

PRAYER RESOURCE

This resource has prayers and prayer points from many countries on justice, climate change and renewing our world.



PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD

Lord,
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.

Inspired by the Bible passage:

They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations. **Isaiah 61:4**

Credit: TEAR Australia

Loving God, Lord of heaven and earth,
this earth, our home, belongs to you.
Give us grace to love it as you do.
Give us courage to give ourselves, as you do,
for the good of all people and all of your creation.

Strengthen us to stand, as you do,
with the vulnerable poor.
Give us wisdom to know when we have enough,
and the voice to say “enough”
to all that harms creation and hurts the poorest.
This earth, our home, belongs to you.
Amen.

Credit: Micah Australia



**Our God,
you hold our lives in your hands.
You have promised to give us a new heart
and to put a new spirit in us.**

**We pray:
renew us everyday.**

**Forgive us where we have failed
to be good stewards and to be good neighbours.**

**Give us the courage
to think beyond our own lives;
to live and consume responsibly
so that our near and far neighbours can experience their full dignity,
and that we can help restore and admire
the beauty of our communities and of this earth.**

**Our God,
you hold our world in your hands.
You hear your creation groaning
but you have promised to liberate it from its pain.**

**We pray:
renew our world.**

**Forgive those of us
who haven't used their power wisely.
Give us and our leaders the courage
to think beyond our own economies;
to seek genuine partnerships
so that all people can experience the fullness of life,
and that our planet is known to be the common home
for all creation and future generations.**

Amen.

Inspired by:

'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh'. (Ezekiel 36:26)

'For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.' (Romans 8:20-22)

Credit: EU-CORD



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 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.

Credit: Micah USA

Prayers for our churches

God, we pray for unity in the church - that despite our differences and disagreements we can come together around the beautiful gift of salvation, and the hope we have in Jesus. That we will be renewed and filled with urgency to work together to see justice done in our world. We pray for the Church to awaken to the injustice of climate change, our role in perpetuating the problem, and a passion to see your world renewed.

Credit: Micah USA

Prayers for specific countries

Prayers from Honduras

From: Osvaldo Munguia, Mopawi, Honduras

Please pray for areas suffering as a result of deforestation, particularly in Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site. Deforestation is causing the loss of fauna and flora and increases vulnerability to climate change.

‘Pray that we as Mopawi will be able to accompany the people in the communities and local leadership to call for effective protection from the government, to have total control of the situation in the Reserve.’

Prayer points from Nigeria

From: Ben Osawe, Tearfund Nigeria

Dear Lord, we pray for the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices in the farming communities in the Middle Belt of Nigeria. We ask that the state authorities would demonstrate the political will to create an enabling environment for sustainable agriculture, which will lead to: increased productivity; enhanced maintenance of ecosystems; and strengthened capacity for adaptation to climate change in these communities.

We also pray for practices that reduce the adverse impacts of waste on urban communities in Nigeria. We pray for the success of strategies that promote inclusion, social cohesion, resilience and sustainability amongst these urban communities - such as plans to use the recycling and reusing of waste to produce eco-jobs for young people.



Prayers from the Pacific

From Tafue Lusama, General Secretary of Te Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu, the Christian Church of Tuvalu:

For island nations like Tuvalu and Kiribati, climate change is a struggle for survival, although the problem is not of our making. A rising sea level may submerge our communities, our atolls and islands, even our whole nations.

Loving God, help all nations be good neighbours to us. Help them support us in our fight for survival, to lend a hand in the effort to liberate us from our current fear of a future beneath the ocean.

For every country that is dependent on the coal industry, move them away from their fear of transition to embark on investing in renewable energy sources. Our shared responsibility to each other and to humanity should not be taken lightly, and our survival depends on the whole world acting together and doing the right thing now. Amen.

From Holmes M Saeve, General Secretary Solomon Islands Christian Association:

Climate change puts Small Island States in grave danger. In the Solomon Islands, rising sea level has turned our underground waters salty. Taro crops and fruit trees do not bear fruits any more as their roots are now in sea waters where once it was fresh.

We are losing our coastlines every year.

We bear the pain, sorrow and sadness cause by climate change which is not of our own making.

Lord, we pray that industrial countries around the world will re-consider their profit making businesses as the main contributors to climate change and come up with changes in their hearts and minds to save this planet.

May God bless and protect us all. Amen.

Gathered by: Micah Australia

Peru

'In the region of Cusco, Peru, farmers in the high Andean areas are severely affected by drought and unpredictable weather patterns due to climate change. They are losing significant proportions of their crops and cattle, forcing many to migrate to cities.' - Juliana Morillo, coordinator for the Latin America and Caribbean Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network.

Let's pray for our brothers and sisters suffering the effects of climate change: that God will provide for their needs, and that they may receive adequate support in adapting more effectively to climate change.

Let's pray for ourselves in the developed world, who are also part of the problem. Pray that in spite of the great geographical distance that separates us, we may see these vulnerable highland farmers as our 'neighbours', be concerned about them, and be willing to change our consumerist lifestyles.

Let's pray for the government of Peru and other actors, that they can better support rural farmers with their livelihoods and with adapting to climate change.



A prayer for the Amazon region in Peru

Father God, We pray for the Amazon region, where most of Peru's forest resources are and from where most emissions from deforestation come. We pray for Moyobamba province, where communities are losing their lands because of deforestation for palm oil plantation. We pray for more Christians, especially in urban areas, to become more aware and passionate about this issue that greatly impacts vulnerable populations. Amen.

Please pray for the work that Paz y Esperanza does in Moyobamba, particularly for the indigenous communities they work with to obtain land titles for the land they own. Pray for the Lord to touch the hearts of the decision-makers, so their way to manage the situation is fair and transparent.

Credit: Paz y Esperanza, Peru

For climate affected communities in the USA

God, we pray for resilience and comfort for the communities in the United States who have experienced an increase and severity of storms leading to flooding, loss of crops, and lost infrastructure. We pray that communities find ways of adapting to these challenges, but most of all that you bring comfort, security, and hope to places who have been devastated by a changing climate.

Credit: Micah USA

Prayer points from Zambia

Zambia has had good rains and is expecting a good harvest. This, however, may not be realized if the attacks by the army worms and the red locusts are not contained. Pray that the government and organisations supporting agriculture will not relent in fighting the army worms and red locusts to secure the harvest for this season.

Some parts of Zambia in the South have had lots of rain. It is good news but has also resulted in some areas experiencing flash floods which is a threat particularly for the maize fields. Pray to thank God for the rains. Pray that fields will not be destroyed by these flash floods and affect the food security of households in affected areas.

Pray for the President of Zambia - Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, that God will strengthen him as he champions the diversification programme from mining to agriculture and that this will benefit the poor who largely depend on subsistence farming.

Pray that many Christians in Zambia will encourage their communities to care for the environment and support programmes to influence change in how this is done.

Thank God for the rains. More water for our hydro power driven energy will mean reduced load shedding which has affected small scale businesses so much.



Responsive prayers

Leader: For every good gift in creation, for its diversity and dignity and glory:
All: We give you thanks.

Leader: For threatened species and habitats, for all creatures on the brink:
All: We ask your grace and protection.

Leader: For seeking to live without limits, and failing to see how our lives affect all in the community of creation:
All: We ask your forgiveness and correction.

Leader: For the beauty and diversity of the family of faith:
All: We give you thanks.

Leader: For all those who struggle and are weary, who suffer and are oppressed:
All: We ask your grace and protection.

Leader: For the indifference or ignorance or busyness that stops us responding with mercy and justice to our brothers and sisters in need:
All: We ask your forgiveness and correction.

Leader: For every opportunity to do good, to share abundantly, and to live a little more in tune with your whole-hearted hospitality:
All: We give you thanks.

Leader: When we are worn down, tired out or broken apart by the weight of our own struggles and failures:
All: We ask your grace and protection.

Leader: For the times we do not heed your call to walk the road of discipleship with your son, Jesus:
All: We ask your grace and protection.

Benediction

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

(2 Thessalonians 2:16–17)

Credit: Micah Australia



This we know: the earth does not belong to us.

The earth is the Lord's and so are all its people.

This we know: we did not weave the web of life.

The earth is the Lord's and so is all that breathes on it.

This we know: we are called to till and work the earth.

The earth is the Lord's and so are all who work the land.

This we know: that we are called to take care of creation.

The earth is the Lord's yet we have polluted and abused it.

This we know: that whatever befalls the earth,

Befalls the sons and daughters of the earth

This we know: that the earth is the Lord's.

And so we will serve Him in it.

Amen

Bishop Eric Pike, Diocese of Port Elizabeth (South Africa); adapted from various sources inc Ray Simpson



Prayers about climate change

Clean energy prayer points

We give thanks that more than 50% of the *new* investment in energy generation around the world since 2013 has been renewable energy. Thank you, loving God, for this sign of hope.

However, renewable sources still only produce around a quarter of the world's electricity, with polluting fossil fuels providing 75%. Please pray that this is turned around rapidly.

We ask you, loving God, for restraint and the strength to reflect. We know that if we dig up and use all of the coal, oil and gas, then we will experience catastrophic warming and unprecedented disruption to the safe climate you have gifted us. Help us draw deeply on the abundant renewable energy you pour out on your world each day – through sun, wind, tides, river flows, the very heat of the earth beneath us. Help us learn to leave fossil fuels in the ground.

In 2016, 47 of the countries most at risk to climate change, committed to run on 100% renewable energy within only the next few decades. Give thanks for their powerful witness and leadership, despite their poverty and vulnerability.