

Prayers and Litanies on Climate Change

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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**For more worship resources on food and hunger go to www.fastforchange.ca.

Prayer: Spirit of the living God

Spirit of the living God. Apart from you, we can do nothing.
Transform your Church into the image of Jesus Christ.
Release your power to bring healing to the sick, freedom to
the oppressed and comfort to those who mourn.
Pour your love into our hearts and fill us with compassion to
answer the call of the homeless and the hungry. And to
enfold orphans, widows and the elderly in your care.
Give us wisdom and insight for the complex problems we
face today. Help us to use the resources of the earth for the
well-being of all. Holy Spirit, we need your comfort and
guidance.
Transform our hearts.

Global Day of Prayer (Climate Change), Transformations Ireland
<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/>

Reading: Isaiah 58:6

“The kind of fasting I want is this: remove the chains of
oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed
go free. Share your food with the hungry and open your
homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who
have nothing to wear and do not refuse to help your own
relatives.”

(Good News Bible)

Prayer/Poem

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 lifestyle.
Amen.

A Poem by Chris Polhill
Resources from Climate Change Day of Prayer
<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/>

Be-attitudes

Blessed are those who use low energy light bulbs
for theirs is the light of God's wisdom.
Blessed are those who travel by train
for their lives are on God's track.
Blessed are those who chose a car with low fuel consumption
for they are in God's fast lane.
Blessed are those who insulate their homes
for theirs is the warmth of God's love.
Blessed are you when you put yourselves out
to use energy from renewable sources,
for you have kindled the flame of the future.

A Poem by Chris Polhill
From the Climate Change Day of Prayer
<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/>

A Reflection – Bill McKibbon

Bill McKibben, the American environmentalist, writes:
"I've mostly given up being either optimistic or pessimistic.
Our odds of success are not incredibly good, but I wake up every day saying "What can I do to change the odds a little?
And it's not impossible, the task that we have ahead. We're not going to stop global warming, but slowing it to the point that we can cope with it remains within the realms of possibility.
"Fun" is not quite the right word, but there is something deeply satisfying about trying. It's the biggest challenge that humans have ever got to take part in. It's exciting to be part

of that. To be doing something that crucial is a great honour."

Bill McKibbon quote
From the Climate Change Day of Prayer
<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/>

Put People First Prayer

Leader: Father, we stand before you in prayer as the global economy crisis casts a shadow over the peoples of the earth. In a word as closely connected as ours, each of our actions affects the whole. We are sorry when we have failed to act beyond our narrow interests. Help us to live as a community and care for others, especially the vulnerable and the poor amongst us.

As the G20 meet, we ask for wisdom for the leaders of the world. Where nations have pushed their agendas on others, bring partnership and love. Where people have lived lives disconnected from their brothers and sisters in other countries; bring solidarity and compassion. May we see the dawning of a new world, with your values at its heart; a world of justice, mercy and humility.

May the poor not be forgotten in the midst of crisis.

All: Father, as your people, help us to raise our voices. As your church worldwide, let us rise up in prayer, in speaking out and in demonstrating your way of life, so that out of the ruins of this current crisis might come help for a better world.

Amen.

Put People First Prayer, from St. Dunstan's House Press Blog (Australia); <http://st-dunstans.blogspot.com>