

Written prayers

Climate change – prayers of confession, absolution and intercession

These prayers were mostly written for a special service looking at creation, the environment and climate change – and obviously work best as a response to more teaching and information. They offer a framework for repentance for corporate carelessness and greed, and acknowledge the effects of this behaviour on the world's poorest people. You can use some or all of them in a special service, or in a more standard service to simply focus on these issues during your intercessions.

Prayer of confession

All: **Almighty God — creator, shaper and sustainer of all life,
And loving Father.
We confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts;
We have been careless with the creation you so lovingly crafted,
And deaf to its song of praise.
We have taken to satisfy our selfish desires, rather than our need
And been indifferent to the consequences
As your world's song of praise has been silenced.
Because of our greed and carelessness, the world is hurting, and many of your most vulnerable
children are suffering as a result.
Please forgive our indifference.**

Prayer of absolution

Leader: **Almighty God — creator, shaper and sustainer of all life,
And loving Father.
Thank you for the forgiveness won for us by your Son – the redeemer of all creation.
We receive your grace to us, and your love for us as we are.
Change us now into what you would have us be –
Move us to love and care for your world
And make us ready to work for the good of all creation
Through the love and power of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

All: **Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

For people living with the affects of climate change now:

Leader: For the sake of those facing rising temperatures, drought and water shortages,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of those facing unpredictable weather, disrupted seasons and failed crops,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of those facing flooding, land loss and salination of vital water supplies,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of all those who fear the changing climate,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of the poor, the vulnerable, and the refugee

All: Creator God, in your mercy, renew this damaged world.

Leader: For the sake of us all,

All: Creator God, in your mercy, recreate our hearts that we might partner with you to renew this damaged world.

For leaders and politicians:

Leader: Father, we pray for you to raise up a generation of leaders with the courage to take responsibility for our changing climate, and the part we have played in it.

Father, we intercede for our politicians and leaders – cause them to act in the best interests of all nations today, and all peoples' in the future, in order to avoid catastrophic changes.

Father, we ask for a generation of leaders who will be willing to act justly so that those who have contributed so little to the problems we are facing, and have fewer resources with which to face it, are not left to shoulder our burden.

Father, we ask for you to fill the hearts of all who lead rich nations – give them your mercy and compassion on poor countries already suffering the effects of a changing climate.

Just as they have been moved to cancel debt in the past, encourage them also to release funds so that poor communities can adapt to the effects of climate change, and develop cleanly.

All: Lord, in your mercy, lead our leaders to truth, and transformation

For scientists and engineers:

Leader: Creator God – creator of our world, of science, and of creativity itself,
You hold all knowledge.
We praise you and thank you for the insights you have given people into engineering , science and systems in the past.
In your mercy, grant revelation to scientists and engineers that they might discover solutions and systems to aid adaptation.
Not that we might continue to take the earth and its resources for granted, or grow arrogant, but that your precious children might be spared.

All: **Lord, in your mercy, lead our scientists and engineers to truth, and transformation.**

For development agencies and local communities striving to adapt to and campaign on climate change:

Leader: Compassionate defender, we thank you for all those you have inspired and equipped to help communities suffering the effects of climate change now.

All: **Spirit of God, fill their minds with wisdom, their spirits with energy and their hands with skill.**

Leader: Precious counsellor, we thank you for all who are speaking out on behalf of the voiceless.

All: **Spirit of God, open the ears of the powerful to hear them.**

Leader: Limitless comforter, we thank you for all who are serving and giving so that those in need can adapt to a changing climate.

All: **Spirit of God, fill their hands with more resources to give to those in need.**

Leader: Spirit of truth, speak to our hearts and tell us what you would have us do.

All: **Spirit of God, we surrender to you.**
Amen.

For us:

All: **Father of creation, we thank you for all that you have made;
For the joy and glimpses of you we find in nature's beauty,
For the variety of all you have provided through its resources.
Help us to tread lightly and use wisely,
Valuing the needs of others, and of creation, above our own desires.
Challenge us where we need to change our lifestyles,
Convict us when we need to speak out on behalf of a voiceless people, or world
And soften us where we have stood in judgement of others.
Father in your mercy, change us and use us
For the restoration of your world, and the protection of all your children.
Amen.**