

thank you very much," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

<http://news.trust.org/item/20191126171236-wwtvc/>

### Tuesday December 31<sup>st</sup>

And finally for 2019, since we'll all be up late tonight... Galloway Forest, Sark island and Exmoor have been named among the best spots in the UK for stargazing. The Royal Observatory Greenwich has revealed the top locations Brits should visit for a clear view of the heavens. The Brecon Beacons, Snowdonia and Elan Valley were also identified as great places for Brits to gain a view of the stars. The news follows research that found 44% of adults wish they knew more about the night sky, with two in five saying they would like to learn the names of stars. The study was commissioned by the Google Pixel 4, in partnership with Royal Observatory Greenwich (ROG), to mark the start of the darkest season – the perfect time for astrophotography.

<https://www.mygreenpod.com/articles/stargazing-in-the-uk/>

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by email (free), please email:

[prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk](mailto:prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk)

[www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk)

Picture on front cover: snowy trees, Leeds, by Emma King

Weblinks accessed 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

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## Prayer guide for the care of creation



# December 2019

“The Earth is what we all  
have in common.”

Wendell Berry

## Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup>

First Sunday in Advent – The Creative Breath.

Creative God, breath of all life  
Through whom all things  
are created and sustained;

all sons and daughters

flocks and herds,

all birds of the air

and fish of the sea

You walked this earth

as child and Creator

You touched the soil

quenched your thirst

embraced this world

brought life and light

love and laughter

into dark and death-filled lives

Creative God, breath of all life

Through whom all things

are created and sustained

**We bring to you our sacrifice  
of a contrite and willing heart**

Excerpt from

[https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent\\_Celtic\\_Christian\\_Celebration.htm](https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm)

## Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>

A survey of more than 2,000 adults living in the UK has found that less than one in 25 believe politicians can

be trusted to give accurate facts around climate change. Just 4% of these respondents said they feel that politicians are honest about environmental topics, placing politicians only marginally ahead of celebrities (3%) in terms of perceived credibility. More broadly, more than one-third of respondents (36%) said they would not trust any external organisation or individual to provide reliable information in this space.

Among the remaining respondents, academics (31%), campaign groups (21%) and individual activists (15%) – such as Greta Thunberg- were perceived to be the three most trustworthy sources of environmental information.

<https://www.edie.net/news/9/Less-than-one-in-25-Brits-think-politicians-tell-the-truth-on-climate-change--survey-finds/>

## Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>

A survey conducted by Sky News concludes that tackling climate change “could be emerging as a new political fault line in the UK”, with 58% of those who voted Labour at the last election saying their party’s prioritisation of the climate mattered “a great deal”, compared to 30% of

deploying hydrogen-powered trains on the Great Britain mainline. As part of the new project Arup will establish a high-level operational concept, and assess potential risks and regulatory obligations. The hydrogen trains’ feasibility study is part of the RSSB’s plans to decarbonise the rail sector, following a challenge to industry last year by then Transport Minister Jo Johnson to remove all diesel-only trains by 2040.

<https://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/3084269/arup-to-assess-feasibility-for-hydrogen-trains>

## Saturday December 28<sup>th</sup>

Hong Kong is one of the most densely packed cities on Earth, and now one organisation, Rooftop Republic, is spearheading a movement to turn its idle rooftops and urban spaces into farms to help residents reconnect with nature and make the finance hub more liveable. Once a cluster of fishing and farming villages, Hong Kong has 7.4 million people living on a quarter of its 1,100 square km (425 square miles) of land.

<http://news.trust.org/item/20191105003136-e36dr>

## Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup>

Loving Father, you sent your Son to be a light to those who walk in darkness. May we who have brought your creation to the edge of darkness see the new path that we must tread, and may we follow it faithfully, in the power of your dear Son, who gave his life for us.

## Monday December 30<sup>th</sup>

Britain could significantly cut its carbon footprint if people stopped sending unnecessary ‘thank you’ emails, researchers said in November, calling on the public to ‘think before you thank’. Britons send more than 64 million unnecessary emails per day, a study by energy supplier OVO Energy found, with unactionable pleasantries such as ‘thank you’ and ‘thanks’ topping the list of most common offenders. “Is OVO asking everybody to be more rude? Absolutely not,” said Mike Berners-Lee, an expert on carbon footprinting at Britain’s Lancaster University who carried out the analysis. “But if you send somebody a ‘thanks’ email, and they’re only three metres away from you, it might be nice to just go over and say,

### Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Day.

There were thousands of babies

born that day,

all helpless,

dependent,

needing of love,

warmth,

and sustenance.

Some no doubt did not survive

to see another dawn,

their tiny light extinguished

through lack of appropriate care.

Some would grow up to be kings,

queens,

leaders of men.

Others slaves,

prostitutes,

beggars,

murderers and thieves.

Most, however,

would live ordinary lives

among ordinary people,

and live and die

whilst the world scarce noticed

their existence.

But not you

Who rose from the ordinary

to the extraordinary

from stable to cross

and beyond,

whilst the world tried its best

to ignore you,

and failed.

[https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Christmas.htm](https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Christmas.htm)

### Thursday December 26<sup>th</sup>

An Australian university has been

using a 3-storey “water battery” to

power their air conditioning—and it

has already slashed their overall

electrical usage by 40%.

The first-of-its-kind battery, which

was switched on at the University of

the Sunshine Coast (USC) in

September, stores energy generated

by 6,000 solar panels that have been

installed across campus rooftops.

Over the course of the next 25 years,

the thermal energy tank is expected

to save \$100 million in air

conditioning costs and dramatically

reduce the school’s greenhouse gas

emissions, according to school

representatives.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/water-battery-slashes-universitys-electrical-costs/>

### Friday December 27<sup>th</sup>

Rail industry body the RSSB has

appointed engineering consultancy

Arup to develop a route-map for

Conservative voters. It also found a

split between Leave and Remain

voters, with the latter seeing the

climate issue as a bigger priority.

[https://news.sky.com/story/the-green-divide-climate-change-policy-is-new-voter-battleground-11871040?utm\\_campaign](https://news.sky.com/story/the-green-divide-climate-change-policy-is-new-voter-battleground-11871040?utm_campaign)

### Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup>

More than half of UK citizens believe

the Government should push the

target to reach net-zero ambitions by

2050 forward by at least 20 years,

with climate policy set to be a key

battleground for the upcoming

general election. A new YouGov poll,

on behalf of Green New Deal

campaigners, has found that 56% of

the public believe the UK should set

its net-zero emissions target for 2030

or earlier. In fact, one-third believe

that the target should be set for

2025, compared to 24% for 2030.

<https://www.edie.net/news/11/General-Election--Majority-of-UK-public-call-for-net-zero-target-to-be-pushed-forward/>

### Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup>

Today is World Soil Day, run by the

UN Food and Agriculture

Organisation. According to the

UNFAO:

- Soil holds three times as much carbon as the atmosphere and can help us meet the challenges of a changing climate
- 815 million people are food insecure and 2 billion people are nutritionally insecure, but we can mitigate this through soil.
- 95% of our food comes from soil
- 33% of our global soils are already degraded

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-soil-day>

### Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>

Global electricity production from

coal is on track to fall by around 3%

in 2019, the largest drop on record,

according to Carbon Brief. The

analysis is based on monthly

electricity sector data from around

the world for the first seven to 10

months of the year, depending on

data availability in each country.

The projected record is due to:

- Record falls in developed countries. The largest reduction is taking place in the US, as several large coal-fired power plants close.
- A sharp turnaround in India, where coal power output is on track to fall

for the first time in at least three decades.

- A flattening of generation growth in China.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-global-coal-power-set-for-record-fall-in-2019>

### **Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Carbon Brief's analysis of global electricity production shows that the European Union has experienced an unprecedented 19% year-on-year decline in coal-fired power generation in the first half of calendar year 2019. Around half the fall in coal reflects the impact of new wind and solar. The other half is due to a switch from coal to gas. Coal has been less than 2% of the electricity mix in Ireland, France and the UK, and only 6% in Spain and Italy, across the first half of 2019. The UK had two weeks in May with all its coal plants switched off for the first time since the Industrial Revolution began.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-global-coal-power-set-for-record-fall-in-2019>

### **Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Second Sunday in Advent – Light and Darkness

In the beginning, Lord I was alone but when I saw you in the light I was no longer afraid.

You held out your hand and though I had a choice

I had no choice because to refuse was to embrace again the darkness.

In the beginning, Lord I was alone now I am again a part

of your creation loved, wanted, needed, family.

In the light of your presence I hold out my heart that others

might glimpse through it your reflection

and be drawn from the darkness that I once embraced

into the light of your sunrise the brightness of your face

Excerpt from

[https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent\\_Celtic\\_Christian\\_Celebration.htm](https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm)

### **Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Research, conducted by Changing Markets Foundation and Zero Waste Europe examined what happened to

### **Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Fourth Sunday in Advent – Birth and Rebirth

Beneath the surface of your story is an inescapable fact.

You entered this world as vulnerable as any one of us in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross.

Our fears, our insecurities and our sins,

all that can separate us from God exchanged by your Grace for Love.

We cannot comprehend the reasoning,

only marvel that Salvation comes to us

through a baby born in a stable, who reaches out to a world in need.

Excerpt from

[https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent\\_Celtic\\_Christian\\_Celebration.htm](https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm)

### **Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Many businesses are picking up on the backlash against single use plastics. For example, Coca-Cola will replace plastic shrink wrap with paper packaging across Europe, Boots will introduce compostable pharmacy bags (made from potato

starch), Iceland (the retailer) claims it has slashed plastic packaging use in its Christmas range by 97% compared to 2017 levels and hospitality firm Whitbread has pledged to rid all 800 of its UK hotels and restaurants of unnecessary single-use plastics by 2025. All these initiatives, and more, are to be found on [www.edie.net](http://www.edie.net).

### **Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Solar power plants and wind power plants will be constructed on farmlands and mountainous areas in Fukushima Prefecture. Japan's northeastern prefecture, devastated during the 2011 earthquake and nuclear disaster, is looking to transform itself into a renewable energy hub. A plan is under way to develop 11 solar power plants and 10 wind power plants, on farmlands that cannot be cultivated anymore and mountainous areas from where population outflows continue.

<https://happyeconews.com/2019/11/26/fukushima-to-be-reborn-as-2-7bn-wind-and-solar-power-hub/>

### Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>

In the UN's report on progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) the UK ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the EU out of a possible 28. According to the report, "major challenges" remain in the UK's ability to meet SDGs 12, 13, 14 and 15, with national progress having decreased in the past year. Indeed, the only Global Goal which the UK is on track to meet and where progress has increased quickly in recent months is stated to be SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. Detailed UK data is available at this link:

[https://github.com/sdsna/2019EUIndex/blob/master/Country%20Profiles/United%20Kingdom\\_EU%20SDR19.pdf](https://github.com/sdsna/2019EUIndex/blob/master/Country%20Profiles/United%20Kingdom_EU%20SDR19.pdf)

### Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup>

A secret clean energy startup backed by Bill Gates went public in November with the announcement of its new technology that uses concentrated solar energy to exceed temperatures greater than 1,000°C—and it could be a game-changer in the fight against the climate crisis.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/bill-gates-backed-heliogen-reveals-solar-tech/>

### Friday December 20<sup>th</sup>

The Ramblers' annual Festival of Winter Walks starts today, lasting until 5<sup>th</sup> January. Ramblers groups are organising walks, and it's a good time to go and enjoy God's creation. Here are some suggestions for a nature walk with God, wherever you go. Pray for people who don't know God to notice His splendour on their winter walks.

<https://www.kutsucompanions.com/post/walking-prayer-a-nature-walk-with-god>

### Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup>

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has set out its manifesto for the next government with 4 key areas for action:

1. Tackle the climate emergency,
2. Improve access to green spaces for everyone,
3. Support a well-resourced planning system and
4. Ensure the specific challenges faced by rural communities are addressed through meaningful investment in the rural economy.

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/features/item/5211-our-countryside-a-manifesto-for-the-next-government>

the carpet waste which is handled by industry body Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK) on an annual basis. It found that, of the 130,000 tonnes of carpet processed by the organisation annually, less than 2% is recycled. CRUK states on its website that 44% of the carpet it receives is diverted from landfill – up from 2% when it was first founded in 2008. But the new research concluded that almost three-quarters of this diverted material in 2018 was incinerated; less than 2% was recycled without the use of shredding; and less than 1% was reused in its existing form.

<https://www.edie.net/news/5/Report--Carpet-experiencing-lower-UK-recycling-and-reuse-rates-than-plastics/>

### Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup>

Morrisons supermarket has announced it will be the first in the UK to sell goods beyond their "best before" date, with items worth £10 available for purchase at £3.09. Working in collaboration with the food waste app Too Good to Go, customers will be able to purchase items as part of a new discount box scheme. Too Good to Go works alongside food businesses such as

Planet Organic, Caffe Nero and YO! (formerly YO! Sushi) to distribute unsold products.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/morrisons-food-waste-app-download-too-good-to-go-recycling-a9218031.html>

<https://toogoodtogo.co.uk/en-gb>

### Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup>

According to The Independent in 2018, this month we will collectively spend just under £446,000 every minute of every day on presents alone. There are lots of suggestions online for making your Christmas more eco-friendly. But while transferring the money spent on excess presents to more environmentally friendly gifts is good, if people spent less on the whole, there would be less debt.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/money/spend-save/christmas-cost-finance-money-family-presents-food-drink-travel-a8659261.html>

### Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup>

Today is the general election. Lord, we pray for peace in this election season. We pray for peace between

divided communities, within families, and between political opponents.

Pray that the environment, the poor and policies to tackle climate change don't get lost within the Brexit debate.

<https://www.eauk.org/what-we-do/prayer-centre/praying-ahead-of-the-general-election/general-election-prayer-series>

### **Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>**

The Asia-Pacific economy will be 2.6 per cent smaller in 2050 according to a new framework developed by The Economist Intelligence Unit (The EIU), with developing countries in the region set to be the most affected. According to The EIU's framework, Africa is the least resilient region to the impact of climate change (4.7% smaller), followed by Latin America (3.8%), the Middle East (3.7%), Eastern Europe (3%) and the Asia-Pacific (2.6%). North America (1.1% smaller) and Western Europe (1.7%) display the most resilience and are likely to see the least impact economically because both regions are richer and more prepared to

tackle climate change from an institutional standpoint.

<https://www.eco-business.com/press-releases/the-asian-economy-will-be-26-smaller-by-2050-due-to-lack-of-climate-resilience/>

### **Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup>**

British boardrooms should be governed by a new code of conduct setting ethical standards for directors to regain public trust in business, according to the Institute of Directors' (IoD) latest manifesto. The UK's largest and oldest director group is pushing all political parties to create greater controls over corporate governance in their plans for government. The IoD stated that "public trust in directors and business more generally remains fragile" and called for "board members to be help more accountable". In the 10-point manifesto, the IoD is also pushing for stronger rules around how companies report on climate change, and for a government-backed fund to invest in the green economy.

<https://www.iod.com/news-campaigns/inclusive-business/articles/iod-manifesto-corporate-governance>

### **Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>**

Third Sunday in Advent – Obedience  
There were safer places,  
more comfortable places,  
palaces and wealthy places.  
Yet you chose a daughter of the soil  
who would have otherwise  
lived a good and honest life  
grown and harvested crops  
cooked and washed and cared for  
others  
and been forgotten  
to be your temporary home  
to be exalted for all time.

Excerpt from

[https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent\\_Celtic\\_Christian\\_Celebration.htm](https://www.faithandworship.com/Advent/Advent_Celtic_Christian_Celebration.htm)

### **Monday December 16<sup>th</sup>**

Almost every nation within the EU is failing to deliver the amount of progress needed for the bloc to meet any of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a "major" lack of progress recorded against SDG 13 - Climate Action. While emphasising that many European nations are global leaders on SDG progress – with Denmark, Sweden and Finland among the

world's closest to achieving the Goals – the report (from the UN's Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)) concludes that no EU nation is on track to achieve all 17 Goals by 2030, meaning the bloc is likely to miss all of their overarching ambitions.

<https://www.edie.net/news/7/Report--EU-set-to-miss-all-17-Sustainable-Development-Goals/>

### **Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup>**

Goals where EU bloc-wide progress has been broadly slow include Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 - Climate Action; SDG 14 - Life on Land; SDG 15 - Life Below Water; and SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production. The EU nations who were ranked as the most off-track to deliver on these and the other ambitions detailed in the SDG framework are Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus.

<https://www.sdqindex.org/reports/2019-europe-sustainable-development-report/>