

May we walk gently. May we speak only after we have listened well. Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose. May we regard the world with tenderness. May we honor rather than destroy. Lower of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with

thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come. May we welcome your lavish love. In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead.

<https://www.womansday.com/life/g30243133/new-years-prayers/>

Picture on front cover: Snowy trees, Emma King

If you would like to receive the prayer diary each month by email (free), please fill in the sign up form at <https://greenchristian.org.uk/about/contact-us/> or email:

prayer-guide@greenchristian.org.uk

Green Christian contact: Information Officer: info@greenchristian.org.uk

Tel: 0345 459 8460

www.greenchristian.org.uk

Green Christian: 48 Morrab Road, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 4EX.



Green Christian is a registered trading name of Christian Ecology Link. Charity No. 328744. Company No. 2445198 © 2022 Green Christian

Prayer guide for the care of creation



December 2022

“I only feel angry when I see waste. When I see people throwing away things we could use.”

Mother Teresa

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.”

Matthew 2 v 10

 **Green Christian**
Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times

Thursday 1st December

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 December will be 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/>

Friday 2nd December

There are many analyses of COP. Here is one which seems to sum up many of them, from Alex Sobel, MP, who was there in his role as Inter-Parliamentary Parliament COP Rapporteur. "The outcomes at

COP fill me with mixed emotions. The deal on loss and damage is indeed historic. I spoke to the most senior politicians from countries like Vanuatu, Micronesia, Tuvalu and other Pacific Islands under real and exponential threat in our lifetime. These countries cannot access any western finance to rebuild houses or construct seawalls. These are not esoteric or political concerns they are real, vital and happening right now. The deal gives them some hope but it MUST be delivered on. The progress on emissions is far more disappointing. I deeply fear we will breach the 1.5C not by 2050 or 2100 but within a decade without much more severe action. The number of oil and gas lobbyists and deals done undermines other good work done at COP. There is much talk about whether the process works and the need for a new process. This is a real and vital debate but until a better process is agreed with delivery at its centre, we shouldn't abandon COP for nothing. We would be worse off without it."
Quotes taken from an email sent to his constituents.

roughly one-third of the global ivory trade and still possesses a legal domestic market, has seen a dramatic reduction in ivory demand. By 2014, the annual value of the Japanese ivory industry was just 13% of what it was in 1989... analysis indicated that the Cites international trade ban and a domestic economic recession, that started in 1992 and led to a period of economic stagnation, were the main reasons for the reduction in Japanese demand. Both factors were cited by all of the interviewees as having the largest impact. They reduced both the amount of ivory that was available to purchase and people's ability to afford it.

<https://theconversation.com/japans-ivory-market-is-no-longer-a-threat-to-elephant-populations-heres-why-192293>

Friday 30th December

Brazilian president-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will have to supercharge many of the same policies that he employed in his first two terms to bring Amazon destruction rates down from their record highs, a new report says,

writes André Schröder for Mongabay. The report, by a group of development, security and conservation think tanks, lists 92 proposals for Lula when he takes office at the start of 2023, centered around ending the culture of criminal impunity that flourished under the outgoing president, Jair Bolsonaro. Experts say the absence of law enforcement in the Amazon has strengthened a criminal ecosystem that profits from land grabbing, illegal logging, mining, and wildlife and drug trafficking. The Bolsonaro administration has encouraged this in large part by weakening environmental enforcement agencies and putting loyalists in their top posts.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/11/report-offers-a-road-map-to-restore-the-rule-of-law-in-the-brazilian-amazon/>

Saturday 31st December

Pray for a peaceful new year. God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power.

with coal, despite its significant health risks (and climate impacts). Poland also has lots of easily accessible coal, sometimes as shallow as a meter underground and when people are burning garbage to stay warm and unemployment is as high as 12% in former (formerly legal) coal mining areas, “artisanal” (illegal) coal mining pays the bills and keeps houses heated.

<https://www.ecowatch.com/poland-backyard-coal-mining.html>

Wednesday 28th December

The Chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee, Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP, has [in late November] written to the Environment Secretary, asking for a “culture of delay” within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to be addressed, writes Matt Mace for Edie. The department failed to meet a statutory deadline of 31 October to confirm targets for nature that are included under the Environment Bill. The Bill received Royal Assent in November 2021. Environment Secretary Therese Coffey told the

House of Commons ... that she was “disappointed” that the targets were not yet able to be published. The EAC is calling on the department to set out a publication timetable for the targets, ideally before negotiations continue[d] on a new global treaty for nature in Canada from 7 December. The EAC is also calling for clarity on the publication of documents on initiatives such as the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for packaging, the Chemicals Strategy, the Environmental Principles Policy Statement and the National Action Plan for Pesticides.

<https://www.edie.net/mps-call-for-immediate-publication-of-uk-environment-targets/>

Thursday 29th December

Japan’s ivory market is no longer a threat to elephant populations, write Laura Thomas-Walters et al. Ivory has always been a prized commodity. But the international ivory trade was banned under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) in 1989... Yet Japan, which between 1979 and 1989 was responsible for

Saturday 3rd December

Today is the Warm This Winter campaign’s day of action. Warm This Winter is a new campaign demanding the government acts now to help people struggling with energy bills this winter and to ensure we all have access to affordable energy in the future. They have four things they want to see:

1. Emergency support now: Providing a new package of additional targeted financial support to people who will be on the front-line of poverty this winter and next.
2. Help to upgrade homes: Launching a new, properly-funded programme of home upgrades and insulation across the UK to bring down bills and prevent energy waste.
3. Cheap energy: More than triple the amount of renewable energy in the UK by 2030, including wind and solar generated in harmony with nature.
4. Free us from oil and gas: Stop approving new oil and gas fields so we can escape our

dependence on volatile fossil fuels.

<https://www.warmthiswinter.org.uk/>

Sunday 4th December

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God’s precious gift of creation. Lord, in your mercy... We pray for the world, our common home: that through God’s grace we may hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for those people who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate. Lord, in your mercy...

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Creationtide-intercessions>

Monday 5th December

The outbreak of avian influenza (HPAI) which has hit the UK since the autumn of 2021 is the largest the country has ever seen, writes Alastair Ward for The Conversation.

And the picture is the same across Europe and the US, which are reporting a similar picture. To date, this outbreak has led to the death of nearly 100 million poultry birds around the world. But the disease doesn't only threaten poultry and egg production – it also threatens wild bird populations in a way that it never has before. While drastic action has been taken to control the spread of avian flu in domestic birds, these efforts may be insufficient alone to mitigate the impact on wild bird populations... To date, 15 species of seabirds have tested positive for HPAI for the first time, and die-offs in some species, such as great skuas, are worrying due to their magnitude and potential to threaten the species' persistence in the UK.

<https://theconversation.com/bird-flu-uk-is-seeing-its-largest-ever-outbreak-which-may-prove-particularly-deadly-for-wild-birds-194694>

Tuesday 6th December

The nature agencies of the four nations of the United Kingdom have come together, ahead of COP15 [starting tomorrow], to call on

governments to keep biodiversity loss and climate change at the top of the agenda. Speaking with one voice at this time of nature crisis, the statutory nature conservation bodies of NatureScot, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and DEARA Northern Ireland highlight the need for action to recover nature now, both in the UK and globally, saying: *"We know the relationship between climate and biodiversity is inseparable and societies must focus on both in tandem. If we fail on one of the biodiversity or climate crises, we fail on both."*

<https://www.nature.scot/four-nation-call-nature-remain-top-government-agenda>

Wednesday 7th December

COP 15 starts today in Montreal, postponed from the original date in 2020 in China. Also known as the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, COP15 is the fifteenth meeting of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), bringing together countries to agree on targets to ensure the survival of species and stem the collapse of ecosystems across the

[christmas-prayers-give-thanks-for-the-birth-of-jesus-christ.html](https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer-christmas-prayers-give-thanks-for-the-birth-of-jesus-christ.html)

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, true God from true God, you became a little child for us so the world you made would be saved. Just as a child is born to us and a Son is given to us, may we be born again through you and always remain in the number of God's faithful children; through your merits, O blessed Savior, with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer from
<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer-christmas-prayers-give-thanks-for-the-birth-of-jesus-christ.html>

Monday 26th December

Communities in Kenya are reverting to thatched roofs to stay cool amid worsening heatwaves fuelled by climate change, writes Kagondu Njagi for Reuters. For Kenyan schoolteacher Simon Ewoi, having an iron-sheet roof on his house has been a source of pride - and a symbol of prosperity - in a village

where thatched-grass roofs are the norm. But about a decade after he built his home in Turkana county, Ewoi recently constructed a new building on his compound - this time reverting to a grass roof to try to cope with rising temperatures fuelled by climate change.

"Traditionally thatched houses are cooler than those roofed with iron sheets," the 37-year-old said in an interview... Traditional thatched roofs can help battle heat but need more frequent replacing than iron roofs and cannot withstand prolonged rains or strong winds, as well as being vulnerable to fire.

<https://www.context.news/climate-risks/kenyans-turn-to-tradition-to-fight-rising-heat>

Tuesday 27th December

The global energy crisis set off by Russia's war in Ukraine and European reliance on methane gas from Putin's authoritarian regime has spawned a resurgence in backyard coal mining in Poland, Bloomberg reports. More than three-quarters of the EU's coal-heated homes are in Poland, where 37% of families heat their homes

looking to insert a bit of nature and biodegradability into common components like the microchip, and believe it or not, peeling the skin off the mycelium of a mushroom can protect chips from heat up to 392°F (200°C.) Once it's dried out, scientists working on the project from Johannes Kepler University in Austria found that it's not only heat resistant, but will last for years, and can withstand being bent and folded thousands of times without wearing or tearing.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/scientists-have-used-mushrooms-to-make-biodegradable-computer-chip-parts/>

Friday 23rd December

The RSPB's Birdcrime 2021 report, published [in November], reveals 108 confirmed incidents of bird of prey persecution in the UK, 80 of which were in England. The total includes 50 buzzards, 16 red kites, seven peregrines and three goshawks. Rare hen harriers and white-tailed eagles continue to be affected. The majority were either shot, trapped or poisoned. All birds of prey are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act

1981. Scientific papers, intelligence and satellite tagging studies for key species such as hen harrier suggest the annual Birdcrime totals are only the tip of a far larger iceberg, and that many killings go undetected and unreported. In 2021, over two thirds (71%) of all confirmed incidents of raptor persecution related to land managed for gamebird shooting, where birds of prey are seen by some as a threat to gamebird stocks and illegally killed.

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

Saturday 24th December

A Prayer for Christmas Eve

O God, you were pleased to announce the coming of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, with choirs of angels who proclaimed with their song, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth." Grant that we may so pass our time here to your glory, that at your Son's second coming we may rejoice before him. Amen.

Prayer from

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer/>

world, write Clemence Blanchard and China Williams for Kew. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries have not met for several years, so COP15 is a particularly important once-in-a-decade opportunity to halt destruction of the natural world. Previous targets, agreed at COP10 in Aichi, Japan, have not been met, so there is renewed pressure to put in place the financial and political support needed and the stakes are high.

<https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/what-is-cop15>

Thursday 8th December

After more than three years of work, the Tetiaroa Atoll has been declared rat-free following a massive effort to poison off two invasive species devastating the ecosystem, writes Andy Corbley for Good News Network. The mission required the cutting of some 160 miles of trails across 1,250 acres of tropical atoll forest, and a team that were willing to suffer the bugs, humidity, rats, and days without showers. Tetiaroa Atoll is as paradisiacal a tropical island as

anyone could imagine. It was bought by actor Marlon Brando on a 99-year lease, and is home to one of the world's most expensive island resorts. It is also the home—or was the home, of two species of introduced rat, the black rat and the Polynesian rat, both of which wrecked havoc on the local ecosystem of nesting sea turtles, skittish ghost and coconut crabs, and dozens of sea birds like the blue and red-footed boobies.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/island-paradise-of-tetiaroa-atoll-declared-rat-free-after-massive-volunteer-eradication-campaign/>

Friday 9th December

COP15, which runs from 7th until 19th December, will focus on setting agreed global targets to halt and reverse the loss of 'biodiversity' – that is, the variety within species of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria, making up our natural world. This variety is critical for our survival. All the interactions between plants, fungi and animals lead to the food we eat and the medicines we rely on. They also underpin our health

and wellbeing, ensuring we have clean water and oxygen. Plants and fungi also regulate the climate, protect communities from natural disasters like hurricane damage, and counteract the pollution in the air by carbon-sequestering. Many scientists agree that biodiversity is at a tipping point, and decisions made now at COP15 may be our last chance to conserve the natural world and our existence as we know it.

<https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/what-is-cop15>

Saturday 10th December

The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) [last month] provided written evidence on proposals from the Government to review the Retained EU Laws Bill, warning that it could introduce a rushed approach that fails to improve key environmental targets, writes Matt Mace for Edie. The OEP submitted evidence to the House of Commons' Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill Committee. The Retained EU Law Bill was presented to the House for a first reading in September 2022

and currently has no date for a second reading. The Bill seeks to overhaul the retained EU laws that were issued in the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement in 2018 and subsequently updated by the EU Act in 2020. The aim of these legislative frameworks was to transpose various existing EU legislation into UK law, which covered the majority of environmental policies that the UK agreed to uphold. The OEP is concerned that a deadline of the end of 2023 to rewrite key environmental legislations under the review may lead to a rushed approach that fails to strengthen the UK's approach to nature, water and environmental stewardship.

<https://www.edie.net/uks-environment-watchdog-warns-of-rushed-review-of-eu-green-laws/>

Sunday 11th December

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time. Lord, in your mercy...

oil and gas companies needs to be watered down to avoid an “existential threat” to the North Sea, writes Allister Thomas for Energy Voice. The Telegraph reports that a group of MPs of his own party have told Jeremy Hunt that the energy profits levy (EPL) is making investment “unviable” and even going so far as to suggest it risks an industry collapse. That's despite the levy having a 91% investment allowance, to reduce tax paid the more that is invested in new oil and gas projects. Trade body Offshore Energies UK (OEUK) and companies including the North Sea's largest producer, Harbour Energy, have warned the North Sea windfall tax risks diverting investment to overseas regions.

<https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/north-sea/464077/windfall-tax-risks-destroying-north-sea-production-tory-mps-warn-chancellor/>

Wednesday 21st December

Scientists warn that a lack of weather data in much of Africa means that loss and damage funds can not be dependent on a disaster being proven to be caused by

climate change, writes Isabelle Gerretsen for Climate Change News. A shortage of weather monitoring stations in places like West Africa's Sahel region make it difficult to prove a disaster was caused by climate change. But that shouldn't stop people affected by disasters like droughts from getting money to rebuild their lives when their livestock die, scientists Friederike Otto and Joyce Kimutai told Climate Home. At Cop27 in Egypt last weekend, countries agreed to establish a fund to support climate victims and tasked a transitional committee with working out the details by Cop28 in Dubai next year.

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2022/11/22/scientists-warn-data-gaps-should-not-block-africans-from-loss-and-damage-funds/>

Thursday 22nd December

The skin off the legs of a mushroom could potentially offer a sustainable alternative to insulative substrates in computing chips, writes Andy Corbley for Good News Network. As production of electronic devices continues to increase, scientists are

<https://apnews.com/article/world-cup-sports-travel-soccer-14804a0edb22e23c626fdbfc5849fa71>

Sunday 18th December

We pray for world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our local community: that through God's grace we may be good neighbours to each other and to the whole of creation, restoring and caring for all that God has made. Lord, in your mercy...

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Creationtide-intercessions>

Monday 19th December

Water companies in the UK have discharged sewage more than 9,200 times over the past 12 months, and are accused of discharging sewage when there has been no rain more than 160 times – something they are not legally allowed to do, writes Sarah George for Edie. Those are some of the headline findings from

Surfers Against Sewage's latest annual water quality report, published [in late November which]... raises a fresh concern – that water companies may be releasing sewage even in dry weather, in an illegal process known as conducting 'dry spills'. ... This finding, said Surfers Against Sewage's head of campaigns and policy Amy Slack, is "especially alarming" after a year in which the public "*have made clear their disgust at what's happening to our rivers and seas*". She added: "*The government is complicit in the sewage scandal, failing to enforce and strengthen regulations to protect the health of the UK's waterways – and the health of its citizens. It's high time the government stepped up and took real action to curb the destructive and selfish behaviour of the water companies.*"

<https://www.edie.net/uk-water-companies-accused-of-discharging-raw-sewage-even-during-dry-weather/>

Tuesday 20th December

Tory MPs have told Chancellor Jeremy Hunt that the windfall tax on

We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given. Lord, in your mercy...

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Creationtide-intercessions>

Monday 12th December

To reduce the loss and damage caused by climate change, invest in human security, writes Janani Vivekananda for Climate Diplomacy... This year [at COP27], UN Secretary-General António Guterres ... did not mince his words when he called for urgent action for climate justice stating that "*the impacts of climate change are here now, and the loss and damage they cause can no longer be ignored*". After much fraught negotiation in the initial hours of this COP, climate justice, and specifically finance for loss and damage landed firmly on the agenda. A closer look at the wording reveals that the gain is perhaps not as big a win for those countries most affected by climate impacts as hoped, by including

financing which already goes to a broader raft of activities, but it is a gain nevertheless. Last year, more than 30 million people were displaced by climate-related disasters. Ninety per cent of refugees come from countries that are among the most vulnerable and least able to adapt to the effects of climate change. The economic cost of loss and damage in developing countries is projected to reach up to \$580 billion a year by 2030 alone.

<https://climate-diplomacy.org/magazine/cooperation/reduce-loss-and-damage-caused-climate-change-invest-human-security>

Tuesday 13th December

The question of whether Africa should be allowed to exploit its gas reserves, estimated at more than 17.56 trillion cubic meters (620 trillion cubic feet) in 2021, has been much discussed at the latest UN climate change summit, COP27, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, write Chukwumerije Okereke and Youba Sokona for The Conversation. Former US vice president Al Gore used his speech at the opening session to urge an end to all fossil

fuel investment globally, including in Africa. But Macky Sall, the president of Senegal and chairperson of the African Union, argued at the same event that Africa needs space in Earth's dwindling carbon budget to use its resources for development... Calls to cease all gas exploration in Africa that fail to account for where historical responsibility for climate change lies and the need to close the current finance gap are the most audacious kind of climate imperialism.

<https://theconversation.com/africa-has-vast-gas-reserves-heres-how-to-stop-them-adding-to-climate-change-194473>

Wednesday 14th December

The Egypt COP27 Presidency launched four initiatives to help countries fulfil their goals set at the Paris Agreements. They are:

- Friends of Greening National Investment Plans in Africa and Developing Countries initiative which helps countries design their economic policies with the climate in mind
- Low Carbon Transport for Urban Sustainability (LOTUS) initiative

- Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe)
- Global Waste Initiative 50 by 2050 which seeks to treat and recycle at least 50% of the solid waste produced in Africa by 2050

<https://www.cop27.eg/#/news/257/Four%20Initiatives%20Launched%20Duri>

Thursday 15th December

[In early November], ... the French Senate approved new legislation that requires all car parks with space for more than 80 cars to cover those spaces with solar roofs, writes Steve Hanley for Clean Technica. This has the rather splendid, if accidental, effect of making cheap renewable electricity available to any electric cars parked below. ... When complete, it is estimated all those solar roofs will provide an estimate 11 MW of electricity — equivalent to the output of 10 conventional nuclear power plants. Parking lot owners will have 5 years to comply starting from July 1, 2023. Lots with more than 400 spaces will need to comply within three years.

<https://cleantechnica.com/2022/11/11/large-scale-solar-roofs-getting-the-respect-they-deserve/>

Friday 16th December

A United Nations-backed mission is recommending that the Great Barrier Reef be added to the list of endangered World Heritage sites, warning that without “*ambitious, rapid and sustained*” climate action the world's largest coral reef is in peril. Thomas Adamson, writing for AP, goes on to say the warning came in a report published Monday following a 10-day mission to the reef last March by officials from UNESCO and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The reef, a living place of immense variety and beauty on the north-east coast of Australia, has been on UNESCO's World Heritage List since 1981. Australia's federal government and Queensland's state authorities should adopt more ambitious emission reduction targets, in line with international efforts to limit future warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times, according to the report.

<https://apnews.com/article/europe-paris-australia-queensland-united-nations-79f278c426dc7ad86678266f4793da9d>

Saturday 17th December

As Qatar welcome[d] more than a million fans for the month long World Cup, even its camels are working overtime, write Lujain Jo and Suman Naishadham for AP. Visitors in numbers the tiny emirate has never before seen are rushing to finish a bucket list of Gulf tourist experiences between games: ride on a camel's back, take pictures with falcons and wander through the alleyways of traditional markets. On a recent Friday afternoon, hundreds of visitors in soccer uniforms or draped in flags waited for their turn to mount the humpbacked animals. Camels that did not rise were forced up by their handlers. When one camel let out a loud grunt, a woman from Australia shrieked, “it sounds like they're being violated!” Nearby, a group of men from Mexico dressed in white Qatari thobes and headdresses took selfies.