

Picture on front cover: Park in
Leeds, by Emma King.

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



September 2021

“We gather in the name of the Triune God, Creator,
Redeemer, and Sustainer of the Earth and all its
creatures!

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life,
Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the
angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or
unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.”
Hildegard of Bingen, 13th century

Wednesday 1st September

Join with many other Christians from around the world with the monthly Pray and Fast for the Climate Movement on the first of each month. Prayer points for September are on their website.

Merciful God, we believe that you uphold and sustain all that you have made, while also lovingly giving us the freedom to live in relationship with the rest of creation. We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have abused that freedom, through what we have done and what we have left undone. We bring our lament and our longing for a renewed earth to you now: (prayer from Christian Climate Action's prayer for climate grief)

<https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/resources/>

Thursday 2nd September

Yesterday marked the start of the annual 'Season of Creation' (also known as 'Time for Creation' or 'Creationtide'). It is a period in which the church specifically focuses on giving thanks for and

committing itself to care for God's wonderful gift of Earth. It runs from 1st September, which many churches are celebrating as a "Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation," to 4th October, a day when many churches remember St Francis. There are many resources and prayers available from the link below. Here is the Benediction from last year's official ecumenical prayer service:

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To reflect God's glory in creation.
(CTBI Eco-Congregation Programme)

<https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/2020/07/27/time-for-creation-resources/>

Friday 3rd September

Last year was a landmark one for Sierra Leone's rivers. For the first time, the West African country of 7 million submitted a report to the

three years since she first started striking for climate action, telling leaders that children could not afford more empty promises at this year's U.N. climate change summit (COP26). Her comments come as a U.N. children's agency (UNICEF) report found that almost all of the world's 2.2 billion children are exposed to at least one climate or environmental risk, from catastrophic floods to toxic air. "*For children and young people, climate change is the single greatest threat to our futures. We are the ones who will have to clean up the mess you adults have made, and we are the ones who are more likely to suffer now,*" Thunberg wrote in The New York Times on Friday, along with other youth activists.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20190819233721-jaa90>

Thursday 30th September

Most toys are difficult to recycle, especially if they're made up of tiny plastic parts that can't be easily separated. Municipal recycling programs don't typically accept plastic toys; recyclers often accept only specific shapes and sizes of

plastics. The best hope is to find a takeback program through the toy manufacturer or retailer. One of the largest toy makers in the world, Mattel, Inc., recently launched their own toy takeback program. Called Mattel PlayBack, the program is designed to recover and reuse materials derived from old Mattel toys to make new products...

Currently, Mattel PlayBack accepts Barbie, Matchbox, and MEGA toys in the United States and Canada. The company says it hopes to expand it to France, Germany, and the United Kingdom in the near future. They also plan to add toys from all of their other brands, like Hot Wheels and Fisher-Price.

<https://earth911.com/business-policy/plastic-toy-recycling-mattel-launches-new-program/>

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

prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk

Website:

www.greenchristian.org.uk

Anoint us by your Holy Spirit
So that, with Her, we will live, sing
and shout your praise and glory.

Chris Walton's prayer at:

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/show-the-love-prayer-2021/>

Monday 27th September

Lidl GB will add new on-pack 'eco labels' to dozens of its most popular own-brand product lines this October, giving shoppers more information about the carbon and biodiversity impact of their choices. The information on the labels is being calculated and presented in line with the 'Eco-Score' labelling system, developed by consultancy Etiquetteable. Under this system, food products are given a total score out of 100 points, as well as a colour-code and a letter grade from A to E. Total scores are calculated using a life-cycle assessment, taking into account the life-cycle carbon, resource and nature impact of the product and its packaging. Extra points can be added to scores for products that have received third-party certification

under schemes such as Fairtrade or the Rainforest Alliance.

<https://www.edie.net/news/7/Lidl-to-trial-traffic-light--eco-labels--this-autumn/>

Tuesday 28th September

A federal judge's decision [in mid August] to block a massive oil drilling project in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve handed a major victory to Indigenous and environmental advocates who have welcomed a series of reversals of Trump-era rules seeking to open up the state's vast wilderness areas to timber, oil and mineral interests. But the latest decision also could deliver a strategic blow to the Biden administration, which supported the controversial project even as it attempts to advance an ambitious agenda that tackles climate change and shifts the country toward a fossil fuel-free future.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/20082021/alaska-willow-oil-project-biden-trump/>

Wednesday 29th September

Swedish teen campaigner Greta Thunberg on [20th August] marked

United Nations on the quality of the water in one of its river basins. The assessment ... found that more than half of the stretches of river tested failed to meet national quality standards. "*Water pollution is a root cause of the decline of human and ecosystem health,*" says UNEP water quality expert Kilian Christ. "*Maintaining a healthy relationship between water, nature and people is more important than ever.*" Around one-third of all rivers in Latin America, Africa and Asia are routinely exposed to untreated wastewater and agricultural run-off. Across the developing world, water quality monitoring is sporadic, especially in Africa.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/how-sierra-leone-taking-water-pollution>

Saturday 4th September

On 25-26 July 2021, more than 50 ministers and high-level representatives ... met informally to discuss their expectations for COP26, the shape and substance of the Glasgow outcome, and to provide guidance on outstanding negotiations issues... All Ministers

spoke to the urgency of action and the need to act with courage and in a spirit of solidarity to ensure that the Glasgow outcome reflects the reality of the situation that the world is facing... Ministers emphasised that Glasgow must keep 1.5°C in reach, addressing the ambition gaps on adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage and finance; and completing the Paris Rulebook. Key points and next steps are available at the link below:

<https://ukcop26.org/july-ministerial-chairs-summary/>

Sunday 5th September

Andrew Norman, Green Christian's co-chaplain suggests that we spend the next nine days praying a novena style prayer. Read his article at the link below, or simply pray and meditate on this prayer, written by Catherine Fish:

Lord you are God; we ask you to forgive and transform the greed within and around us. **Lord, have mercy.**

We have been like a wild donkey wandering alone. **Lord have mercy.**

We have sold ourselves to greed and plenty and have spurned need in others and sufficiency for ourselves. **Lord, have mercy.**

We have been unfaithful to your ways; yet you who could destroy, are faithful; great is your faithfulness, stretching to all the earth. **Lord, have mercy.**

We have not loved as you love; bloodshed has followed bloodshed, and the land has dried up; your love is all embracing, restoring, freely given and unending. **Lord, have mercy.**

We have not acknowledged you; yet your name alone is holy and is the name above all names. **Lord, have mercy.**

In knowledge of your faithfulness, love, and holiness, we grieve, we weep, and you weep. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

As surely as the sun rises, you will appear, you will come to us like the winter rains, like spring rains that water the earth, and in you all creation will be made whole. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Make us bringers of your peace. May the land be restored. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the beasts of the fields and the birds of the sky, and the fish in the sea thrive and rejoice in their maker. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

May your kingdom come, in me, and through us all. **Amen.**
<https://greenchristian.org.uk/making-time-to-pray-before-cop26/>

Monday 6th September

Tonight is the next monthly meeting of the Green Christian Allotment group, via zoom. Come along and join if you have an allotment. Or pray for the third of a million allotments around the country and the people who run them – mostly local councils. Pray for good harvests, and that they are well looked after and are places that enhance the community and well-being of the allotment holders, and also that they are areas where local nature can thrive.

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/green-christian-allotment-group-meetings/>

Tuesday 7th September

The UK Government is being urged once more to strengthen its plans for eliminating deforestation in international supply chains, with

and producing roughly a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. In the last two decades, it is estimated that 26.7 million hectares of land has been acquired by foreign investors for use in the agriculture business.

<https://theecologist.org/2021/aug/25/agribusiness-devastates-our-environment>

Saturday 25th September

The number of beavers has more than doubled in Scotland in the last three years to around 1000 animals, according to a NatureScot survey published [in August]. The new population survey has not only found that beaver numbers have increased, but that the population is in a rapid expansion phase as beavers spread out from Tayside, with territory numbers also more than doubling to 251. That population now ranges from Glen Isla to Dundee and Stirling, Forfar to Crianlarich, and is likely to expand into Loch Lomond in the future. Robbie Kernahan, Director of Sustainable Growth said: *“Wildlife is declining in Scotland so this extensive survey which reveals*

an increasing beaver population is great news for nature in Scotland. Beavers play a vital role in creating and restoring wetlands where other species can thrive, reducing downstream flooding and improving water quality”.

<https://www.nature.scot/conservation-success-beaver-numbers-double-scotland>

Sunday 26th September

Lord God Creator
Send your anointing that we may resist the deep sleep of hopelessness and stay awake to hear your love filled commands to us
That we may grow into what you have made us -your consciousness,
and so proclaim the infinite goodness of your loving creation.

Lord God
Help us to weep with you when we experience your sorrow
Help is to act on your behalf when called to resist the deep shadows of rebellion against you and your Way.

authorities this year were forced to truck water to some 400,000 people living in rural areas. Research published Thursday in the Journal of Climate finds that human-driven climate change is partly behind the blob, and consequentially the drought, though to what degree exactly is still unclear. Natural variability in ocean and atmospheric temperatures also played a role, the scientists say.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210826125954-xskrl/>

Thursday 23rd September

Northern California has some of the strongest offshore winds in the U.S. giving it great potential to produce renewable energy. The area could generate 4.6 gigawatts, enough to power 1.6 million homes. The continental shelf drops off quickly, making it expensive and near impossible to install wind turbines. One solution is making the turbines float. Several full-scale floating wind farms are already operating in Europe and Asia. A floating wind turbine works just like other wind turbines ... But instead of having its tower embedded directly into the

ground or the sea floor, a floating wind turbine sits on a platform with mooring lines, such as chains or ropes, that connect to anchors in the seabed below.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/07/california-floating-wind-farms-turbines-us-renewables/>

Friday 24th September

The way we are using land is accelerating the climate crisis. The ability of communities around the world to live autonomously and harmoniously on the land to which they are tied is routinely and violently intercepted by multinational corporations in the name of conservation and food and energy provision. Yet, the same communities in the Global South whose land is grabbed under international trade and investment agreements for these purposes, are the same communities systematically denied from the harvests exported from places that have been taken. The global food system is driving environmental injustice through extreme water use, the pollution of ecosystems by pesticides and agricultural run-off

WWF claiming current proposals could leave 2.1 million hectares of Brazilian rainforest at risk to the soy sector alone... The legislation is designed to eliminate all illegal deforestation from the international supply chains of commodities with a high forest risk. Materials covered include soy, palm oil, cocoa, beef, rubber and leather alongside forestry products like wood and paper. Corporations procuring these materials in the UK will be subject to a “comply or explain” requirement to prove their supply chains are free from illegal deforestation. Non-compliance will result in fines. WWF, like many other green groups and large businesses, has argued that the law does not go far enough.

<https://www.edie.net/news/11/UK-s-proposed-anti-deforestation-laws-leave-millions-of-hectares-of-rainforest-at-risk--WWF-argues/>

Wednesday 8th September

Tonight's webinar is Kindred in Creation - an online workshop with Thomas Vellacott TSSF, Chief Executive of WWF Switzerland, hosted by Green Christian and the

Creation-Justice-Peace Network of the Third Order, Society of St Francis. A month ahead of COP15, the UN Biodiversity Conference, Green Christian and Franciscans will come together to discern how our faith compels us to restore nature and rediscover humanity's proper place within it. At this workshop we'll give the biodiversity crisis the priority it deserves. We'll seek to hold to account the forces that drive the destruction of nature. We'll explore how our faith can help humanity turn the corner towards the re-wilding of the Earth. And we'll begin to discover the action we ourselves are challenged to take.

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/kindred-in-creation-mobilising-faith-for-nature/>

Thursday 9th September

While range and battery charging times are getting better every year, it's still the most limiting factor when it comes to the purchase of an EV (electric vehicle). The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has decided to tackle that by burying electrified wire coils that

create a magnetic field along the road surface, mimicking the way wireless charging stations for tablets and phones are designed. In order to use the roads, cars would be fitted with a receiver coil to pick up the charge as they go along, and becoming magnetized, draw electricity from the coils themselves.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/german-firm-looks-to-build-wireless-ev-charging-road-in-indiana/>

Friday 10th September

Natural England has [in August] started work on planning for a new National Trail based on the iconic Coast to Coast walk across Northern England. The National Disability Strategy was launched [in August too] and will see new initiatives introduced to transform the everyday lives of disabled people. Under the proposals is a new 182-mile accessible Coast to Coast footpath which will help more people from all parts of society access Britain's beautiful landscapes. The existing trail is maintained by landowners, national

parcs and local authorities. However, granting the footpath National Trail status would unlock Government funding to not only maintain the trail but also to ensure that it is more accessible to those with disabilities. This could include replacing stiles with gates and ensuring that paths are designed to meet specific needs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natural-england-to-start-work-on-coast-to-coast-national-trail-proposal>

Saturday 11th September

Berta Cáceres' murder shocked the world in 2016, But the killing of environmental activists continues. The Indigenous activist [from the Lenca tribe] in Honduras had won the Goldman prize for opposing the Agua Zarca Dam. But it didn't protect Cáceres in one of the world's most dangerous countries... Two other Lenca activists, Carlos Cerros and Felix Vasquez, were gunned down by hitmen in Honduras in just the last year, killed alongside over a dozen other land and environmental activists in the country, making Honduras one of

potential to drive the evolution of resistant bacteria.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/new-project-aims-boost-understanding-environmental-dimensions>

Tuesday 21st September

Worldwide concern about injustice and inequity, the impacts of the pandemic, and the worsening effects of global environmental degradation has accelerated change in the conservation sector, a field that has historically been relatively slow to evolve. But for the shifts underway to be more than just a passing fad, many would argue that conservation requires fundamental structural changes that put more decision-making power in the hands of people who've been traditionally sidelined or ignored and recognize the importance of contributions from a wide range of stakeholders in achieving conservation outcomes. African People & Wildlife, a Tanzania-based NGO, has been working on these issues since its founding in 2005 by Laly Lichtenfeld and Charles Trout. Lichtenfeld says that

conservation now must take "concrete action" to move forward. [S]he told Mongabay during a recent interview. *"If the much-needed challenge is really taken on, well then again, we have a lot of work ahead on this—particularly in terms of scrutinizing who is in the room when conservation decisions are made, understanding and overcoming the power dynamics at play, and considering how we can better communicate with and listen to one another."*

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/08/its-time-to-scrutinize-who-is-in-the-room-when-conservation-decisions-are-made-says-laly-lichtenfeld/>

Wednesday 22nd September

A blob of warm water in the southern Pacific is fueling a decade-long megadrought in Chile, and climate change is at least partly to blame, scientists say. The "Southern Blob" east of New Zealand is driving hot and dry conditions in Chile, with snow caps melting on the Andes, reservoirs running low and once-lush landscapes withered. Chilean

biological processes that are likely to be disrupted.... The good news is that of all the causes of biodiversity loss, light pollution should be one of the easiest to solve. Making subtle tweaks to existing lighting can mitigate its ecological harms.

<https://theconversation.com/why-the-changing-colour-of-our-streetlights-could-be-a-danger-for-insect-populations-166470>

Sunday 19th September

Lord, stop us in our tracks. Stop and take time to appreciate this gift of life and marvel at your creation. Stop and contemplate the damage we do. Stop and return to the Earth the clean water and air we have spoiled, the habitats we have taken from your creatures for our own comfort and profit. Help us restore the Earth for the good of all, the glory of its rebirth reflecting the resurrection of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Restore us O Lord and bring us nearer to you. Amen
Taken from Sekeeta Crowley's prayer at:

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/show-the-love-prayer-2021/>

Monday 20th September

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have launched a new collaborative project - 'Priorities for the Environmental Dimension of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in India', marking an important step towards recognizing and addressing the environmental dimension of AMR. Antimicrobial resistance is a multi-faceted, complex global public health issue and has been recognized as a 'One Health' issue owing to its significant linkages with the human health, animals, and environment. While aspects addressing AMR from the human health perspective have received much attention, focus on the environmental dimensions of AMR has been limited. This includes the effects of discharging antibiotics and other antimicrobial compounds, such as disinfectants and heavy metals, into natural environments which has the

the most dangerous places in the world to protest, according to the London-based nonprofit Global Witness.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24082021/bertha-caceres-murder-environmental-activists/>

Sunday 12th September

Dear Lord, I wake this morning to the glorious sight of the sun, bathing the countryside in golden light and warming not only the land but the soul. Thank you for your glorious creation, the land, sea and air; for the creatures that crawl, hop, walk, swim and fly. For the colours in the landscape, for the sun and for the rain. You have provided us on this Earth with our every need, where all life is linked in an interdependent and intricately balanced web. But the balance has gone. The humans you gave breath to have replaced 'need' with 'greed' and plundered the Earth, taking for ourselves what should be shared. Lord stop us in our tracks. Taken from Sekeeta Crowley's prayer at:

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/show-the-love-prayer-2021/>

Monday 13th September

In July, the U.N. released a draft of the *Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, which called for 30% of Earth's land and sea areas to be conserved. Known as "30 by 30," the plan has drawn fire from Indigenous rights activists and their allies, who say that it could prompt mass evictions. Earlier this month, 49 foundations sent a joint letter to the plan's drafters, saying a focus on creating new protected areas would "lead to human rights abuses across the globe." "30 by 30" is exposing fault lines in the modern conservation movement over who should control biodiversity protection and where funding should be directed.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/08/as-cop15-approaches-30-by-30-becomes-a-conservation-battleground/>

Tuesday 14th September

Ahead of the United Nations biodiversity negotiations that [began in late August], a new report commissioned by WWF reveals that 39 million new jobs could be created if governments reallocated

just one year's worth of subsidies that harm biodiversity to a nature-positive stimulus instead. The report, *Halve Humanity's Footprint on Nature to Safeguard our Future*, includes modelling which shows how jobs could be created if the funds governments spend on subsidies for harmful activities such as unsustainable agriculture, overfishing and unsustainable infrastructure every year are diverted to nature-positive employment, meaning jobs that improve the state of nature.

<https://updates.panda.org/39-million-new-jobs-if-governments-stop-investing-in-subsidies-which-harm-nature>

Wednesday 15th September

Greenpeace Brazil captured images of illegal fires causing widespread destruction in the Amazon during a flyover carried out between 29 to 31 July. The images come as the Brazilian Space Research Institute (INPE) registered 8.712 km² of deforestation over the period of August 2020 to July 2021, the second largest year-round

deforestation rate recorded by the DETER-B alert system. *"Having dismantled environmental enforcement, Bolsonaro and the Brazilian congress are now proactively trying to reward illegal deforestation and land theft. Using emergency legislative rules inappropriately, they are sneaking through new radical bills that will bring more destruction and worsen the climate emergency,"* says Cristiane Mazzetti, Senior Forest Campaigner, Greenpeace Brazil.

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/49120/photos-fires-amazon-brazil-illegal-bolsonaro/>

Thursday 16th September

The [Indian] government has banned the manufacture, sale and use of identified single-use plastic items like plates, cups, straws, trays, and polystyrene from [next year]. *"The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from July 1, 2022: ear*

buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (thermocool) for decoration; plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays; wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers," the government has said. The provisions will not apply to commodities made of compostable plastic...

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/govt-bans-manufacture-sale-and-use-of-identified-single-use-plastic-items-from-jul-1-2022-1840562-2021-08-13>

Friday 17th September

New funding from the UK government will help save critically endangered, unique wildlife and fresh water supplies on the UK Overseas Territory of St Helena, one of the most remote inhabited islands on Earth. St Helena's ancient cloud forest is the most important site for wildlife on British soil, with at least 250 species found

nowhere else on the planet...St Helena is a UK Overseas Territory that rises out of the south Atlantic, 2,000km off the coast of West Africa. Clouds cloak the mountains in a protective blanket, creating a unique habitat for species that don't exist anywhere else in the world – there are daisies which have evolved into large trees, blushing snails, and woodlice that glow under UV light. As well as holding one-sixth of the UK's unique wildlife, these mist-shrouded mountain peaks provide most of the drought-prone island's fresh water.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/media-centre/press-releases/new-page/>

Saturday 18th September

LEDs used in streetlights typically emit white light, while older, less energy efficient sodium lamps have a characteristic yellow glow ... This change in the colour of artificial light is predicted to have major consequences for wildlife. That's because white LEDs emit light across the entire visible spectrum. The more wavelengths emitted, the greater the diversity of species and