Prayers for Justice for those facing Climate Loss and Damage

This resource contains some prayers that you may wish to use when thinking about climate-related loss and damage. Alternatively, you might like to use them as a starting point for writing your own prayers. If you decide to write your own prayers, you might want to consider including the following elements.

- Lament for the contribution polluters have made in causing climate-related loss and damage and the impact on climate-vulnerable communities around the world.
- Prayer that our leaders will ensure that money is provided to the newly created fund for loss and damage without delay.
- Prayers that the newly created fund ensures the money reaches the poorest and most vulnerable communities.
- And prayers that polluters will be compelled to pay up for the damage they have caused

Christian prayer and social action have been at the heart of great social changes, from the end of slavery to the civil rights movement to the end of apartheid. There were times when the end of these systems seemed unimaginable, but with the power of prayer and people acting together for the common good the world was changed. The great social injustice of our day is loss and damage - through prayer we can see a loss and damage fund established which meets the needs of the least developed countries and provides true climate justice.

Prayer of Praise and Lament

Living God, we praise you for the world that you have created,
A world of wonders, from the starry heavens above to the ocean depths beneath,
A world teeming with life in all its infinite variety,
A world whose bountiful resources are sufficient to sustain and bless all your creatures.

Merciful God, we ask that you forgive us for the harm that we have done to your world,
Forgive us for grasping too greedily at earth’s resources,
Forgive us for taking more than our share and more than can be sustained,
Forgive us for the damage we have done to the natural world and to our sisters and brothers.
Spirit of God please come to us afresh, equip us to meet this hour, Give us compassion for those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by climate chaos, Grant us the courage to cry out with them for truth and justice, Give us a vision of your world as it should be and the strength to pursue it.

We ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Standing with the Prophets**

Mighty God who inspired the prophets, Grant us the courage of Moses who stood before Pharoah to demand freedom for his people, that we might speak boldly to our leaders and demand climate justice.

Grant us the tenacity of Elijah who persevered even when he felt he was a lone voice in the wilderness, that we may keep on calling on polluters to pay for the damage they have done and the loss they have caused until hope rises like a rain cloud on the horizon of a dry and thirsty land.

Grant us the vision of Mary who saw that you are a God who scatters the proud and brings down rulers but lifts up the humble and fills the hungry, that we may pray with faith that your kingdom will come, and your will be done here on earth just as it is in heaven. Amen.

**A Prayer for Courage**

Mighty God who inspired the prophets, Grant us the courage of Moses who stood before Pharoah to demand freedom for his people, that we might speak boldly to our leaders and demand climate justice.

Grant us the tenacity of Elijah who persevered even when he felt he was a lone voice in the wilderness, that we may keep on calling on polluters to pay for the damage they have done and the loss they have caused until hope rises like a rain cloud on the horizon of a dry and thirsty land.

Grant us the vision of Mary who saw that you are a God who scatters the proud and brings down rulers but lifts up the humble and fills the hungry, that we may pray with faith that your kingdom will come, and your will be done here on earth just as it is in heaven. Amen.
A Cry for Justice

Lord, we have seen the droughts and we have prayed for rain
We have seen the floods and we have prayed that the rains relent
We have seen the storm, the hurricane and the typhoon, and we have prayed for mercy

Now we have seen the truth – we pray for justice
Now we understand that the climate crisis is driven by human action
Now we see that the rich have profited and the poor stand to pay the highest price
We pray for justice for our sisters and brothers
We pray for the nations and corporations that have done most to drive this climate chaos

We pray that you will move their hearts and inspire their actions; that they would commit to paying into an international fund to repair the damage and make good the losses they have inflicted
And we pray for ourselves; that our prayers would not cease, nor our cries of outrage fall silent until justice rolls on like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream!
Amen.