

Prayer guide for the care of creation



October 2021

“Creator of All,
We are grateful that from your communion of love
you created our planet to be a home for all. By
your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring
forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil,
water and air. Each part of creation praises you in
their being, and cares for one another from our
place in the web of life”

from Season of Creation prayer 2021

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein...Psalm 24
v 1, ESV

Friday 1st October

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 August 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/>

Saturday 2nd October

Cities are home to 4.2 billion people, more than half of the world's population. But they face growing challenges – from floods, storms and heatwaves triggered

by the climate crisis to dangerous air quality, lack of affordable housing and deep social divides. Cities already account for about 70 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions. By 2050, they must become carbon neutral to hold global temperature rise to under 1.5 °C – all while growing to hold nearly 70 per cent of the world's population. [A]t Climate Week NYC 2021, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and partners launched UrbanShift – a new global initiative to improve lives and transform cities into green and liveable spaces that address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/un-and-partners-launch-billion-dollar-initiative-transform-cities>

Sunday 3rd October

O Lord our creator God we look around and the world is still beautiful. Spring is coming with its green shoots and fat bracts. You are so good to us even though we

they hope the major economies will agree action that keeps 1.5C within reach, including:

commitment to net zero by mid-century with aligned NDCs, more climate finance, and accelerated action in the 2020s, including ending unabated coal power and reversing deforestation.

<https://ukcop26.org/letter-to-all-parties-from-the-cop26-president-designate-ahead-of-pre-cop/>

Sunday 31st October

And now loving and gracious Lord have mercy upon us and send your Holy Spirit to rest upon us that we might have a better judgement in all things. Grant to each one of us your gifts of kindness and discernment that we may by our words and deeds bear witness to the harmony of creation, tread lightly upon the earth and encourage each other to live wisely and well amidst the new creation that is your gift to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Part 1 of Peter Grimwood's Show the Love Collect at:

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

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Picture on front cover: Fungi, Lotherton Hall Leeds, pic by Emma King

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truly don't deserve it. Man that you have made is destroying this beautiful gift with greed, wickedness and apathy. Forgive us Lord and show us the way to stop the rape of this planet. Help us to be true servants and to do what you so clearly told us to do in Genesis 2:15 and take care of the earth. As individuals but as your church as well. Let us work together to protect this small and vulnerable blue stone hanging in space and so fulfil the will of God. Amen

Rita Heyes' prayer from Show the Love prayers

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

Monday 4th October

The industry regulator has launched a £1 million competition to help decarbonise offshore oil and gas production. Managed by the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA), the initiative is designed to advance the widespread electrification of installations on the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS).

Organisers are looking for studies ... that will bring electrification projects a step closer to reality... As it stands, North Sea platforms are powered using gas or diesel, accounting for around two thirds of oil and gas production emissions. It is anticipated that powering installations using electricity, either from a cable to the shore or from a nearby windfarm, could axe CO₂ emissions by between 2 and 3 million tonnes per annum.

<https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/north-sea/351713/oga-launches-1m-platform-electrification-competition/>

Tuesday 5th October

Not a story for reading while eating breakfast, but in a recent study published in the American Chemical Society's Environmental Science and Technology Letters, scientists found 10 times more microplastic in babies' feces than in adults'. Researchers discovered this in a pilot study that involved sifting through infants' used diapers. The researchers

established that each gram of infant poop contains an average of 36,000 nanograms of polyethylene terephthalate (PET). <https://inhabitat.com/study-finds-more-microplastic-in-baby-poop-than-in-adult/>

Wednesday 6th October

Tonight's Green Christian webinar is *Preaching the Climate Crisis: Talking about the difficult issues* with Andii Bowsher. Some Green Christians find themselves preaching on Sundays but being nervous, diffident or downright fearful about whether to mention climate crisis for fear of the responses. If you recognise yourself in that to some degree, then this workshop is for you. In it we aim to help preachers (ordained or lay) to share the things that hold us back or inhibit us and to share and find ways together to raise climate crisis matters in our preaching. <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMrde2tpz0pH9Aez1sP7sts910yM-dul6qK>

Thursday 7th October

Jeff Bezos has placed an additional \$1 billion into the Bezos Earth Fund to be spent on creating, expanding, managing, and monitoring protected and conserved areas of wilderness. The money will take the form of grants to organizations working to preserve lands and secure Indigenous people's rights in the Congo, tropical Andes Mountains, and across Oceania. The latest pledge is on top of the ten-thousand millions he's already devoted towards combating climate change more directly, with nearly one-thousand of those millions having already been distributed as grants.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/bezos-earth-fund-pledges-one-billion-to-help-protect-nature-in-congo-andes-and-pacific/>

Friday 8th October

Green Christian's weekend retreat "Cloud and Fire: Travelling by day and by night" starts today in Suffolk. In cloud and fire God is both hidden and revealed. In our

every job a climate job. Readers can explore their company's enormous untapped potential for climate action by finding their inroad—regardless of job function—to moving their company toward the world's best science-based climate solutions. <https://www.drawdown.org/news/insights/project-drawdown-launches-climate-solutions-at-work>

Thursday 28th October

Large cruise ships [were] banned from entering the Venice lagoon as of August, the Italian government announced earlier this year. It follows years of warnings they risk causing irreparable damage to Venice's ecosystem. "*The decree adopted today represents an important step for the protection of the Venetian lagoon system,*" Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi said in a statement... Capital of northern Italy's Veneto region, Venice is built on more than 100 small islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea. Environmental

activists say giant ships generate large waves that wreck Venice's foundations and cause severe damage to the lagoon's ecosystem.

<https://www.ecowatch.com/cruise-ship-ban-venice-2653916220.html?>

Friday 29th October

Finally, the fourth stated goal for COP26 is to work together to deliver. We can only rise to the challenges of the climate crisis by working together. At COP26 we must:

- finalise the Paris Rulebook (the detailed rules that make the Paris Agreement operational)
- accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society.

<https://ukcop26.org/cop26-goals/>

Saturday 30th October

As part of the Pre-COP build up, today and tomorrow see the G20 leaders meeting in Rome where

biodiversity that includes ocelots and golden lion tamarins, the Atlantic Forest biome is recognized as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a Brazilian Natural Heritage site. However, it has lost nearly 80% of its original area due to logging and agricultural expansion, making it ideal for restoration initiatives, reports a study from 2018. A report from *Forest News* finds that Brazil's Atlantic Forest, the oft-ignored great forest habitat in the country is a perfect site for natural reforestation.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/intead-of-mass-tree-planting-natural-regeneration-could-save-brazils-atlantic-forest/>

Tuesday 26th October

Tesco sets 2050 net-zero target for supply chain. The retail giant [in] September committed to reaching net-zero emissions across the value chain, including all supply chains and the customer use of sold products. A 2050 deadline has been set for tackling these emissions, which

make up more than 90% of Tesco's total emissions footprint.... The move comes after Tesco published a commitment to reduce supply chain emissions by 35% by 2035, against a 2015 baseline. This happened last November, as the company brought its net-zero target for operations in the UK forward from 2050 to 2035.

<https://www.edie.net/news/6/Tesco-net-zero-supply-chain-emissions-2035-2050-/>

Wednesday 27th October

In the wake of the most recent headline-making IPCC report, the need for sweeping climate transformation has never been more apparent. The private sector, with its vast resources, must play a crucial role in this transformation—and employees can help lead the charge...

Climate Solutions at Work, presented by Project Drawdown, creates a new standard of business climate leadership, driven by employees equipped to take bolder action at work, making

time, cloud and fire tells another truth – that we are changing the earth's climate and unleashing flood, drought, wildfire and brutal heat. The ecological emergency imperils every promise. Days of hope that we might safeguard a liveable planet lead to nights of anxiety, grief or despair. This weekend we will accept the invitation of Scripture for our time, and embrace the truths both of God's love and of the climate crisis. We will meet Christ who came to cast fire on the Earth and who will return on clouds at the end of time. The retreat will also introduce Green Christian's *Borrowed Time* programme and help to co-create a new project called 'Cloud and Fire', which is seeking to develop pastoral responses to climate grief and anxiety. For more info and to book, see:

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/retreat2021/>

Saturday 9th October

The first of the four stated goals of COP26 next month is to secure

global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach. Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century.

To deliver on these stretching targets, countries will need to:

- accelerate the phase-out of coal
- curtail deforestation
- speed up the switch to electric vehicles
- encourage investment in renewables.

<https://ukcop26.org/cop26-goals/>

Sunday 10th October

Dear Jesus,
Show Your Face
Hail Mary,
full of grace,
Help us heal, Holy Lord

Paul Wickham's prayer from Show the Love prayers at <https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/show-the-love-prayer-2021/>

Monday 11th October

Today marks the start of another Convention of the Parties – COP15 on Biodiversity. Due to the pandemic this first part will be online, with in-person meetings being held in 2022 in Kunming, China. In many ways it is as important as COP26 in November. About 195 countries are expected to finalise a new accord to halt and reverse losses of the planet's plants, animals and ecosystems at this two-part COP15 U.N. summit. COP15 continues on the work started at Rio in 1992 with the first signing of the Convention of Biological Diversity.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210616131101-kf2j0>

Tuesday 12th October

[When] world leaders gathering in New York for the first-ever United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) [in September], WWF [welcomed] the ambitious commitment to transform food systems demonstrated by participants but [warned] that the lack of attention to nature and

climate shown by the 150-plus countries in attendance could knock the world off course from meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2030. In total, 101 countries have developed detailed new national pathways for food systems transformation at the summit, while an additional 50 also made commitments, to alleviate hunger and tackle the severe impacts food systems have on nature and climate. Yet the majority of these failed to place sufficient focus on the vital role of food systems in addressing the nature and climate crises.

https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/press_releases/?3793816/UN-Food-Systems-Summit-WWF-warns-that-lack-of-attention-to-nature-and-climate-could-undermine-progress-towards-SDGs

Wednesday 13th October

California is famous for its beach weather, but it's also growing increasingly infamous for its "fire weather," which is when high

<https://ukcop26.org/cop26-goals/>

Saturday 23rd October

The campaign to halt climate breakdown ecological destruction is bound up with the fate of the world's Indigenous peoples... The short book *The Red Deal: Indigenous Action to Save Our Earth* was authored by activists from The Red Nation, a coalition devoted to Indigenous liberation and made up of Native and non-native revolutionaries based mainly in North America. The authors make clear that they believe the campaign to halt climate change and repair ecological destruction is bound up with the fate of the world's Indigenous peoples. They say bluntly that "*there is no hope for restoring the planet's fragile and dying ecosystems without Indigenous liberation*" and that "*it's decolonization or extinction.*"

<https://theecologist.org/2021/sep/16/indigenous-liberation-or-extinction>

Sunday 24th October

Lord we give you thanks for our preservation during the year that is past and for the awareness that has come to us that we are but one part of your good creation.

We confess that we stand in need of your word of judgement having followed too much the devices and desires of own hearts. We have neglected the wisdom that you vouchsafed to our mothers and fathers. We offended against the good order of your world which you set in place for the sake of our health and holiness.

Part 1 of Peter Grimwood's Show the Love Collect at:

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

Monday 25th October

Naturally regenerated forests are much better ways of achieving climate targets than mass planting, and Brazil could achieve 150% more reforestation if the forests are left to their own schemes. Home to a wealth of

Companions can support each other in their faith journeys. This is done in a variety of ways, including meeting in regionally based pairs or larger groups, coming together regularly in national zoom gatherings, receiving monthly letters written by Companions sharing their own personal journeys and in annual workshops. This session will focus on how this Encouragement discipline has been so important in Companions feeling part of a committed and dispersed Community. Free, but you must register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocu6gqTspGNZ2k4BBqpt1Eri2ZfgWnYUo>

Thursday 21st October

An abandoned airport in Taiwan has been chosen as the stage for an exciting project in landscape architecture, blending green spaces with sensory experiences to create a refuge in one of the island's biggest and most crowded cities. The Phase Shift Park in Taichung will include 200 different

plant species, and 10,000 trees to shade residents from humidity...Designed by French architecture firm Mosbach Paysagistes, the topography was carefully designed to maximize water permeation during the wet monsoon season. Underneath the soil lies complex flood control and irrigation measures that will ideally allow the rains to refuel the trees year-round.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/phase-shift-landscape-park-in-taichung-offers-sensory-experience-and-respite/>

Friday 22nd October

The third goal for the COP26 summit next month is to mobilise finance. To deliver on [the] first two goals, developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year by 2020. International financial institutions must play their part and we need work towards unleashing the trillions in private and public sector finance required to secure global net zero.

temperatures, strong winds, and low humidity combine to prime the landscape to burn. It's no accident that you've been hearing so much about wildfires in recent years: Thanks to climate change, fire weather is on the rise, a new analysis shows. *"It's not just that it's hot. It's not just that it's dry. It's that all these conditions are happening at the same time,"* says Kaitlyn Weber, a data analyst at Climate Central, a nonprofit news group that published the analysis. *"There's very clearly an increase in these fire weather days that's been happening since the early 1970s across most of the western United States."*

<https://grist.org/wildfires/what-is-fire-weather-and-why-is-it-getting-worse/>

Thursday 14th October

By consuming and pooping seagrass seeds, dugongs and green turtles play a vital role in maintaining vital, carbon-sequestering seagrass meadows, a new study reveals. Scientists working in the Great Barrier Reef

found that seagrass seeds germinated up to 60% faster after they had passed through the gut of dugongs or green turtles, and also had two to four times greater germination probability. The research highlights the mutual relationship between seagrass and marine mega herbivores, and underscores the shared vulnerability if either party is undermined. Experts say we must do what we can to protect dugongs, turtles and other grazing marine animals if we wish to protect seagrass ecosystems and their many benefits.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/08/seagrass-grazing-dugongs-and-green-sea-turtles-supercharge-the-seeds-they-eat/>

Friday 15th October

The second of COP26's goals for next month is to adapt to protect communities and natural habitats. The climate is already changing and it will continue to change even as we reduce emissions, with devastating effects. At COP26 we need to work together to enable

and encourage countries affected by climate change to:

- protect and restore ecosystems
- build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives

<https://ukcop26.org/cop26-goals/>

Saturday 16th October

Tomorrow and Monday will see two days of global action organised by Faiths 4 Climate Action. Two weeks before the start of COP26 people of diverse religions will rise to send a message: destroying the planet is against our religions. Tomorrow, at temples, mosques, and churches around the world, a call for climate justice will ring out with bells and the unfurling of banners. Monday will see people take our faiths into the streets and to our leaders' doorsteps. [Participants will] deliver [their] demands to political and financial leaders, hold prayer or meditation vigils outside

government and bank offices, sing hymns about the climate, or take action rooted in our deepest values.

<https://greenfaith.org/faiths4climatejustice/>

Sunday 17th October

Love human and Divine
Love is listening seeing reasoning
growing suffering together both
human and divine

Michael Weekes' prayer from
Show the Love prayers at
<https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/show-the-love-prayer-2021/>

Monday 18th October

Government plans for rapid growth and development between Oxford and Cambridge, known as the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, risk damaging impacts on nature and climate unless they urgently rethink their approach, according to nature conservation and countryside charities the RSPB, The Woodland Trust, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, The Wildlife Trust

for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, and CPRE. The charities say Government proposals for increased house building and infrastructure development – including new towns – are bypassing critical processes for safeguarding the environment. They are calling on Government to rethink their plans and asking people to respond to a public consultation on 'the Arc'.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/about-the-rspb/about-us/media-centre/press-releases/rethink-the-arc-campaign-launch/>

Tuesday 19th October

The scarcity of CO₂ has caused havoc in UK supply chains, threatening shortages of meat, alcohol and fizzy drinks. It may seem surprising to read that CO₂ – the greenhouse gas heating our world – also keeps certain essential industries functioning. How can there be a shortage of something we're desperately trying to emit less of? ... The problem is that the CO₂ used in

industry comes from sources that are a well-established part of a complex supply chain. ... Meanwhile, CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere are about 420 ppm – 0.0042% of all the gases. Separating CO₂ from the air is difficult, and far more expensive. Something called "point-source carbon capture technology" is currently the best alternative option, and involves scrubbing CO₂ from exhaust gases in the chimneys of factories and power plants. Here, CO₂ is emitted in the highest volumes and concentrations are thousands of times higher than those found in the atmosphere.

<https://theconversation.com/how-soon-could-carbon-capture-technology-solve-industry-co-shortages-168310>

Wednesday 20th October

Tonight's webinar is the last in a series of four with George Dow on the Green Christian Way of Life – this time the final discipline of Encouragement. The discipline provides a means by which