even more difficult when it is about difficult and confusing topics like climate change. So here are some tips for your personal prayer life. We hope these help you pray, and of course, we recognize that prayer is unique to every person in this world, but these steps are a simple way to begin.

1. Decide how often to pray: you might like to set aside a specific period every day or week to pause and pray for the climate. Start with something that feels manageable and not too overwhelming!
2. Remind yourself to pray: write down your commitment or add it to your phone as a reminder. (Tip, there are multiple great prayer apps to keep track of your prayers!)
3. Stay informed: find a source of information to help you pray (check out our resource bank for ideas).
4. Keep going, and be persistent. Climate change can feel like a huge topic, but your prayers are heard by God and can make a difference!



### How To Pray

Sometimes praying in new and different ways can help deepen your relationship with God and strengthen your prayer life. Below are some interactive prayer ideas that you could incorporate into your prayer life to help you pray for creation and climate change.



## Using The Bible

The Bible contains incredible words of wisdom and knowledge that should inform and inspire our prayers. The Bible also speaks of creation in deep and profound ways that allow our minds to imagine how creation is meant to be. Focus on a passage of scripture as you pray.

- You might like to rewrite the passage
- Read in a different translation to hear God's word in unique ways.
- Imagine what the passage meant to its original context
- Memorize verses about creation so it comes to mind when you are in creation, helping you remember to pray for the Earth and the climate crisis.



## Social Media

Social media can be distracting to our faith and prayer lives. However, there are things you can do to make your social media helpful for prayer, like:

- Following key people and organizations that talk about climate change, you can then pray about the situations you see on social media. (Follow accounts like Renew Our World, Katharine Hayhoe, Ruth Valerio, Operation Noah)
- Challenge yourself to turn posts into prayerful, hopeful and educational thoughts about Earth and climate change. Others will see these posts and may ask questions or join you in your journey of praying.



## Prayer Walk

A prayer walk is spending time praying and talking to God as you go on a walk. Going outside and going for a walk can give you a new perspective, and the things you encounter during your walk can also guide your prayers. If you find it difficult to concentrate by sitting still to pray, try going on a prayer walk. Choose a route around your local area and pray about whatever you see on your walk that speaks to you. You could pray for leaders when you walk past your local council office or large businesses or community centers.

# Praying for the Climate: Together



## Where Do We Begin?

1. Decide how often to pray: your group might like to set aside a specific time every day or week to get together and pray. Of course, you can pray for many things, but make the Earth and its climate one of the main prayer points. Start with something that feels manageable and not too overwhelming.
2. Reminding your group to pray: form a group chat or use a prayer app that allows you to connect and remind each other to pray while you are not together.
3. Stay informed: send articles and stories via your group chat to one another so you can stay informed about climate change, which will give your group ideas about what to pray about (check out our resource bank for ideas).
4. Encourage each other: being persistent in prayer can be difficult, but doing it alongside friends can help. Join together and encourage one another; climate change is a tough topic, but our prayers have power!



## How To Pray

There are many interactive and interesting ways to pray for climate change as a group. Praying together can motivate and spur your group into action!





## Using The Bible Together

Scripture is an incredible way to inspire prayer, so choose a passage to read through together a few times that will encourage your group to pray. You might like to select a few different translations to read through or encourage other people to read different verses aloud. You could start with passages like Job 12:7-10, Romans 1:20, and Isaiah 24:4-6.

After reading this passage, discuss what they meant for their original context and what they mean for your context. Then pray that these passages affect how we act, talk and approach creation and climate change.



## Silent Prayer

Group prayer doesn't always need to mean praying out loud. Allow time for silent reflection as a group and encourage people to pray quietly for God's presence in the climate crisis. You could also make space for individuals to listen for God's voice, words, pictures or Bible passages. You might be surprised to see how praying quietly together brings a new power as you wait for the Lord.



## Prayer Stations

Prayer that involves some thought-provoking activity can be a way to inspire your group's prayers. You can create prayer stations that allow a physical way to envision and think about climate change and creation. Here are a few ideas for what your prayer stations could look like; you can use these ideas as they are written or use them for inspiration about how to create your own.

### **Overwhelmed by Plastic**

This station will help visualize the conditions in which many lives are overrun by plastic pollution and those without access to garbage collection services. Create a space where you pile plastic waste: water bottles, soda cans and other plastic food packaging.

- The world has been waking up to the need to change how we design, use and reuse plastics. Sadly, COVID-19 has interrupted this momentum: plastic pollution has risen again due to discarded masks and plastic gloves.
- If you are comfortable doing so, sit amongst the plastic waste and ask God to speak to you about how you can choose to use less plastic.
- Up to one million people die each year as a result of mismanaged waste. Pick up an item of plastic and pray for people around the world who live surrounded by garbage. You could also put a recycling bin in the station and ask people to put a plastic item into it once they have prayed until the area is clear.

## Harmony of Creation

This station will help you appreciate the intricacies of creation and the harmony and interconnectedness of the natural world. Fill an area with plants, fresh fruit and photographs/books of wild things such as flowers, pine cones and leaves. Also, put out some crayons, pencils and scrap paper.

- Spend time drawing and copying/tracing the natural shapes in the objects and photographs around you. Then display them.
- As you do this, reflect on Genesis 1:31: “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”
- Pray and ask God how you can build more appreciation of the natural world into your everyday life by growing vegetables or going on nature walks. Write them down to remind you. And taste some fruit!

## A New Song of Creation

*‘Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.’ Psalm 96:1*

This station will help you worship and draw close to God as you consider the damage creation is facing and the people suffering from that damage. You will need a laptop or tablet, or ask people to use their devices.

- Create an area that is comfortable to sit in and be private. Set up on a device or have the link available at the station to the Climate Vigil Songs by The Porter’s Gate. Listen to the songs and repeat it if you want to explore the words.
- After a bit of listening, encourage the group to reflect on the lyrics of the song (may be helpful to have the lyrics printed out or on a screen) and chat about what you heard in the songs.
- Pray together using some of the lyrics from the songs you’ve listened to about creation.

These are just a few ideas but do not limit yourselves to these stations. Be creative about how you can set up stations that will help your group become inspired and allow them to think deeply about climate change and how we can care for creation.



# Helpful Prayers to Begin

Sometimes having something written down to pray for is helpful and powerful. So we have added some written prayers below that you can pray alone or with a group, along with the verse(s) that inspired these prayers.

## Prayer 1

God, thank you for the beautiful creation You have gifted us. We thank you that You created the heavens and the earth, trees and grass, seas and lakes and all the animals around us. Today, we see Your beauty and Your wisdom throughout all creation. Mountains, rainforests, oceans, and skies are all created by You perfectly, we will never fully understand how You did it, but we know You did. We pray for how the world has changed and how our desires and methods have damaged this once perfect creation. As we read about Your creation in Genesis, we pray that one day Your creation, animals, plants, humans, and seas will once again be unified and thriving fully as You created it to be. God, help us find ways to love Your creation and those who are struggling with the changing climate. Empower and strengthen us so we can become part of the solution. Thank you God, Amen.

## Prayer 2

Listen to Renew Our World Worship Song, and pray the lyrics that are in the song.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKrTO0x\\_aYA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKrTO0x_aYA)

Renew our spirits and cleanse our hearts.  
Renew our minds and transform our lives.  
Renew our cities and rebuild our ruins.  
Renew our world, in your name we pray, Amen.  
(A prayer from the global prayer and justice movement Renew Our World)

## Prayer 3

### Prayers for our leaders

We pray for our leaders whose decisions and policies have the potential to impact the lives of millions of people around the world - people who they may never meet, know, or be aware of, but who are Your sons and daughters. God, we pray that Your spirit will fill our leaders' hearts and heads so that they might hear the voices of the impoverished, the oppressed and the vulnerable. God help them see the impact of their actions, and the potential to release healing and hope through just policies, Amen.

## Prayer 4

Almighty God, we pray for all the places in our world that are being affected by the changing climate, places where crops fail and abundant harvests are but a memory. Lord, we ask You to help us to learn how to live sustainably for the benefit of people living in poverty. Gracious Jesus, we pray for all those who will go to bed hungry tonight. Help us, Lord, to have compassion for the hungry. Give us grace to meet the needs of our broken world in Your name. Lord, hear us Holy Spirit, equip and empower us as Your global church. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, in churches around the world. We pray that You will give them courage and strength. Lord, hear us Almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we pray You will help us act on behalf of people who are hungry in this world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen



# Prayer Leading to Action

Climate change is hitting the poorest people first and hardest; and these people are often the ones who have contributed least to the situation. The past generation didn't know, and it will be too late to leave it to the next, so this is our generation's challenge.

Prayer is part of our response – it connects us to God and will shape how we respond to these issues. The more we pray, the more we become passionate about making change happen. Here are some suggestions to take action:

## Living Differently

Think and pray about steps you could take to live more sustainably and reduce your carbon footprint. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- **Travel:** Could you walk or cycle more? Or use public transport, where available?
- **Food:** What impact does the food you eat have? Could you reduce eating meat each week?
- **Energy:** What type of energy powers your appliances at home, work and church?  
Could you switch to renewable electricity?

*\*Check out the resource bank at the end of this guide for more information on how to live in a more eco-friendly way!*

## Be A Positive Voice

Climate change is a debated topic and is often very politicized. This means we need positive voices in the church willing to have these hard conversations. But be a voice that creates positive change and action. Check out our Conversation Guide on Climate Change here! ([tearfund.ca/resources/a-conversation-for-all-the-earth](https://tearfund.ca/resources/a-conversation-for-all-the-earth)) Begin to pray about what this looks like in your context. Being a positive voice may look like:

- Giving a sermon or chat that involves speaking about creation and its beauty, but also how Christians are called to care for and not abuse it.
- Pray and keep your leaders, whether church or government, accountable to the goals and promise to end carbon emissions in your region.
- You could also form or use an existing small group to share videos and content like our **Christianity and Climate Change** to help each other learn more and come up with new ideas to care for all the Earth

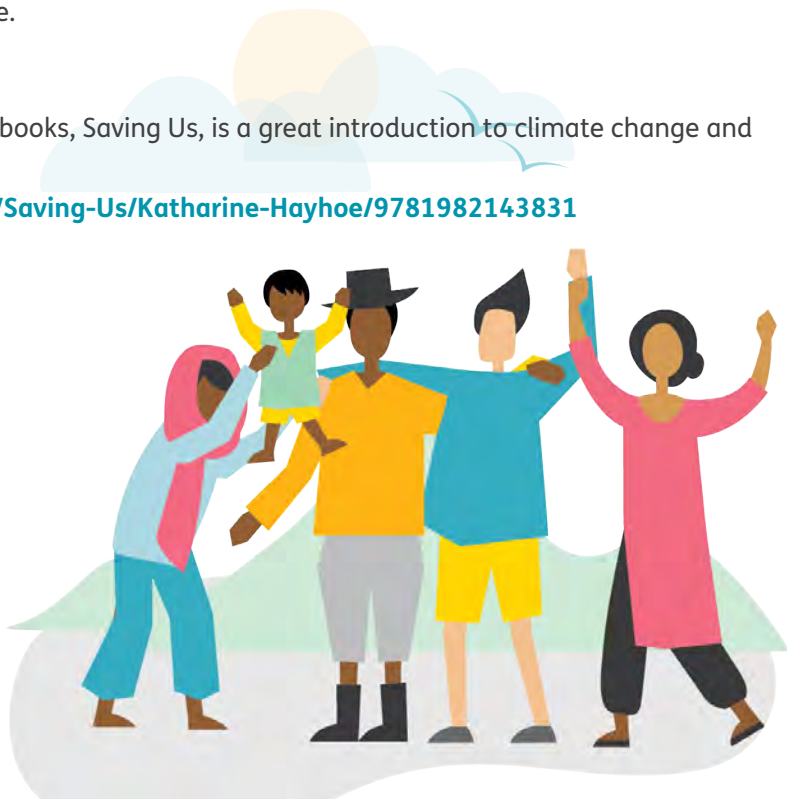




## Resource Bank

There are many resources out there when it comes to climate change and caring for the Earth. And although finding resources can become overwhelming it is important that we read, watch and listen to sources that both inform us and encourage us to be part of the solution. Here are some suggested resources we encourage you to check out:

- Check out our partners, Renew Our World websites, to learn about climate change and the movement to end the climate emergency.  
[www.renewourworld.net](http://www.renewourworld.net)
- Learn more about climate change and Christianity in our Christianity and Climate Change series with Dr. Katharine Hayhoe.  
[www.tearfund.ca/christianity-and-climate-change](http://www.tearfund.ca/christianity-and-climate-change)
- Talking about climate change can be difficult, our For All The Earth- A Conversation is a guide with tips on how to have good conversations about climate change  
[www.tearfund.ca/resources/a-conversation-for-all-the-earth](http://www.tearfund.ca/resources/a-conversation-for-all-the-earth)
- Check out our For All the Earth Campaign page at  
[www.tearfund.ca/program/creation-care](http://www.tearfund.ca/program/creation-care)
- A Rocha Canada, one of our partners, is an international Christian organization which, inspired by God's love, engages in scientific research, environmental education, community-based conservation projects and sustainable agriculture.  
[www.arocha.ca](http://www.arocha.ca)
- One of Katharine Hayhoe's newest books, Saving Us, is a great introduction to climate change and how we should talk about it.  
[www.simonandschuster.ca/books/Saving-Us/Katharine-Hayhoe/9781982143831](http://www.simonandschuster.ca/books/Saving-Us/Katharine-Hayhoe/9781982143831)





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*Following Jesus where  
the need is greatest*