

FOR ALL CREATION

SCRIPTURE-GUIDED PRAYER ON CLIMATE CHANGE

PRAYER IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL TOOLS WE HAVE AS CHRISTIANS

- PRAYER BRINGS OUR HEARTS AND MINDS CLOSER TO GOD.
- PRAYER EMBOLDENS US TO BE AGENTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE.
- PRAYER SUSTAINS US AS WE SEEK JUSTICE IN THE WORLD.

We pray to know God and to know ourselves. Prayer helps us break through the noise of the world and teaches us to listen and understand the heart of God. We pray with our hearts, yes, but also with our hands and our feet. We pray because of God's everlasting grace, justice, and forgiveness. We pray in exultation. We pray with groans. We pray with tears. We pray with laughter.

We pray with thanksgiving for the world that the Lord has given us. For the air we breath, the

fresh water we drink, the food we eat, the nature we enjoy, the community that supports us, the family who loves us, the children who inspire us.

We pray because climate change threatens all that we love, know, and cherish. We pray because of the impact climate change has on all of us. We pray in Jesus' name because He is our Lord and our Savior. We pray God uses us to heal the wounds of our damaged world and to protect those who are in harm's way.

WE PRAY.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

As we seek to mobilize the church on climate change, we know that prayer is an integral part of the process. This guide contains four sections that relate to our connection to climate change:

God's Creation, Caretakers, The Human Impact, and World Leaders.

Use this guide to pray for justice in your home community as well as the world. Pray that God's justice be done for all of creation.



IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH. NOW THE EARTH WAS FORMLESS AND EMPTY, DARKNESS WAS OVER THE SURFACE OF THE DEEP, AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS HOVERING OVER THE WATERS.

GENESIS 1:1-2

From you comes life. In you I Am. This world is your creation, your art for us to enjoy, to steward, and to flourish upon. We thank you for blessing us with its beauty.

THEN GOD SAID, "LET THE LAND PRODUCE VEGETATION: SEED-BEARING PLANTS AND TREES ON THE LAND THAT BEAR FRUIT WITH SEED IN IT, ACCORDING TO THEIR VARIOUS KINDS." AND IT WAS SO.

GENESIS 1:11

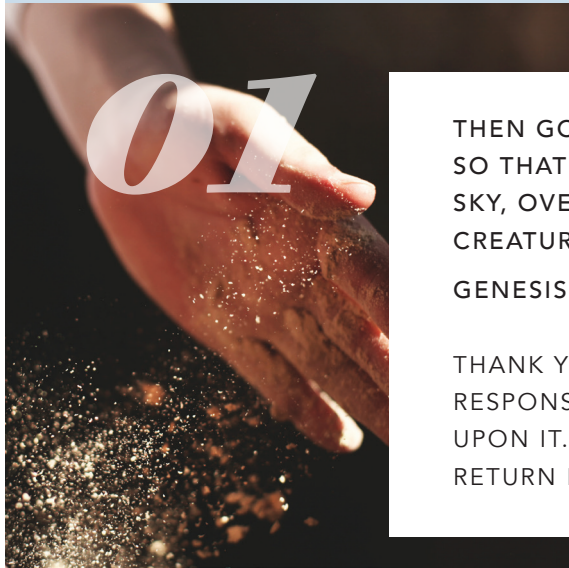
Thank you for providing for all of our needs. Each part of your creation serves a particular purpose. Each sings your praises in its own way. Sustainer of life thank you for giving us a harvest every year that feeds, nourishes, and gives us the energy to be your servants in the world.

AND GOD SAID, "LET THE WATER TEEM WITH LIVING CREATURES, AND LET BIRDS FLY ABOVE THE EARTH ACROSS THE VAULT OF THE SKY." SO GOD CREATED THE GREAT CREATURES OF THE SEA AND EVERY LIVING THING WITH WHICH THE WATER TEEMS AND THAT MOVES ABOUT IN IT, ACCORDING TO THEIR KINDS, AND EVERY WINGED BIRD ACCORDING TO ITS KIND. AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

GENESIS 1:20-21

We thank you for the birds in the air, the fish in the streams, the whales in the ocean. Each living thing bears your fingerprints. Each is a testament to your glory. Lord, stir in our hearts a spirit to protect these magnificent creatures and to preserve the oceans that are rapidly changing due to climate change.

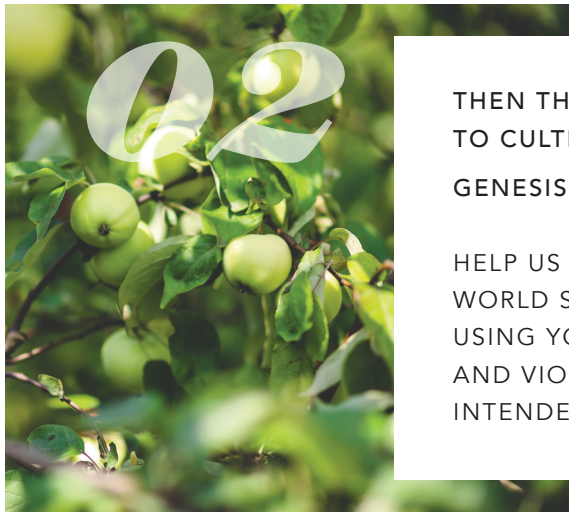
CARETAKERS



THEN GOD SAID, "LET US MAKE MANKIND IN OUR IMAGE, IN OUR LIKENESS, SO THAT THEY MAY RULE OVER THE FISH IN THE SEA AND THE BIRDS IN THE SKY, OVER THE LIVESTOCK AND ALL THE WILD ANIMALS, AND OVER ALL THE CREATURES THAT MOVE ALONG THE GROUND."

GENESIS 1:26

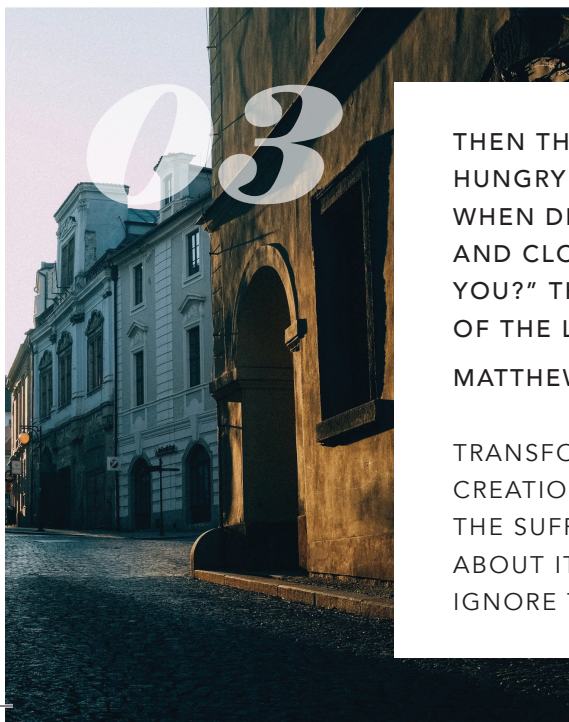
THANK YOU FOR CREATING US IN YOUR IMAGE AND GIVING US THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR YOUR SACRED EARTH AND EVERYTHING THAT LIVES UPON IT. GIVE US THE WISDOM TO RULE OVER YOUR CREATION SO THAT WHEN WE RETURN IT TO YOU, IT IS AS MAGNIFICENT AS THE DAY YOU CREATED IT.



THEN THE LORD GOD TOOK THE MAN AND PUT HIM INTO THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO CULTIVATE IT AND STEWARD IT.

GENESIS 2:15

HELP US BE THE STEWARDS YOU INTENDED AND TO BRING HEALING TO A WORLD SCARRED BY OUR GREED AND MISMANAGEMENT. FORGIVE US FOR NOT USING YOUR CREATION LIKE WE SHOULD. FORGIVE US FOR OUR GREED, ABUSE, AND VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUR CREATION. HELP US TO WALK IN THE WAYS YOU INTENDED.



THEN THE RIGHTEOUS WILL ANSWER HIM, "LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY AND FEED YOU, OR THIRSTY AND GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK? WHEN DID WE SEE YOU A STRANGER AND INVITE YOU IN, OR NEEDING CLOTHES AND CLOTHE YOU? WHEN DID WE SEE YOU SICK OR IN PRISON AND GO TO VISIT YOU?" THE KING WILL REPLY, "TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME."

MATTHEW 25:37-40

TRANSFORM OUR HEARTS AND AWAKEN OUR MINDS. HELP US KNOW THAT AS CREATION SUFFERS SO TOO DO THOSE WHO LIVE UPON IT. GIVE US EYES TO SEE THE SUFFERING OF YOUR CHILDREN AND THE DETERMINATION TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. PEEL BACK THE INDIFFERENCE THAT ALLOWS US TO ABUSE NATURE AND IGNORE THE CRIES OF THE MOST IMPOVERISHED AMONG US



THE HUMAN IMPACT

FOR YOU CREATED
MY INMOST BEING;
YOU KNIT ME
TOGETHER IN MY
MOTHER'S WOMB.
I PRAISE YOU
BECAUSE I AM
FEARFULLY AND
WONDERFULLY
MADE; YOUR
WORKS ARE
WONDERFUL, I
KNOW THAT
FULL WELL.

PSALM 139:13-14

You knit each and every one of us in our mother's womb. As I am fearfully and wonderfully made, so too is everyone and everything on this planet. Thank you for the diversity of the world, and for imprinting each of us with your beauty.

WHOEVER
OPPRESSES A POOR
MAN INSULTS HIS
MAKER, BUT HE
WHO IS GENEROUS
TO THE NEEDY
HONORS HIM.

PROVERBS 14:31

We acknowledge our complicity in the cycles of oppression that plague the world. We take so much with considering how much it costs. Rid us of our selfishness, and help us to love our neighbors as you taught us.

LEARN TO
DO RIGHT!
SEEK JUSTICE,
ENCOURAGE
THE OPPRESSED.
DEFEND THE
CAUSE OF THE
FATHERLESS, PLEAD
THE CASE OF THE
WIDOW.

ISAIAH 1:17

Give us courage to speak up for what is right, and to become the stewards you designed us to be. Our poorest brothers and sister have done the least to create climate change yet are suffering the most from it. Drought, flood, and famine are more severe now than they have ever been. We are your hands and feet, oh God, guide us in our work to bring healing and salvation to the world.



WORLD LEADERS

I URGE, THEN, FIRST OF ALL, THAT PETITIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING BE MADE FOR ALL PEOPLE— FOR KINGS AND ALL THOSE IN AUTHORITY, THAT WE MAY LIVE PEACEFUL AND QUIET LIVES IN ALL GODLINESS AND HOLINESS.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2

Give those in positions of authority wisdom and the humility to listen. Remove their pride and sow seeds of peace in their hearts. Give our leaders a heart for the most impoverished amongst us and the courage to take action where it is needed most.

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND EVERYTHING IN IT, THE WORLD, AND ALL WHO LIVE IN IT; FOR HE FOUNDED IT UPON THE SEAS AND ESTABLISHED IT UPON THE WATERS

PSALM 24:1-2

You, Lord, are the maker of the heavens and the earth, the trees and the glaciers, the rivers and the prairies. We confess that we have squandered and polluted the world you bore up. Forgive us and give us all - especially our leaders - eyes to see the value of creation.

FOR IN HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED: THINGS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE, WHETHER THRONES OR POWERS OR RULERS OR AUTHORITIES; ALL THINGS HAVE BEEN CREATED THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM.

COLOSSIANS 1:16

In an era when we often think ourselves mightier than you, God, where we think we can control the oceans and bring the sun to heal, remind us of how small we are. Give us the humility to know our place in the world and of your greatness.

AMEN.