Prayer Points April 2021

The miracle of Easter

As we enter the season of Easter, we celebrate that even in the darkest days, life is stronger than death. In this year of difficulty and uncertainty, Lent may have felt like a more appropriate season as we wondered in the wilderness of loneliness and separation from our normal lives. The climate crisis can also feel overwhelming as we contemplate the damage that has already been done, and the suffering that has already been caused. But Easter is a moment to celebrate the potential transformation of darkness into light, despair into hope, despondency into action. The season of Easter is a chance for us to make the good news real.

It was in his action of sitting down to break bread that his friends recognised Jesus after the resurrection. And so it is in our actions to build community, share resources and challenge injustice that we demonstrate the reality of resurrection.

This month, pray for all those who are acting for climate justice, despite the difficulties that they are already facing.

Prayer points

- Mithika Mwenda is the Executive Director of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), which has worked alongside Christian Aid since it was established. He began to see changes in the environment as he was growing up at the foot of Mount Kenya. Mithika is clear that climate justice means listening and learning from those who are already living with the impacts, and ensuring they are involved in designing the solutions that are needed. He’s also clear that climate justice places a special responsibility on the countries that have done the most to cause the problem: ‘At the industrialised countries’ level, climate justice means accepting that this problem is their problem, and ensuring that that problem is addressed through deeper emissions cuts at the source – rather than transferring that burden to poor countries. It includes ensuring that those who caused the problem provide sufficient resources like climate finance to those who are facing the impacts of their actions.’

- Pray for Mithika, and the work of PACJA, that their work to elevate the voices of African civil society is heeded by those with the most power to change.

- President Biden is planning to host a climate assembly on April 22 where it is expected that the US will strengthen its carbon reduction pledges under the Paris Agreement. Pray
that the assembly helps set the bar for more ambitious action for the rest of the year.

- Pray for this year’s cohort of ‘Prophetic Activists’ - a group of young adults spending a year with Christian Aid to learn about campaigning and prophetic action. Over the year they will put their skills to work by developing a climate justice campaign. At the start of their journey together, pray that they will be inspired, energised and supported in their time with us and that their campaign will make real change.

Prayers

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.

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 into the lives of others. Amen.

- Revd Michaela Youngson, from the Methodist Church

Take Action

In June the UK will host the G7 Summit in Cornwall. It's a crucial opportunity for some of the richest and most polluting nations to take action for climate justice.

As we can't be physically present in Cornwall to raise our voices, we need to make sure the Prime Minister gets the message another way.

Send Boris a postcard representing where you live to show the breadth of support for action on climate justice.

Here's a suggested message for you to include.

Dear Prime Minister,
I can't be in Cornwall for the G7, but I call on you to make this summit a success for climate justice. Please

- Increase climate finance to the most vulnerable communities around the world.
- Cancel unfair debts so that countries can tackle the climate crisis and other urgent priorities.

The futures of millions of people depend on a just finance deal.

With best wishes,

(remember to leave your name and full address)

Send your postcard to

Boris Johnson, 10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA

Please tweet a picture of you and your postcard, or send it to us so that we can share these on social media to spread the message. Use #WishWeWereThere and #G7

campaigns@christian-aid.org