

into the lives of others.

Amen.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>

Picture on front cover: Daffodils, 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

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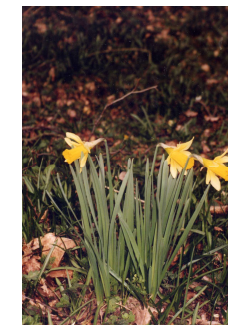


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Prayer guide for the care of creation

March 2024



“...The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.”

“For God loved the world so much that he
gave his only Son, so that everyone who
believes in him may not die but have eternal
life.”

John 3 v 16

 **Green Christian**
Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times

Friday 1st March

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 March 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 an online Climate Action's prayer for climate grief).

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

Saturday 2nd March

Tomorrow is World Wildlife Day, an international observance day celebrated annually... The day aims to raise awareness of the need to protect the world's wild animals and plants. The date of March 3 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on

International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973. CITES is an international agreement that regulates the trade in wild animals and plants. It aims to ensure that trade does not threaten the survival of species. World Wildlife Day is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of life on Earth and to learn about the threats facing wild animals and plants. The theme for this year is Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.

<https://www.wildlifeday.org/en>

Sunday 3rd March

Loving God,
when our boat is rocked
on the sea of life,
by poverty, illness or disaster,
you quiet the waves,
calm the storm,
and lead us safely to shore.

When we work hard,
for our daily bread,
but at the end of the day go hungry,
you walk alongside us,
calling, "cast out your nets",
knowing there is enough for all.

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would
never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold....

(continued Sunday)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>

Saturday 30th March

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) have named seven initiatives from Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean, and South Asia as UN World Restoration Flagships. These initiatives include ecosystems at the tipping point of outright degradation resulting from wildfires, drought, deforestation, and pollution. They are now eligible for technical and financial UN support. The World Restoration Flagship awards are part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – led by UNEP and FAO – which aims to prevent, halt, and

reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. The awards track notable initiatives that support global commitments to restore one billion hectares – an area larger than China.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/nature-staging-comeback-un-recognizes-seven-world-restoration>

Sunday 31st March

Easter Sunday
Prayer continued from Friday
...The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.
Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of
resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts
today.
We pray that the Easter light of life,
hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that
light

Wednesday 27th March

China's energy sector carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions increased 5.2% in 2023, meaning a record fall of 4-6% is needed by 2025 to meet the government's "carbon intensity" target, writes Lauri Myllyvirta. The new analysis for Carbon Brief, based on official figures and commercial data, shows rapid electricity demand growth and weak rains boosted demand for coal power in 2023, while the rebound from zero-Covid boosted demand for oil. Other key findings from the analysis include: China's CO₂ emissions have now increased by 12% between 2020 and 2023, after a highly energy- and carbon-intensive response to the Covid-19 pandemic... China is also at risk of missing all of its other key climate targets for 2025, including pledges to "strictly limit" coal demand growth and "strictly control" new coal power capacity, as well as targets for energy intensity, the share of low-carbon energy in overall demand and the share of renewables in energy demand growth.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-record-drop-in-chinas-co2-emissions-needed-to-meet-2025-target/>

Thursday 28th March

The UK Government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has unveiled a £25m funding programme to support dozens of projects centred around natural processes, in bid to mitigate the risk of flooding and enhance the nation's resilience to climate change, writes Sidhi Mittal. Natural flood management involves implementing measures that protect, restore and replicate the natural functions of catchments, floodplains and coastlines to mitigate flooding and store water. Defra claims that the £25m package is its largest focused on natural flood management to date. The funding initiative received submissions from community groups, environmental charities and councils, which underwent review by the Environment Agency, in consultation with Defra and Natural England.

<https://www.edie.net/defra-confirms-25m-boost-for-nature-based-flood-management-solutions/>

Friday 29th March

Good Friday.
From a prayer by Revd Michaela Youngson.

When we are lost,
and uncertain of how
to make a change in our world,
your words ring out:
"Come, follow me",
guiding us to new life with you.

Lead us then, Lord, to play our part
in calming the storm
and sharing your gifts with each
other,
so that all people throughout the
world
may look to the future with hope.
Amen.

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/lent-prayer-2024>

Monday 4th March

The Government has rejected calls from MPs to introduce more frequent reporting on how it is delivering the net-zero transition, as well declining to engage with calls to overhaul corporate transition plan requirements, writes Matt Mace. The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) has confirmed... that the Government has rejected its string of recommendations to deliver quarterly reporting on key green policies, including decarbonisation implementation as it rolls out new oil

and gas licenses in the North Sea. MPs had raised concerns that the issue of new fossil fuel licences could send mixed signals to the market about the Government's appetite for decarbonisation. The Government has rejected the calls to set an end date to new oil and gas licensing in the North Sea and on transition plans.

<https://www.edie.net/government-rejects-calls-from-mps-to-boost-net-zero-reporting-requirements/>

Tuesday 5th March

As much as half of the Amazon will face several "unprecedented" stressors that could push the forest towards a major tipping point by 2050, new research finds. Orla Dwyer writes: researchers analysed data on five key drivers of water stress in the Amazon and looked at how these pressures could lead to "local, regional or even biome-wide forest collapse". The new study, published in Nature, finds that by 2050, between 10 and 47% of the Amazon forest will be exposed to "compounding disturbances" that "may trigger unexpected ecosystem transitions". This could result in large

swathes of lush rainforest shifting to dry savannah.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/unprecedented-stress-in-up-to-half-of-the-amazon-may-lead-to-tipping-point-by-2050/>

Wednesday 6th March

The City of Chicago is suing five of the planet's biggest oil and gas companies and a trade group over their contributions to climate change, saying they misled the public about how their fossil fuel products contribute to extreme heat, flooding and other impacts on residents of the Windy City, writes Cristen Hemingway Jaynes... *"Evidence shows that these Defendants intentionally misled Chicago residents about the climate change-related dangers associated with their oil and gas products. If unabated, climate change could result in catastrophic impacts on our city,"* said Mary Richardson-Lowry, corporation counsel for the City of Chicago, in a press release from the Office of the Mayor. *"We bring this lawsuit to ensure that the Defendants who have profited from the deception campaign bear responsibility for their conduct."*

<https://www.ecowatch.com/chicago-climate-change-lawsuit-big-oil.html>

Thursday 7th March

From the Far East comes fantastic news for species conservation after new populations of the gorgeous 'Skywalker' gibbon, known to science for only 6 years, were recently found living in the politically chaotic nation of Myanmar. Also called the hoolock gibbon, this dainty vocalist was first described in 2017 living in the extreme south of China on a mountain in Yunnan. Classified as Endangered by the IUCN, the population was estimated to number a paltry 150 individuals, but others were believed to live in Myanmar.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/the-skywalker-gibbon-was-thought-to-be-nearly-extinct-now-significant-populations-discovered-in-myanmar/>

Friday 8th March

As Europe's cities seek to cut the emissions fuelling global warming and clear fume-filled air, one solution - restrictions on polluting cars - has sparked widespread protests, led to violent acts of vandalism and inflamed conspiracy theories, writes Joanna Gill. From London to Rome,

Reports, one research team thinks they have hit on an especially promising way to achieve this goal: by tweaking the behavior of a particular plant hormone, they believe we can grow plants that burrow deeper into the soil. Such deep-reaching roots have real potential for crop health and the environment. Not only do deep-rooted plants have a better chance of reaching water in times of drought, they also capture more of the excess nitrogen that filters into the soil of fertilized farmland, helping tackle nutrient pollution. What's more, long roots deposit carbon into deeper soil layers, "where it stays for longer and can be kept out of the atmosphere," explains Wolfgang Busch, executive director of the Harnessing Plants Initiative at the Salk Institute, whose lab led the new work.

<https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2024/02/engineering-plants-with-deeper-roots-could-be-a-huge-climate-boon-scientists-just-made-a-big-find/>

Tuesday 26th March

Fashion suppliers are starting to take climate risks into account when deciding where to locate factories or

how to keep workers safe in them, but a lack of good data is holding back early efforts to mitigate threats, industry officials warned. Md. Tahmid Zami writes: *"Climate change poses the risk of supply chain disruption so we must take such risks into account to do business in the long run,"* said Mohammad Monower Hossain, head of sustainability for Team Group, a leading apparel supplier in Bangladesh. His organisation, seen as an early adopter in incorporating climate risk into its business plans, now takes into account land elevation and potential flood risk when siting new factories - a key consideration in a low-lying country listed among the most at risk from climate impacts, he said. ... But [he also] said much of Bangladesh's apparel industry is struggling to similarly plan for climate risks, in large part because of a lack of easily available and reliable information on the threats facing factories and their workers.

<https://www.context.news/climate-risks/can-better-data-protect-fashion-workers-from-climate-risks>

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

Saturday 23rd March

A new genetic map of the arabica coffee plant, *coffea arabica*, could help breeders develop to more climate-proof brews, writes Denis Murphy. Coffee is the second most consumed beverage on earth with over 2 billion cups being enjoyed every day. It's also a valuable commodity and in 2023 the global market was worth over USD\$93 billion (£74 billion). With their superior smooth taste and many fine varieties, arabica coffee beans make up around 60%-70% of global coffee production. Coffee cultivation also directly supports the livelihoods of 25 million family farmers with another 100 million people involved in coffee processing and retailing. But coffee crops are also threatened by climate change in many parts of the world and we need to use breeding to help the crops adapt to new conditions as well as growing them in areas that are less susceptible to factors such as drought. This study could help produce coffee varieties with higher yields and more resilience to climate change. These new insights could

not have come at a more important time for coffee crops.

<https://theconversation.com/from-crop-to-cup-a-new-genetic-map-could-make-your-morning-coffee-more-climate-resilient-223065>

Sunday 24th March

Palm Sunday

Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus. Amen

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>

Monday 25th March

A host of agricultural challenges—crops' vulnerability to drought, massive nitrogen pollution and greenhouse gas emissions—share one elegant solution: getting plants to grow longer, deeper roots, writes Emma Bryce. It may sound odd, but in fact this feat of genetic engineering has occupied scientists for years. Now, writing in *Cell*

the introduction of Low Emission Zones (LEZs) and Ultra Low Emission Zones (ULEZs) has enraged some city residents, who say fines and charges imposed on the most polluting vehicles mean more hardship for society's poorest during a global cost-of-living crisis... Protesters have also taken to the streets of London to decry the policy and there have been demonstrations against LEZs and ULEZs in Belgium, Germany, and France... The most simplistic version of the split between advocates and opponents pits the environment against the economy and this is playing out on a larger scale ahead of EU parliament elections this June. Surveys show that while a large majority of Europeans support ambitious action to fight climate change, a majority is also worried about the cost of doing this.

<https://www.context.news/just-transition/why-are-europes-low-emission-zones-fuelling-unrest>

Saturday 9th March

Pray for the Green Christian on the Road Together event in Coventry. Come and join us for a day discussing how we can make a

difference together for climate and faith. Speakers, Paul Bodenham, Joe Peall and Peter Grimwood will lead us through the day, including sessions on the Green Christian Way of Life framework and the campaign Joy in Enough. Free, but donations welcome. For more info and to book, <https://greenchristian.org.uk/set-fire-to-the-church-not-the-planet/>

Sunday 10th March

God of mercy and love let us serve you in our world

Loving Lord let us not stand aside and tolerate

lack of basic human resources, dehumanising practices, or the use of violence to disempower your people.

Give us strength to act and challenge hatred, and instead bring your justice and mercy.

In your name we humbly ask that we may be a channel for your peace and love.

Amen.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>

Monday 11th March

Elon Musk's SpaceX has announced it will dispose of 100 Starlink satellites over the next six months, after it discovered a design flaw that may cause them to fail, writes Fionagh Thomson. Rather than risk posing a threat to other spacecraft, SpaceX will "de-orbit" these satellites to burn up in the atmosphere. But atmospheric scientists are increasingly concerned that this sort of apparent fly-tipping by the space sector will cause further climate change down on Earth. One team recently, and unexpectedly, found potential ozone-depleting metals from spacecraft in the stratosphere, the atmospheric layer where the ozone layer is formed. The relative "low earth orbit" where satellites monitoring Earth's ecosystems are found is increasingly congested – Starlink alone has more than 5,000 spacecraft in orbit. Clearing debris is therefore a priority for the space sector. Newly launched spacecraft must also be removed from orbit within 25 years (the US recently implemented a stricter five-year rule) either by moving upwards to a so-called "graveyard orbit" or down into the Earth's atmosphere.

<https://theconversation.com/satellites-are-burning-up-in-the-upper-atmosphere-and-we-still-dont-know-what-impact-this-will-have-on-the-earths-climate-223618>

Tuesday 12th March

A senior Cambodian official notorious for illegal logging appears to be carving out a vast swath of forest in what's supposed to be a protected area in the country's north, write Gerald Flynn & Phoung Vantha. Satellite imagery suggests some 3,100 hectares (7,700 acres) of protected forest could be lost in a concession that activists and anonymous officials say has been awarded to a company led by Ouk Kimsan. Kimsan, who's also the deputy governor of Preah Vihear province, denied owning a concession inside Beng Per Wildlife Sanctuary — despite his company stating the opposite on its website. Community activists, who manage a slice of the protected area, say their complaints about illegal logging have been ignored by the provincial government, and blame a culture of corruption.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/in-cambodia-an-officials-cashew->

time for all stakeholders to step up" he added... However, the COP28 President warned that the "energy transition will lead to energy turmoil, if we only address the supply side of the energy equation."

<https://www.cop28.com/en/news/2024/02/COP28-President-calls-for-unprecedented-action-from-every-government>

Thursday 21st March

International Day of Forests 2024 will be celebrated on the theme, 'Forests and Innovation'. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 21 March as the International Day of Forests in 2012. The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests.

For example, Nigeria's Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve boasts more plant species than any other montane forest in Nigeria, writes Orji Sunday. The reserve is also home to a small population of endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees. However, human pressures have resulted in deforestation of portions of Ngel Nyaki. An initiative hopes to safeguard and rehabilitate Ngel

Nyaki's habitat by training community members in beekeeping.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2024/02/bees-bring-honey-and-hope-to-a-forest-reserve-in-nigeria/>

Friday 22nd March

Today is world water day. Roughly half of the world's population is experiencing severe water scarcity for at least part of the year. The theme for 2024 is 'Water for Peace'. Water can create peace or spark conflict. When water is scarce or polluted, or when people have unequal, or no access, tensions can rise between communities and countries. More than 3 billion people worldwide depend on water that crosses national borders. Yet, only 24 countries have cooperation agreements for all their shared water. As climate change impacts increase, and populations grow, there is an urgent need, within and between countries, to unite around protecting and conserving our most precious resource. Public health and prosperity, food and energy systems, economic productivity and environmental integrity all rely on a well-functioning and equitably managed water cycle.

stable planet and a greener future which will benefit all.

<https://www.globalrecyclingday.com/about/>

Tuesday 19th March

The Bank of England's role in tackling climate change is under attack, writes Faustine Wheeler. With the economy struggling, and inflation only slowly coming down from a 41 year high, pressure is mounting on the Bank to reduce the resources it dedicates to issues outside the scope of its primary mandate of price stability. [Mid February], governor Andrew Bailey announced that the bank would be cutting back on its climate-related work. This follows the chancellor's decision in November to remove climate change from the list of key priorities outlined in its annual remit letter. Andrew Bailey's recent announcement isn't the first time the Bank has scaled back its climate-related activities in the past year. In March 2023, it announced it would cut spending on climate-related research, amid budgetary challenges, allowing it to focus on its "core operations". And, a recent report by the House of Lords Economic Affairs committee strongly

recommended that the Treasury "prune the Bank of England's remit", arguing that requirements for the Bank to "have regards" to climate change distracted it from fulfilling its primary mandate. But the evidence is mounting to suggest the opposite.

<https://greenallianceblog.org.uk/2024/02/21/why-the-bank-of-england-is-wrong-to-cut-support-for-climate-related-work/>

Wednesday 20th March

Implementation of the UAE Consensus - the historic set of measures agreed on at COP28 that aim to keep the average global temperature rise below 1.5°C - will require "*unprecedented action*" by global stakeholders, COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said [one month ago today], during an event at the Paris Headquarters of the International Energy Agency (IEA). "*The UAE Consensus raised the bar and set a clear path to keep our north star of 1.5°C within reach,*" Dr. Al Jaber said during the event 'Beyond COP28: Time to Unite, Act, and Deliver the UAE Consensus'. "*...We must now turn an unprecedented agreement into unprecedented action. Now is the*

[factory-churns-out-timber-from-a-protected-forest/](#)

Wednesday 13th March

British civil servants have grave doubts about their government's favoured techno-fixes for climate-polluting industries like meat production and air travel, new documents show. Joe Lo writes: In risk assessments made public because of an ongoing court case, officials warned that technology to reduce methane emissions from cow burps is "nascent" and there might not be enough plants or hydrogen available to power the world's planes more sustainably. Yet despite the uncertainties surrounding these and other climate solutions like carbon dioxide removal, the UK government is relying on such technologies to meet a big chunk of its climate plans. Internal government documents disclosed in court show civil servants had "low" or "very low" confidence in about half of the planned emissions reductions up to 2037 and "very high confidence" in just a tiny fraction.

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/02/22/revealed-uk-civil-servants-secret-doubts-over-climate-techno-fixes/>

Thursday 14th March

In a significant move, the Biden administration has declared a temporary halt on approving new permits for liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities, signaling a shift away from unrestrained fossil fuel expansion towards prioritizing climate concerns. This decision marks a departure from the industry-friendly approach of previous administrations and underscores the current administration's commitment to addressing the climate crisis...The Biden administration's decision to pause new permits puts the brakes on over a dozen proposed multi-billion dollar gas export terminals along the Gulf of Mexico...However, the battle is far from over.

Republicans persist in advocating for increased drilling and exports, with former President Donald Trump pledging further fossil fuel expansion if reelected.

<https://happyeconews.com/biden-pauses-lng-infrastructure-development/>

Friday 15th March

Latin America is using the law to fight environmental crime, writes Lucía Cuberos. Several countries are

expanding laws and penal codes to target illegal activities that degrade nature, but many gaps remain. Environmental crime is said to be the fourth most lucrative criminal activity in the world. Data from Interpol shows that its most common forms – illegal deforestation, mining, fishing and wildlife trading – have become a huge global financial engine, which was estimated in 2018 to generate US\$110-281 billion in illicit revenue each year. Countries such as France and Belgium have made great strides in creating legal frameworks to curb these low-risk, high-profit environmental crimes, while the global Nature Crime Alliance was launched last year. Latin America is particularly susceptible to crimes against nature because of its rich biodiversity and abundance of mineral resources. The region is now beginning to take important steps in disrupting the associated transnational criminal networks: Latin American governments are drafting laws that allow for harsher economic sanctions and even establish criminal liability.

<https://climate-diplomacy.org/magazine/environmental-crime>

[t/how-latin-america-using-law-fight-environmental-crime](https://climate-diplomacy.org/magazine/environmental-crime)

Saturday 16th March

The first-ever *State of the World's Migratory Species* report was launched today by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), a UN biodiversity treaty, at the opening of a major UN wildlife conservation conference (CMS COP14). The landmark report reveals:

- While some migratory species listed under CMS are improving, nearly half (44 per cent) are showing population declines.
- More than one-in-five (22 per cent) of CMS-listed species are threatened with extinction.
- Nearly all (97 per cent) of CMS-listed fish are threatened with extinction.
- Half (51 per cent) of Key Biodiversity Areas identified as important for CMS-listed migratory animals do not have protected status, and 58 per cent of the monitored sites recognized as being important for CMS-listed species are experiencing unsustainable levels of human-caused pressure.

- The two greatest threats to both CMS-listed and all migratory species are overexploitation and habitat loss due to human activity. Three out of four CMS-listed species are impacted by habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, and seven out of ten CMS-listed species are impacted by overexploitation (including intentional taking as well as incidental capture).
- Climate change, pollution and invasive species are also having profound impacts on migratory species.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/landmark-un-report-worlds-migratory-species-animals-are-decline-and>

Sunday 17th March

God of mercy and love let us serve you in our world

We pray for desert people,

who live in a dry, parched land
who lack water
who travel constantly

so that they might live.

Give them living water.

Let the deserts bloom into flower.

We pray that those who work on climate change may find solutions so that the erosion of soil may be halted or reversed. We pray that water and other vital supplies might not be used as a weapon of war in countries where resources are scarce.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>

Monday 18th March

Recycling is a key part of the circular economy, helping to protect our natural resources. Each year the 'Seventh Resource' (recyclables) saves over 700 million tonnes in CO2 emissions and this is projected to increase to 1 billion tons by 2030. There is no doubt recycling is on the front line in the war to save the future of our planet and humanity. The Global Recycling Foundation is pleased to announce the theme of Global Recycling Day 2024 as #RecyclingHeroes. This will recognise the people, places and activities that showcase what an important role recycling plays in contributing to an environmentally