

Peterborough Eco-faith Network.

Prayers for and around COP 26, Glasgow, Oct. 31 – Nov 12, 2021.

1. Adoration. [Could be included (adapted) in a Eucharistic Prayer]

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
There is no speech, nor are there words,
their voice is not heard,
yet their voice goes out through all the earth. (Psalm 19, 1,3,4)

We join our praise, Lord God, with the hymns of joy that fill all your creatures:

- the galaxies in space;
- the mountains and glens, running streams and pounding waves;
- the creatures of land, air and water.

Above all we bring our adoration and thanksgiving because you have given us the knowledge of your creative love, the goodness and grace that we can find in and through your creation, definitively revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again for the salvation of this his world.

Blessed are you, Lord God, [taken from eucharist prayer G, *Common Worship*]
our light and our salvation;
to you belong glory and praise for ever.
You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels
we may sing your praise:
Holy , holy, holy, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

2. Confession.

Creator God, who has given us the earth as our home,

Forgive us the way we abuse it:

- the plundering of resources;
- the destruction of forests and the desertification of plains;
- the loss of species;
- the carelessness use of the world as a waste-bin;
- the pollution of our atmosphere and global warming;
- the grimness and harshness of much of our community life;
- the ruin caused by war and strife.

This is the burden of the world and this is our burden, for we are caught up in the ways of the world. Father, forgive, and grant that we may come to you for renewal and restoration, so that we may step away from the way that leads to destruction.

3. A plea for environmental wisdom.

The threat is there:

- the indiscriminate burning of fossil fuel, carbon emissions; these are producing a warmer world, rising sea levels, stronger storms and prolonged drought.
- the over exploitation of the world's resources, land, water and minerals, that can so easily lead to deforestation, species loss and desertification.
- the demands of a growing population, creating economic and political tension.

Amidst the uncertainties and potential disasters, give us something of your wisdom and mercy:
help us to move

from aggressive exploitation to prudential action;
from an obsession with growth to cutting back on the demands we make on the
earth's resources;
from a world economy of catching up with the rich to one where each can live well
because each is satisfied with enough.

May the energies and virtues of science and technology, of politics and education be spent
in developing human society forward in ways that both welcome human invention and respect the
wisdom of being children of the earth.

4. Intercession for sustainability

May your mercy, righteousness and peace cover the turmoil and strife of our world;
create wisdom and prudence in our hearts and minds,
so that your will may prevail in the councils of the nations.

May all peoples recognise, willingly and sincerely,
their dependence on the limited resources of the earth
and seek together to find ways whereby the riches of your bounty
may be fairly and wisely used for the common good and in a sustaining way
that the welfare of future generations may be assured
so that together the whole world may rejoice in your goodness.

5. COP 26, Glasgow 2021.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
as the nations gather under the shadow of the threatening effects of climate change,
give them: urgency of purpose,
sincerity of intent,
wisdom to discern their responsibilities,
the ability to move forward together,
the justice to include the poor and those most exposed to the
consequences of climate change,
the vision of nations living sustainably with the earth.

By your Holy Spirit draw the peoples together into your vision of a world at peace with itself,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

6. Those involved in and around COP 26.

Lord God,
we remember before you all those gathering in Glasgow for the UN conference on climate change:
those with the task of representing their nation,
that they may be generous and just in seeking a realistic and honest common way
forward;
those who manage and direct proceedings,
that they may be strong and patient, holding the vision, yet careful for all;
the scientists and experts that advise and set the parameters for the debate;
the campaigners and lobbyists, that they be open and fair in their commitments,
and we pray that, out of the energy of debate and diplomacy, the world may find a realistic
commitment to a future for the good of all humanity.

7. Prayer for ending the use of fossil fuels.

Lord God, hear us at this point of decision.

The resources that have fuelled the transformation of the world,
through industry and commerce,
have fuelled the crisis that faces us today,
through greenhouse gases and climate change;
give us, personally, in our local communities, nationally and globally,
the wisdom and courage urgently to find a way forward.
that is both effective and just
together with the willingness to accept the cost and inconvenience of change
and the determination to see it through,
in Jesus' name.

8. A plea for the future.

God in heaven, the world cries out, cries out with longing for a new and hopeful future,
a sustainable economic and communal future,
where generations that are to come can live in security and peace,
enjoying the fruits and riches of creation with gratitude and responsible care.
Hear us, for Jesus' sake,
who assures us of the Father's love manifest even in the flowers of the field and the birds of
the air.

9. Faith and hope. [From Julian of Norwich]

'It (the creation) exists, both now and forever, because God loves it.'

May we rest in that assurance,
we who know that we belong to an age that tears things apart,
exploiting and desecrating the world.

May we rest in that assurance,
we, for whom the future seems dark and uncertain,
in a world of climate change and resource depletion.

May we rest in that assurance,
not as a way of escape but a reason for hope and commitment,
so that we work with the grain of creation in all its riches and glory.

May we rest in that assurance,
because in Christ the forces of destruction have been faced,
and life comes out of sacrifice and faith.

Lord, our God, we place our trust in you,
we look beyond ourselves and our times,
believing that you are at work in the world,
and that we are called, as part of humanity,
to participate in the commitment to life,
in justice and peace for all
in the fulness of your creation.

Enable us to receive what you give, strengthen us where we falter in resolve and betray our trust,
and lead us in the pilgrimage of faith, in Jesus' name.

Come pray with me!

An invitation to prepare for COP 26 in Glasgow, November 2021.

The Conference of the Parties Framework Convention on Climate Change of the UN meets for the 26th time in Glasgow, in November, called COP 26. The preparatory report has made it clear that this is a crucial time. If climate change is to be brought under manageable control difficult decisions will have to be made now.

Over the last decade or so, the dangerous and far-reaching impact made by the exploitation of the earth by humanity has been recognised: pollution, desertification, species loss, and global warming. It is this latter, fuelled by the emission of greenhouse gases, that is at the heart of the issue and which needs to be tackled urgently. If things go on as they are our planet will become 'a living hell'! The effects are already being experienced, with abnormal weather patterns becoming more and more frequent.

To contain this serious and far-reaching crisis hard decisions will have to be made in order that the global patterns of economic activity and the ways our lives are ordered is made sustainable, within the earth's resources. Importantly, too, it is a matter of global justice as poorer and less developed countries are and will be impacted by climate change more than the exploitative, richer countries.

There are signs that things are changing; but terribly slowly and without enough urgency. At least global warming is firmly on the world's agenda, alternative technologies and sources of energy are emerging, caring for the natural world, on which we all depend, is beginning to slow the loss of bio-diversity; 'green' responsibility is increasingly built into daily enterprises. Many individuals and organisations, statutory and voluntary, large and small, not least from among the churches, actively engage in conservation, in campaigning, in adopting alternative life styles. In the face of the global challenge, it may sometimes seem that what we personally do is ineffectual; but every action adds up, creating, cumulatively, a creative social shift towards a sustainable society.

As Christians, however, we have been invited to bring all our needs and desires to God, in penitence, in hope and in a faithful commitment to serve God and neighbour in all the vicissitudes of life. This is, therefore, a time for focussed and urgent prayer, when with the whole Church, we can lay before God these threats and hopes for the future of the earth, to ask for wisdom and daring, for mutual caring and responsibility, for peace through the radical time of change and the emergence of a sustainable and just prosperity. To ask, indeed, that God's will be done in earth as in heaven. Add your prayers to the prayers of our sisters and brethren in Christ around the globe.

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COP 26: some notes resources and suggested contacts.

- 1. Climate Sunday 2021** is an initiative by the Environmental Issues Network of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), calling the churches to commit to prayer and reflection on any Sunday in the run up to COP 26. A national service will be held in Glasgow on Sep. 5. Resources and ideas available.
- 2. Creation Tide:** Sept. 1 – Oct. 4. Originating from an Orthodox initiative, the period between the start of the Orthodox year and the Feast of St. Francis (including harvest) has widely been adopted as a time of reflection and prayer on the creation as gift and responsibility.
- 3. Creation Care** is fostered as a Christian focus and responsibility by the Evangelical Alliance.
- 4. The Church of England Environmental Programme** offers resources and suggestions for action.
- 5. Methodist Church Environmental Programme.**
- 6. Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT):** Baptist, Methodist, URC and Church of Scotland
- 7. Eco-church,** sponsored by CTBI and A Rocha, is a scheme to support churches in their search for greater environmental responsibility through an assessment process leading to bronze, silver or gold awards.
- 8. A Rocha UK:** prayer and study resources.
- 9. Green Christian:** a network; includes resources for prayer and study.
- 10. Christian Aid:** resources for study, prayer and posters etc on international issues. Sponsors a Climate Prayer Chain.
- 11. Tear Fund:** Evangelical aid agency.
- 12. CAFOD:** Catholic aid agency.