



A boat sculpture, in Glasgow for COP26, made from people's individual prayer boats containing prayers for climate justice.

Pray for Climate Justice

Prayers and activities

Around the world, heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, and floods are becoming more frequent and severe, wrecking lives, homes, and livelihoods.

It's the poorest, who have done the least to cause the climate crisis, who are paying the greatest price.

Poverty and a deepening debt crises means poorer countries are struggling to respond.

Meanwhile, the biggest polluters make vast profits from fossil fuels.

Rich nations who've benefitted from fossil fuels – like the UK - are failing to deliver on their climate action and finance pledges.

In the face of the climate crisis, you and your church can use this 'Pray for Climate Justice' resource to come before our almighty God in prayer, just as Jesus did throughout his time on earth.

This resource contains a collection of prayers and an activity to support your reflections on the realities of the climate crisis, what climate justice looks like, and the role we all can play to see justice flow like a river.



Prayers

Prayer for affected communities

Almighty God,

As floods, droughts, and wildfires wreck lives, homes, and livelihoods, our hearts break as we recognise the injustice at the heart of the climate crisis- it's the communities who have done the least to cause it who are most affected.

We pray that as these communities' act to recover from climate disasters, and look to adapt to the changing conditions, you will provide protection for them as you did for Noah and his family.

We pray that polluting corporations and nations will listen to the calls of affected communities and change their ways, so all your people may live a full life in peace, love, and prosperity.

Amen

Prayer for justice

Holy Spirit fill us anew with your presence, so that we may burn brightly for God's glory.

Aid us to hate evil and love goodness, so that we may disrupt the unfairness of our earthly world.

Help our actions to let justice roll like a river, so God's heavenly kingdom is built here on earth.

Amen

Prayer for world leaders

Jesus Christ, you are the King of Kings, and in your name all things are possible.

We pray for our earthly leaders. May they model your leadership of mercy, justice, and love.

May their hearts break like yours when they see the destruction and pain greed has caused to planet and people.

May they work together to seek solutions which benefit all of creation.

Amen.

Prayer for collective action

Creator God,

You created a world of community, richness, and love.

But human greed has brought separation, destruction, and injustice.

So, we pray for the opportunities and boldness to act together with others, to break down the barriers of our selfish desires.

We pray our collective actions will be driven by wisdom and love, so that we your church will be agents for justice, as we seek a world fruitful for all of creation.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



Prayer Activity

You can use this prayer activity individually or in a group.

All you need for this prayer exercise is a sheet of A4 paper – preferably one you've already used and are ready to recycle.

Later on you will find two lists of prayer points.

As you pray in response to first the set of prayer points, fold your piece of paper in half for each point. Your paper will get smaller, and the action of folding will get harder- it may become so difficult that you will struggle to complete them. If that's the case, just hold the paper tightly in your hand as you pray in response to the latter points.

Each fold represents the way in which our world and the dignity of our global neighbours is diminished through the loss and damage they experience because of the climate crisis. It represents too the urgent need to act – just as the paper gets smaller, so too are the possibilities for a just future if we fail to act appropriately.

As you pray in response to the second set of prayer points, you can unfold your paper, one-fold at a time.

Together we can ask God to energise us and those around us that we can take steps towards change – allowing each unfold to represent our collective step closer to justice. Although it may not be possible to recover everything that has been lost, action for justice can lead to new ways for communities to flourish.

Prayer points 1

As you fold your paper, pray...

1. For communities in the global south who are most affected by the climate crisis, yet who are often silenced or excluded by richer countries when decisions are made about climate policy.
2. For all those affected by the loss of productive farmland and damage to crops and livestock, leading to reduced food, income, and opportunities.
3. For the growing number of people denied access to safe, clean, drinking water due to drought, pollution, and salinization.
4. For communities who have suffered cultural loss and damage, with changing landscapes and the disappearance of culturally significant places and practices.
5. For those most affected by biodiversity loss and its impact on human health and flourishing.
6. For black and brown people, women and girls, disabled and diverse communities, who experience deepening inequality as they are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.
7. For all who have lost loved ones, those who have had to leave their homes, and those who have seen their livelihoods swept away due to extreme weather events.



Prayer points 2

As you unfold your paper, pray...

1. For those in power to take action on the climate crisis, and for the voices of the global south to be heard in their decision-making.

2. For the development and fair sharing of technologies and practices that are sustainable and increase the resilience of communities affected by the climate crisis.

3. For action to make the biggest polluters change their practices and bear the costs of the climate crisis which they have caused and are continuing to perpetrate.

4. For all who are acting to address the impacts of the climate crisis fairly, may their contributions be magnified.

5. For the protection, repair and restoration of diverse habitats which enables all of creation to thrive.

6. For black and brown people, women and girls, disabled and diverse communities who are empowering one another to speak up for justice.

7. For me and my community to take action. May we have the motivation, energy and hope we need to act together to see justice roll down like a river.



Campaigners call for climate justice during COP27.



Christian Aid supporters marching for climate justice during COP26.

Take action

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead – James 2:26

Prayers and Placards

Involve your church in calling for climate justice by joining in the prayers and placards activities.

To download your activity pack visit- caid.org.uk/C4CJpack

Global Day of Action

To coincide with COP28, join people around the world in taking action for climate justice.

To find out more visit- caid.org.uk/C4CJmarch

Share with us what actions you, your church or your community are taking for climate justice by emailing us at campaigns@christian-aid.org

