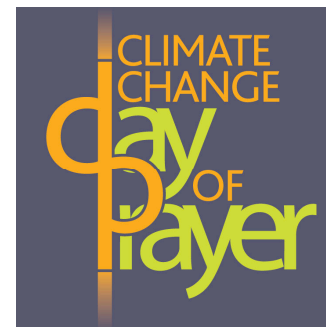


Prayers and readings for use on the Day of Prayer



The readings that follow are designed to be read out (or played from downloaded audio files) with 4 to 5 minutes allowed for silent prayer and reflection. Times of open prayer or other inputs can be interwoven.

"I believe the Climate Change Day of Prayer – encouraging quiet reflection and passionate prayer - is probably the most important initiative Christians can be involved in during the lead up to the critical negotiations in Copenhagen."

Dave Bookless, A Rocha UK Director

General Prayer – suggested for use in services around the Day of Prayer

Creator God, this earth is miraculous and beautiful. Forgive our confusion and inaction as we confront the challenges of climate change. In the light of your truth, seen so clearly in the life and teaching of Jesus, help us to re-examine ourselves and our lifestyle choices and see clearly the implications of how we live on all that sustains life on this earth. May we follow your leading in caring for every aspect of this precious world, which you made, and love.

We pray for world leaders to agree a new, just and radical treaty in Copenhagen that will protect our fragile world for future generations.

Throughout history you have moved people to do amazing things for the sake of their neighbours. Inspire us now to work together, as your people, to change priorities in the way we live, so that we build a fair and safe world for all your creation; a world where your will is done as it is in heaven. Amen

1 The example of St Francis

Today we remember St Francis of Assisi, your faithful servant, who had such a love of your creation and all your creatures.

We give thanks for the example of Saint Francis. His gentleness, vows of poverty, obedience to God and his simple, deep love for all God's creatures led him to the heights of heavenly perfection and turned many hearts to follow God's will. Today we come here searching for peace and guidance in our troubled world. May his example and his love of this fragile earth inspire us as we pray.

May our prayers today be a time of inspiration.

2 The human impact of climate change

A major report called: *'The Human Impact Report: Climate Change – The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis'*; is a comprehensive report looking at the human impact of climate change. Produced by the Global Humanitarian Forum, the report estimates that climate change today accounts for over 300,000 deaths throughout the world each year - the equivalent of an Indian Ocean Tsunami every single year.

By 2030, the annual death toll from climate change will reach half a million people a year. The report also indicates that climate change today seriously impacts on the lives of 325 million people. In twenty years time that number will more than double to an estimated 660 million, making it the biggest emerging humanitarian challenge in the world, impacting on the lives of 10% of the world's population.

3 Traditional Jewish prayer

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands! The heavens declare your glory; the arch of sky displays your handiwork. In your love you have given us the power to behold the beauty of your world robed in all its splendour.

The sun and the stars, the valleys and hills, the rivers and lakes all disclose your presence. The roaring breakers of the seas tell of your awesome might; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air speak of your wondrous will.

In your goodness you have made us able to hear the music of the world. You are in our midst. A divine voice sings through all creation.

4 The example of Sweden

When countries are measured by environmental performance, Sweden scores particularly well. Following the OPEC oil embargo in 1973 it began taking steps to reduce its dependency on imported oil. Considerable progress has been made with highly effective insulation and shared heating systems for blocks of flats or streets. It produces biofuels from the extensive forest areas.

Sweden is now well on course to become the world's first oil free economy by 2020. It leads the way in pressing for reductions in global emissions. How can our country learn from Sweden's example? What barriers do we have in our country for improving fuel efficiency and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels?

Give thanks for the Green movement there, and for clear, innovative and decisive government policy, which is now providing such a positive example for others to follow.

5 Reading from Jeremiah 17: 7-8 (GNB)

"But I will bless those who put their trust in me. They are like trees growing near a stream and sending out roots to the water.

They are not afraid when hot weather comes, because their leaves stay green;

They have no worries when there is no rain, they keep on bearing fruit."

6 Research findings in Antarctica

Though average global temperatures have risen by 0.8 degrees since the industrial revolution, the warming has been much higher at the poles, where average temperatures have risen by 2 or 3 degrees C.

In Antarctica, scientists from Rutgers University have seen how global warming is altering the food chain. The distribution of plankton has changed. The numbers of Adelie penguins have dropped. High winds churn up deeper waters in the ocean, which releases CO₂, and leads to more warming. The long established Wilkins ice shelf is shrinking with large sections falling into the ocean.

Pray that the research findings gathered by scientists who battled extreme weather and technical difficulties earlier this year to examine changes in the ice sheets, will prove really worthwhile. Pray too that the findings of this research will be taken seriously and acted upon.

7 Reading from Psalm 63:1-5 (GNB)

"O God, you are my God, and I long for you. My whole being desires you; Like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land, my soul is thirsty for you.

Let me see you in the sanctuary; let me see how mighty and glorious you are. Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you.

I will give you thanks as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer. My soul will feast and be satisfied, and I will sing glad songs of praise to you."

8 Bush fires in Australia

Climate change can result in drought in some parts of the world, which increases the risk of fire. The recent bushfires in Australia in which 210 people died, came after a 12 year drought and the driest period last year since records began in 1850. There have been record numbers of bushfires. There were 182 fires in January this year compared to a ten-year average of 26 due to the prolonged dry weather. Bush fires give off large quantities of carbon dioxide which contributes to more climate change.

- Pray for all who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods through fire.
- Pray that the renewed threat of more fires in Australia will reduce.
- Pray for the safety of firefighters and volunteers.
- Give thanks that Australia's Prime Minister signed the Kyoto protocol and that the country now supports efforts to control climate change.

9 The prayer of St Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which to look with Christ's compassion on the world, yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good, and yours are his hands with which to bless us now.

10 Report from the Global Humanitarian Forum

Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General and now President of the Global Humanitarian Forum comments;

"Climate change is a silent human crisis. Yet it is the greatest emerging humanitarian challenge of our time. Already today, it causes suffering to hundreds of millions of people, most of whom are not even aware that they are victims of climate change. We need an international agreement to contain climate change and reduce its widespread suffering.

"... Before the Copenhagen summit, the world finds itself at a crossroads. We can no longer afford to ignore the human impact of climate change. The negotiators at Copenhagen must come to the most ambitious international agreement ever negotiated, or continue to accept mass starvation, mass sickness and mass migration on an ever growing scale."

11 The Operation Noah Prayer

Creator God, how deep are your designs!
You made a living earth, cloud, rain and wind,
And charged us with their care.

We confess that the way we live today
Is changing the climate, the seas and the balance of life,
Dispossessing the poor and future generations.
Build our lives into an Ark for all creation,
And, as you promised Noah never to repeat the flood,
So make us heralds of a new rainbow covenant:
Choosing life for all that is at risk –
For creation, neighbours near and far,
Our children and ourselves. Amen.

12 A quote from Oxfam

Barbara Stocking, chief executive of Oxfam UK comments;

"Climate change is a human crisis which threatens to overwhelm the humanitarian system and turn back the clock on development. It is also a gross injustice - poor people in developing countries bear over 90% of the burden - through death, disease, destitution and financial loss - yet they are least responsible for creating the problem. Despite this, funding from rich countries to help the poor and vulnerable adapt to climate change is not even 1 percent of what is needed. This glaring injustice must be addressed at Copenhagen in December"

13 Reading from Job 38, verses 4, 16 and 18 (NIV)

"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me if you understand... Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? ... Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth?"

14 Changing wetlands in the Lebanon

The weather in the Lebanon has been very unusual this year. First there was so little rain and snow during the winter, and then when storms arrived in late February, they were spectacular! The late rain, following three poor winters meant that the Aammiq wetlands remained dry well into February, the latest in living memory. Climate change models predict major water stress for this region with implications for biodiversity as well as the human population. Ground water levels have fallen, springs and wetland areas have dried up, and rivers such as the Litani, no longer flow in dry seasons."

The good news is that the wetland also filled faster than it has ever done, as the storms brought the much needed rain and snow, raising water levels by 2 metres in 10 days! Chris Naylor works with A Rocha in these wetlands and comments; "We are developing projects to try to help mitigate against longer dry spells, for example by digging deep refuge pools for wildlife around the wetland. Pray for all environmentalists and scientists monitoring the impact of climate change around the world, that they would be able to keep careful and accurate records and effectively share their findings and observations. Pray for the Aammiq wetlands in Lebanon, that environmentalists there will be able to help species to adapt and cope with rapidly changing conditions."

15 Spirit of the living God

Spirit of the living God. Apart from you, we can do nothing. Transform your Church into the image of Jesus Christ. Release your power to bring healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed and comfort to those who mourn.

Pour your love into our hearts and fill us with compassion to answer the call of the homeless and the hungry. And to enfold orphans, widows and the elderly in your care.

Give us wisdom and insight for the complex problems we face today. Help us to use the resources of the earth for the well-being of all. Holy Spirit, we need your comfort and guidance.

Transform our hearts.

Global Day of Prayer, Transformations Ireland

16 The value of birds

Every spring, migrating curlews fly over our home in Portugal. This year they were a month early. A recent major report says climate change is impacting birds in Europe. As average temperatures rise, a few species have increased, but three quarters of species have declined. Some, such as the Scottish crossbill, may be lost.

Do birds matter? They are a beautiful part of God's creation. Jesus said not even a sparrow falls to the ground without God knowing. Practically they are a vital part of life-supporting ecosystems. In 1958 when sparrows were killed in China to stop them eating grain, locusts increased and there was a famine in which millions died.

- Thank God both for the beauty and practical value of birds. Reflect on the birds that you see around you.
- Pray that decisions to tackle climate change will take into account the needs of all of creation.

17 Impact on corals

Like the atmosphere, ocean temperatures are also gradually increasing because of global warming. Because of the vast size of the oceans they are very slow to warm, but will also be very slow to cool. Even if carbon emissions were to reduce sharply, atmospheric temperatures will continue to rise because of the warming 'captured in the oceans.

Coral reefs provide a wonderfully varied ecosystem for fish and all kinds of marine creatures, enabling hundreds of coral species to thrive. The reefs also protect coastlines. However coral species are very sensitive to warming temperatures. Bleaching (due to the loss of the algae that live in them) occurs if coral is affected by warmer temperatures. Unless cooler temperatures return rapidly the coral dies. It takes over 30 years for coral to recover from serious bleaching.

- Pray for marine scientists around the world as they raise awareness of the threat to corals and other marine life.
- Pray for Government leaders around the world who have responsibilities for coastlines, to respond to the urgent need for action to protect marine life. Countless warning signs are being ignored about the ecological well-being of our oceans.

18 Reading from Jeremiah 17:10 (GNB)

"I, the Lord, search human minds and test human hearts.

I treat each one according to the way he lives, according to what he does."

19 The impact of hurricanes

Last year's Atlantic hurricane season was hugely damaging for the countries hit. Hurricane Gustav damaged or destroyed 140,000 homes in Cuba. A five metre wall of water and mud devastated the town of Gonaives as Hurricane Hanna tore over Haiti leaving over 500 people dead and thousands in desperate need of food, clean water and shelter. Over 700,000 Haitians were affected by the flooding, including 300,000 children. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes, squeezing into overcrowded shelters.

Hurricane Ike then caused huge damage and loss of life in already battered Haiti (where another 80 people lost their lives), in Cuba and the USA (killing 63 people).

Though no one such event can be said to be a direct result of global warming, rising sea temperatures will definitely increase the severity of hurricanes. Warmer air holds more water that may fall as rain, bringing heavier rainfall with the strong winds.

- Pray for the victims of these damaging storms, still struggling to rebuild shattered lives. Pray that this year's hurricane season will be less severe.
- Pray for political leaders in all countries likely to experience such hazards, that they may put much greater emphasis on disaster preparation, particularly for the most vulnerable people.

20 Prayer from UN Environmental Sabbath Programme

We join with the earth and with each other
To bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air.

We join with the earth and with each other
To renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures.

We join with the earth and with each other
To celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, to sing the song of the stars.

We join with the earth and with each other
To recreate the human community, to promote justice and peace, to remember our children.

We join with the earth and with each other
We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and renewal of all life.

21 Carbon tax proposals

Four countries in Europe now have a carbon tax - Sweden, Finland, Slovenia and Denmark. Sweden introduced their carbon tax in 1991. It has helped to cut industry and energy carbon emissions by about a third since 1990. To help compensate for the new tax, income tax was cut by about a half. The results have been really encouraging. Overall, Sweden's emissions have reduced by 9% of the 1990 levels whilst at the same time the economy has grown by 44%.

Sweden now holds the presidency of the EU in the second half of 2009, President Reinfeldt is keen to encourage the whole of the European Union to adopt a carbon tax. Though not popular among voters or businesses during the current economic crisis, he feels this would be a much cheaper way of shifting European industry to a low-carbon economy in the long term, than the current emissions trading system.

Pray that during Sweden's presidency, there will be many opportunities for other European countries to learn from their example.

22 A prayer of praise from St Francis

You are holy, Lord, the only God, and Your deeds are wonderful. You are strong. You are great. You are the Most High. You are Almighty.

You, Holy Father are King of heaven and earth. You are Three and One, Lord God, all good. You are good, all good, supreme good, Lord God, living and true.

You are love. You are wisdom. You are humility. You are endurance. You are rest. You are peace. You are joy and gladness. You are justice and moderation.

You are all our riches, and You suffice for us. You are beauty. You are gentleness. You are our protector. You are our guardian and defender. You are our courage.

You are our haven and our hope. You are our faith, our great consolation. You are our eternal life, great and wonderful Lord, God Almighty, Merciful Saviour.
Amen.

23 Changes in the Arctic

At the Arctic pole, scientists involved in the Catlin Arctic Survey are conducting research into the thickness of the ice cover. Severe weather conditions and technical problems meant the scientists had to work in very difficult conditions and make drills into the ice by hand.

The team conducted many hundreds of measurements of the snow thickness, ice thickness, snow temperature and density. Experts say this research will be of high value to the scientific community. The team found mostly 'new ice' – ice which has formed in the last year or two. This is very worrying, implying there is little older ice remaining.

Pray that the findings of this research will be taken very seriously and will provide valuable evidence of the speed of warming taking place at the poles.

24 The human impact of climate change

A report from the Global Humanitarian Forum indicates that economic losses due to climate change already amount to over £75 billion per year. This is greater than the total amount of aid that currently flows from industrialised countries to developing nations each year.

According to the report, a majority of the world's population does not have the capacity to cope with the impact of climate change without suffering a potentially irreversible loss of wellbeing and risk of loss of life. The populations most gravely at risk are over half a billion people in some of the poorest areas that are also highly prone to climate change – in particular, the semi-arid countries from sub-Saharan Africa to the Middle East and Central Asia, South and South East Asia, and small island developing states.

To avoid the worst possible outcomes, climate change adaptation efforts need to be scaled up by a factor of 100 in developing countries, which account for 99% of casualties due to climate change.

25 A poem by Chris Polhill

Forgive us Lord for our thoughtless wasting
For heat blasting in open doorways - for lights burning in empty rooms
for homes basking in T-shirt warmth
forgive our thoughtless wasting.

For leaving windows draughty, for lagging left undone, for lofts un-insulated
forgive our thoughtless wasting.

For cars that guzzle petrol - for driving little journeys, for cheaper fares on planes
forgive our thoughtless wasting.

God grant us clear thinking, right action, and a gentle life-style. Amen

26 Real people

George Monbiot comments in his book, Heat: "Writers write about what will happen to 'anonymous people' in this or that country. My daughter was born while I was writing this book. This baby, this strange little creature, now sixteen days old and curled up on my lap like a bean waiting to sprout, changes everything."

I am no longer writing about what might happen to 'people' in this country in thirty years' time. I am writing about her. As she trembles on the threshold of life, the evidence of her mortality is undeniable. It seems far more real than mine. A world in which unrestrained climate change threatens the conditions which make human life possible, is the world into which she will grow. Global warming is no longer about abstract victims. Among them might be my child, Or yours. Or you. Or even me".

27 Traditional Gaelic blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Of water flowing, rising and falling,
Sometimes advancing, sometimes receding.
May the stream of your life flow unimpeded!
Deep peace of the running wave to you!

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Which fans your face on a sultry day,
The air which you breathe deeply, rhythmically,
Which imparts to you energy, consciousness, life.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you!

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Who, herself unmoving, harbours the movements
And facilitates the life of the ten thousand creatures.
While resting contented, stable, tranquil.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you!

Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Which stay invisible till darkness falls
And discloses their pure and shining presence
Beaming down in compassion on our turning world.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you!

28 Independent action from Boulder City in the USA

Boulder City in Colorado state introduced the USA's first tax on carbon emissions from electricity in 2007, pricing carbon at \$7 (£4) per ton. This money is used to reduce energy use and to comply independently with the Kyoto Protocol. The USA is now the only major industrialised country not to ratify this but Boulder City want to do it independently.

The City Council voted unanimously to raise the tax level in August this year by nearly 80%, to ensure the city's Climate Action Plan will meet their carbon reduction quota by 2012 (as determined within the Kyoto protocol). The tax now generates nearly \$2 million each year. The average household pays about \$2 each month. Households which use renewable energy get an offsetting discount.

Pray that other cities will be inspired to follow the example of Boulder. Consider other ways in which individual towns and cities may set an example for others to follow. How can our local towns and cities show leadership like this?

29 A prayer by Saint Francis

Most high, all-powerful, all-good Lord, all praise is yours, all glory, all honour and all blessings. To you alone, most high, do they belong, and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

Praised be you my Lord with all your creatures, especially Sir brother sun, who is the day through whom you give us light! And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour! Of you most high, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through sister moon and the stars, In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through brothers wind and air, And fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through sister water. So useful, humble, precious and pure.

Global day of prayer

30 Pressures on pastoralists

As many as 250 million people in Africa may not have enough water to meet their basic needs by 2020 because of climate change. "The day-to-day impacts of climate change, such as higher temperatures and erratic rainfall, are increasing many people's vulnerability to hazards," said Charles Ehrhart, climate change coordinator for CARE International.

Ehrhart says that by 2020, climatic changes would have contributed to water stress, land degradation, lower crop yields and increased risk of wild fires, resulting in a 50 percent decline in agricultural productivity for pastoralists in sub-Saharan Africa. The consequences, he added, would be severe food and water shortages, with affected populations coming under significant pressure to migrate.

"Prolonged droughts bring great pressure on households to move, particularly from rural to urban areas," he said. "In the Horn of Africa alone, there are more than 20 million pastoralists currently living a lifestyle that is centred on the search for increasingly scarce pasture and water. People will find it increasingly hard to cope."

Pray that a special global fund for pastoralists can be established to help them develop early-warning mechanisms, improve veterinary services and lobby their governments to provide support for pastoralists and their particular needs

31 Reading from Mark 4:39-41 (GNB)

"Jesus stood up and commanded the wind, "Be quiet!" and he said to the waves, "Be still!" The wind died down and there was a great calm. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Why are you frightened? Have you still no faith?"

But they were terribly afraid and said to one another, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

32 The value of trees

“The best friend of earth and of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on earth.” said Frank Lloyd Wright.

‘The State of the World’s Forests 2009’ is a recent and comprehensive report which shows the importance of forests for biodiversity and adaptation. There is huge concern over the future of the Amazon rain forest. However, 20% of global CO₂ emissions come from tropical deforestation, and the tropical forest area continues to shrink by 5% every decade.

Pray for governments around the world to do more to encourage the protection of existing forest reserves, and the establishment of new areas of woodland particularly on marginal land. Give thanks for the work of the Forest Stewardship Council in promoting the responsible management of the world’s forests and establishing regulations to prevent the illegal exploitation of timber reserves.

Reflect on what we can do as individuals – in only using FSC certified products in our homes and gardens, in directly caring and planting trees in our neighbourhood or supporting such work elsewhere.

33 The be-attitudes - by John Polhill

Blessed are those who use low energy light bulbs
for theirs is the light of God’s wisdom.

Blessed are those who travel by train
for their lives are on God’s track.

Blessed are those who chose a car with low fuel
consumption
for they are in God’s fast lane.

Blessed are those who insulate their homes
for theirs is the warmth of God’s love.

Blessed are you when you put yourselves out
to use energy from renewable sources,
for you have kindled the flame of the future.

34 Christians working together

The Environmental Issues Network (EIN) of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland brings together representatives of all the major denominations and Christian environmental organisations. They work to coordinate activities and opportunities to ensure maximum effectiveness and also work in partnership with the UK Stop Climate Chaos coalition.

Pray that Christians will speak out with one strong, united voice to express their concern over what is happening to God’s precious world

Pray that Christian organisations will have the resources and motivation to provide challenging ideas that will catch the public imagination. Pray too for effective cooperation and partnership between all denominations and organisations in responding to this huge issue.

35 Reading from Isaiah 58:6 (GNB)

“The kind of fasting I want is this: remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free. Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear and do not refuse to help your own relatives.”

36 The example of Sweden

In his book – *‘The politics of climate change’*, Giddens comments that Sweden is further along than any other country in reducing its dependency on fossil fuels and one man, Per Carstedt can take a certain amount of credit for this. Carstedt is a Ford car dealer who spent several years in Brazil, the first country to develop ethanol as a motor fuel on a large scale. After the Rio summit in 1992, he realised that humanity had to change its current path. He began exploring how Sweden could use ethanol. At first there was no interest, no technical knowledge and people said it couldn’t be used in Sweden’s cold climate. He brought three ethanol cars into Sweden to try to encourage interest but it was a very slow process.

Cardstedt anticipated very early the possible backlash against producing biofuels from food crops. In Sweden they use wood chip and industrial waste and they now have refineries producing very efficient ethanol. It took years to persuade garages to stock ethanol. By 2002 there were 40 stations offering ethanol but by 2007 there were over 1000 – a quarter of all stations in the country. Today 15% of all vehicles in Sweden run on biofuels.

Give thanks for the energy and commitment of this one man and for the huge long-term impact of his work. What is God calling you to do?

37 Lord of energy – a prayer by John Polhill

Lord of energy, teach us to pray ...
Our Creator - source of all power,
we want to align ourselves like iron filings to your magnet.
We want to be drawn to your intent;
to live in a society that responds to your beckoning,
to feel the surge of your life-giving energy.

Grant us wisdom in our use of physical energy.
Help us to live by the standards we choose,
not those of others:
to focus our desire on you,
not the fake comforts of modern living,
to be satisfied by a sense of your love,
not our own power or status.

Because we know that your way is the only true way,
that everything we love and are is a gift from you,
and that to know you as our Creator
is to glimpse eternity.

38 Reading from Psalm 46:1-3 (GNB)

“God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and mountains fall into the ocean depths; even if the seas roar and rage, and the hills are shaken by the violence.”

39 The life cycle of 'stuff'

David Mackay dedicates his book; '*Sustainable energy – without the hot air*', - to those who will not have the benefit of two billion years' accumulated energy reserves.

In it he writes; "One of the main sinks of energy in the 'developed' world is the creation of stuff. In its natural life cycle, stuff passes through three stages. First a new born stuff is displayed in shiny packaging on a shelf in a shop. At this stage, stuff is called 'goods'. As soon as the stuff is taken home and sheds its packaging, it undergoes a transformation from 'goods' to its second form, 'clutter'. The clutter lives with its owner for a period of months or years. During this period, the clutter is largely ignored by its owner, who is off at the shops buying more goods. Eventually by a miracle of modern alchemy, the clutter is transformed into its final form, rubbish. To the untrained eye it can be difficult to distinguish this rubbish from the highly desirable 'goods' that it used to be. Nevertheless, at this stage the discerning owner pays the dustman to transport the stuff away.

40 A prayer by Eleanor Todd for Operation Noah

Jesus Christ, tempted to turn stones to bread in the wilderness;
Teach us that when we change time for our convenience;
 night to day in our living,
 patience to speed in our journeying,
 winter to summer in our eating,
we change God's calendar which brings
 the hatchling to the caterpillar,
 the bee to the nectar,
 the rains to the farmer;
to the one which brings you to the cross.

Give us grace in our simplest actions to choose the life which breathes in the beautiful complexity of creation, to conquer death, and to fit us to be Easter people.
Amen

41 A quote from Bill McKibben

Bill McKibben, the American environmentalist, writes:
"I've mostly given up being either optimistic or pessimistic. Our odds of success are not incredibly good, but I wake up every day saying "What can I do to change the odds a little? And it's not impossible, the task that we have ahead. We're not going to stop global warming, but slowing it to the point that we can cope with it remains within the realms of possibility.

"Fun" is not quite the right word, but there is something deeply satisfying about trying. It's the biggest challenge that humans have ever got to take part in. It's exciting to be part of that. To be doing something that crucial is a great honour."

42 A reading from Psalm 19:1-4 (GNB)

"How clearly the sky reveals God's glory!
How plainly it shows what he has done!
Each day announces it to the following day;
each night repeats it to the next.
No speech or words are used, no sound is heard; yet their message goes out to all the world and is heard to the ends of the earth."

43 Changing weather patterns in Finland

Annika Parantainen from Finland notes a number of changes in her country. The snowy season has become shorter in recent years: it snows less often, and the snow does not last for as long as it used to. They have experienced heavy rain throughout the winter, which has resulted in flooding. Coastline floods caused by stormy winds have also caused problems in densely populated areas.

The lack of snow prevents people from enjoying activities that have been traditional in Finland for generations: cross country skiing, skating and ice hockey. The unpleasant weather also means more people fly to more sunny places for holidays increasing their carbon emissions. Since Finland is a high latitude country, the effect of climate change may be stronger than in other areas.

- Pray for a growing awareness in people around the world of the changes to our climates, and that people will express real concern that translates into practical action to reduce carbon emissions.
- Pray that the Christian message of loving our neighbours can be shared as individual Christians involve themselves in helping churches and communities to become more sustainable.

Adapted from Climate Stewards information

44 Be still, and listen to the day – by Chris Polhill

Be still, and listen to the day,
touch the breeze with the quiet in your soul.
Let the turning turbulence of the hurly burly rushing
and the busy dizzy people, never waste a second, pass you by.
God bless you with the quiet whisper, which in all the day 's
doing
keeps a calm silent centre in your being.

45 Changes in the ozone layer

The ozone layer in the stratosphere surrounds the earth and helps to reduce the amount of harmful ultra violet radiation from the sun reaching the earth's surface. UV exposure increases the risk of skin cancer among other health impacts.. Scientists established that the use of chlorofluorocarbons (more commonly known as CFCs) were largely responsible for a growing hole in the ozone layer observed over polar regions, which caused considerable concern worldwide in the 1980s. CFCs were used widely in aerosols and as coolants in fridges and freezers.

The Montreal Protocol is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of a number of substances believed to be responsible for ozone depletion. The treaty was adopted widely and was implemented in 1989. Most countries have honoured their international agreements, and the ozone layer is now expected to recover by 2050. This treaty is seen as an example of exceptional international co-operation, giving some hope that similar cooperation may take place over climate change.

Pray that similar international cooperation can take place in Copenhagen this year.

46 Reading from Colossians 1: 15-20 (NIV)

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross”.

Dave Bookless comments in his book *Planetwise*; “This passage blows apart any idea of a cosy, comfortable pocket-size Jesus. Instead Jesus is:

The source of creation
The sustainer of creation
The saviour of creation”.

47 Passing on the blame

George Monbiot writes at the end of his book, *Heat*: “The defining feature of governmental negotiations are that someone else is always to blame. The governments of the rich nations complain that there is no point in cutting their own emissions if emissions are to continue to grow in China and India. The governments of China and India complain that limiting their pollution is a waste of time if the richer countries – whose output of carbon emissions per head is still far greater than theirs – are not prepared to make the necessary reductions. And governments that express a commitment to stopping climate change have found their efforts frustrated but partly because they want them to be frustrated. If they had the misfortune to succeed, our lives would have to change!”

“Governments will pursue this course of inaction – irrespective of the human impacts – while it remains politically less costly than the alternative. The task of climate change campaigners is to make it as expensive as possible. We need to take action, supporting the various organisations already campaigning”.

48 The wisdom of Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa once said; 'There are no great acts, just simple acts with great love'.

Lord, break our hearts for the needs of others, and help us stand together- show us what we have to offer. Break our hearts for communities in our own country affected by recession, debt and hopelessness- for our friends, neighbours, and those we do not know personally.

Lord, we pray too for those in the majority world experiencing poverty and lack of food, those without education, healthcare and vulnerable to disaster and exploitation. Fill us with compassion and a sense of solidarity as one people.

Prepare our hearts to love, our hands to serve, and our mouths to speak against injustice- simple acts, with great love.

49 Confession adapted from the North American Conference on Christianity and Ecology 1987

For the marvellous grace of your Creation, we pour out our thanks to You, our God.

We praise you, O Lord for plants growing in earth and water, for life inhabiting lakes and seas, for life creeping in soils and land, for creatures living in wetlands and waters, for life flying above earth and sea, for beasts dwelling in woods and fields.

How many and wonderful are your works, our God! In wisdom you have made them all!

But we confess, dear Lord, as creatures privileged with care and keeping of Your Creation that we have abused your Creation gifts through arrogance, ignorance, and greed.

We confess, Lord, that we often are unaware of how deeply we have hurt Your good earth and its marvellous gifts.

We confess that we are often unaware of how our abuse of creation has also been an abuse of ourselves.

For our wrongs, Lord, we ask forgiveness. We offer our repentance. We promise to reverence your creation as a gracious gift entrusted to us by You, our God. We promise anew to be stewards and not pillagers of what You have entrusted to us.

50 Reading from Isaiah 66:1-2 (GNB)

“The Lord says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house, then, could you build for me, what kind of place for me to live in? I myself created the whole universe! I am pleased with those who are humble and repentant, who fear me and obey me.”

51 The second part of a prayer by Saint Francis

“Praised be you my Lord through brother fire, through whom you light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be you my Lord through our sister, mother earth who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praised be you my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial.

Blessed are those who endure in peace, By you most high, they will be crowned.

Praised be you, my Lord through sister death, from whom no-one living can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Blessed are they she finds doing your will. No second death can do them harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks, And serve Him with great humility”.

*Heavenly Father, you gave your servant Francis great love for each of your creatures. Teach us to see your design in all of creation. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.*

52 A campaign against ourselves

George Monbiot writes at the end of his book, *Heat*: "Given that climate change is the greatest danger the world now faces, those who are campaigning to reduce the impact of climate change cannot do it by ourselves. We are astonishingly few. It appears to be easier to persuade people to protest against all kind of relatively trivial issues, than to confront a threat to our existence.

There is an obvious reason for this; in other cases something is being done to us. In this case we are doing it to ourselves. In fighting climate change, we must fight, not only the oil companies, the airlines and the governments of the rich world; we must also fight ourselves. It is a campaign not for abundance but for austerity. It is a campaign not for more freedom but for less. It is a campaign not just against other people, but also against ourselves".

53 Walk lightly – by Linda Jones

Each leaf, each petal, each grain, each person, sings your praises, Creator God.

Each creature on the earth, all the mountains and great seas, show your glory, Spirit of love.

And yet, the hand of greed has patented and plundered your splendour,

has taken and not shared your gift, has lived as owner of the earth, not guest.

And so, the ice is cracked, the rivers dry, the valleys flooded and the snow caps melt.

God our Father, show us how to step gently, how to live simply, how to walk lightly with respect and love for all that you have made.
Amen

Linda Jones, CAFOD

54 The Scottish Climate Change bill

Scotland recently agreed a Climate change Bill which is the strongest piece of climate change legislation in the world. It sets a great example for other wealthy nations to follow ahead of the UN's climate change talks in Copenhagen, which will agree a replacement to the Kyoto Protocol. Key elements of the Act include a cut of at least 42% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 (based on 1990 levels), an 80% cut in emissions by 2050, and immediate action to reduce emissions from flying and shipping.

Scotland now leads the way in the fight to tackle dangerous climate change. Churches throughout Scotland are also playing an active role in educating and alerting their congregations to respond to climate change. The Church of Scotland notes that climate change poses a serious and immediate threat to people everywhere, particularly to poor people, and that climate change represents a failure in our stewardship of God's creation.

Pray that other rich countries will follow Scotland's lead and match their commitment to cut emissions.

55 A reading from John 1:1-5 (GNB)

"In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life and this life brought light to humanity. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out."

56 Copenhagen negotiations

The next UN climate summit meeting in Copenhagen this December is where the world's governments must agree to what will replace the Kyoto Protocol after 2012.

Industrial countries have not reduced their emissions of CO₂ as agreed at Kyoto. In Copenhagen they must agree to cut emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2020. So far they have offered only 15%, which risks irreversible climate impacts.

Many disagreements need to be resolved before Copenhagen, such as emissions targets for developed and developing countries, and support for poorer countries to adapt to climate change. To reach agreement will be very difficult.

- Pray for a new treaty in Copenhagen that protects God's creation from climate change.
- Give praise for positive changes in the US. Pray for Obama's team as they try to influence public opinion.
- Pray that richer countries will agree deep cuts in emissions and financial support to developing countries.

57 Reading from Psalm 96:11-13 (GNB)

"Be glad, earth and sky!
Roar, sea, and every creature in you;
be glad, fields, and everything in you!
The trees of the wood will shout for joy
when the Lord comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the peoples of the world
with justice and fairness."

58 An extract from Planetwise

Dave Bookless in his book *'Planetwise'* comments:

"Perhaps the single most effective step I have taken in terms of avoiding waste is to try to pray every time I put something in the bin. As I do so, I thank God for the natural resources that have created the item and reflect on whether I have been a good steward. Often my prayers end up as guilty confessions, as I have to admit my careless wastefulness again. Did I need to buy this? Did I need the item with all this packaging? Sometimes my anguish is not personal so much as frustration with a culture that dictates I can't buy things that aren't covered in polystyrene and plastic, and I simple say sorry to God for what we as the human race have done in taking his world for granted."

"Seeing waste as a spiritual issue has caused me to go back to the start of the process; buying things in the first place. Now, before I buy something, I always try to ask whether I really need it".

59 A prayer - we are sorry

God we are sorry for the way we use your gifts to us so carelessly.

We are sorry that our actions are spoiling the precious balance between the earth and the sun so that our world is becoming too hot.

We are sorry for wasting food while others go hungry
We are sorry for wasting water when some children spend four hours each day collecting it.

We are sorry for buying things we do not need.
We are sorry for throwing away things just because they are old or unfashionable.

We are ashamed that the world is such an unfair place
We are sorry when we choose to bury our heads in the sand rather than seek fair solutions.

Lord forgive us and disturb us until we change to make your world a better place.

R Croft and J Laynesmith

60 Prayer at a supermarket checkout - Chris Polhill

God my friend and creator
The person in front of me has bought a bag of bags of crisps and put them into a carrier bag. Does it matter?
Was this part of the Great Plan? Did the generous outpouring of your love in the moment the Universe began include the bag of bag of bags?
Did your Wrath get used up in the Old Testament?

When the contents of that perfect, shiny-lined bag have been eaten, and that bag is deep in land-fill, is it any better or worse than the fossil fuel from which it came? And, if it is 50 million years since the death of the plant that became the fossil fuel, will another 50 million years make good out of the crisp bag?

You're not going to tell me are you?
... Because the plant, the oil, the bag, the 50 million years, and the moment at the checkout, are all your gifts to me.
I pray for the grace to know that, and to wonder at my use of your gifts.

61 Meat production

Meat production requires far more land and water than grain or beans, to produce the same amount of protein. Much of the 'greenhouse gas' methane which contributes to global warming is produced by cattle. In addition, much of the ongoing clearing of the Amazon rainforest is caused by land being cleared for cattle ranching.

We could all try to eat less meat in our diets. Bishop Richard Chartres of London gave up eating meat four years ago, largely because he realized the damaging environmental impact of intensively reared livestock. Rather than preach to others, he prefers to examine his own lifestyle choices. He comments; "A life of fasting and feasting ought to be fun".

Could we all fast from meat on one or more days a week?

62 A prayer to make poverty history by Linda Jones

Christ our Lord,
your light shines into the shadows,
and shows us
where the obstacles to change lie.

We know that often
they are in our own hearts,
in the way we live,
and in our daily choices and actions.

We pray that we may accept
the light of your love
as a challenge to change
ourselves and our world.

We pray that, each day, we make the choices and
take the actions that will bring an end to poverty and hunger,
and lead us all towards a fairer world.

Be with us, Lord, as we face your challenge
and learn how to live our lives in love.
Amen

63 Our changing oceans

Our oceans soak up enormous quantities of CO₂ each year – around 7 gigatonnes of CO₂ (1 gigatonne = 1,000,000,000 tonnes), which includes about a quarter of all that is emitted by human activity. The vastness of the oceans has acted like a huge sponge in soaking up so much of the extra carbon dioxide that has resulted from human activity and considerably reducing the impact of climate change.

However as this extra CO₂ dissolves, it forms a weak acid. This is making the oceans less alkaline than they've been for hundreds of thousands of years. Over time this is likely to have a considerable impact on various types of marine life – which depend on calcium carbonate to build shells. Such creatures range from tiny algae, to molluscs with shells right through to coral reefs. The long-term impact of the reduction in carbonate ions in the oceans for building shells - is unknown and is of real concern to scientists.

Pray that these serious changes in the world's oceans are not ignored during the discussions on how to respond to the impact of climate change. Pray too for adequate funding to be available to research these impacts which may have very far reaching consequences on marine life and the marine food chain.

64 A prayer for peace

O God, who called all life into being
The earth, sea and sky are yours
Your presence is all around us
Every atom is full of your energy
Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth
With her we yearn for justice to be done
For creation to be freed from bondage
For the hungry to be fed
For captives to be released
For your Kingdom of Peace to come on Earth
R Croft and J Laynesmith

65 The responsibility of rich countries

Archbishop Desmond Tutu comments:

“The richest countries of the world, as represented by the G8, have a responsibility to help the poorest. This is not just charity, but a moral obligation. The world’s wealthiest countries have emitted more than their fair share of greenhouse gases. Resultant floods, droughts and other climate change impacts continue to fall disproportionately on the world’s poorest people and countries, many of which are in Africa.

Rich countries must therefore help poorer countries in two ways. They must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions so that the effects of climate change suffered by Africa’s poor do not get worse. They also have an obligation to help poor countries adapt to the negative impacts of climate change, which cannot be avoided.”

66 Living flame of love – by Chris Polhill

‘Living flame of love’
so touch our hearts with your bright fire,
that we of tepid, even chilly faith,
may be alight with your passion,
and warm the globe with your love,
reflecting your care
for all of your creation.
Amen

67 The value of rainforests

Tropical rainforests are an amazing source of biodiversity. They cover approximately 2 percent of the globe, but they are home to over half the world’s living plant and animal species. They are likely to contain thousands of species as yet unidentified by scientists. Rain forests are rich resources of timber and minerals. Unfortunately in many countries they are being cleared for agriculture, particularly ranching and soya bean cultivation and for human settlement. Once roads are built, whole new areas are opened up for exploitation. We continue to lose around 90,000 square miles (150,000 square km) a year.

Tropical rainforests remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This lowers the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These forests also release moisture into the atmosphere through transpiration. This cools the local climate, brings rainfall and thus helps to reduce global warming

- Pray for a wider appreciation of the value of forests and tree cover in preserving biodiversity, protecting soils and reducing the impact of climate change.
- Pray that people of all nations and backgrounds will work together to safeguard this invaluable part of God’s creation.

68 Reading from Isaiah 40:31 (GNB)

“Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak”.

69 Church investment in photo-voltaic panels

The Greek Orthodox Church in Cyprus invested over £100 million in solar energy to build a factory producing photo-voltaic panels which capture the sun’s energy. The island has struggled in the past to meet the demand for electricity. Solar panels are being installed on church roofs throughout the island as well as on public buildings. Cyprus is not short of sunshine and the panels will provide a plentiful supply of electricity for the future.

Archbishop Chrysostomos II has said that profits from this investment would be used to provide financial help to clergy and fund other social work.

Church and parish centre buildings often provide excellent sites for solar voltaic panels (particularly since most churches are orientated East – West). There may well be planning restrictions to overcome, but harnessing the potential of these roofs provides not only a positive witness within the community, but also a source of potential revenue in years to come. Many community buildings can obtain substantial grants for this work. Reflect on the potential in our area here.

70 Reading from Isaiah 55: 6-13 (GNB)

“Turn to the LORD and pray to him, now that he is near. Let the wicked leave their way of life and change their way of thinking. Let them turn to the LORD, our God; he is merciful and quick to forgive. “My thoughts,” says the LORD, “are not like yours, and my ways are different from yours. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways and thoughts above yours.

“My word is like the snow and the rain that come down from the sky to water the earth. They make the crops grow and provide seed for planting and food to eat. So also will be the word that I speak — it will not fail to do what I plan for it; it will do everything I send it to do.

“You will leave Babylon with joy; you will be led out of the city in peace. The mountains and hills will burst into singing, and the trees will shout for joy. Cypress trees will grow where now there are briars; myrtle trees will come up in place of thorns. This will be a sign that will last forever, a reminder of what I, the LORD, have done.”

71 May clean clear water bless us by Chris Polhill

May clean clear water bless us,
well-spring or waterfall, life in abundance - flowing,
cleansing, refreshing.

May we use wisely God’s gift of water
cherish each drop, shrinking all scrub land and deserts.

Jesus, pour your water, greening and satisfying,
on the dry dustiness of the deserts within us.

Holy Spirit, flow through us, revive our faithfulness,
cleanse our sinfulness, fill us with prayerfulness.

72 Protestors in Peru

The Amazon rainforest is huge but decreasing fast. Earlier this year, Peru's President Garcia sold 70% of his country's Amazon rainforest to oil companies. The indigenous people defended their forest with just sticks and moral force. They blockaded rivers and roads to stop the oil companies getting in or out.

Garcia sent the Army, killing at least 12 Indians. But they stood their ground. Leader, Davi Yanomami, said: "The earth has no price. It cannot be bought, sold or exchanged. White people, black people and indigenous peoples must fight together to save the life of the forest and the earth."

Then the extraordinary happened. Peru's Congress banned the oil companies. President Garcia was forced to apologise. The protesters celebrated and returned to their homes deep in the Amazon.

Thank God for the inspiration of Peru's Indians and pray that many ordinary people around the world will show similar courage. Can we stand up, like them, to the challenge of keeping fossil fuels in the ground and rainforests standing?

Pray that Peru's government (and others in Latin America) will pursue sustainable development that values and preserves the amazing natural resources of the Amazon area.

73 Creator God by Chris Polhill

Creator God,
from quark to planet your universe is awesome.
Give us eyes to gape at the wonders daily about us,
and the will to live in the harmony of your creating.
Help us to own the connections of all things,
even at cost to our own wants and comforts;
So we may live gently on earth,
and all creation praise you. Amen.

74 Concerns over bees

Honey bees are vital to human wellbeing because they pollinate many of our food crops. But they are dying – about 36% per year in the US and Europe. The cause is still mysterious but suspicion rests with a mix of new insecticides, the parasitic mite *Varroa* and environmental change.

Bumblebees are also good pollinators. Of the 27 UK species, 3 are already extinct and 6 more at risk. Such declines result from the destruction of hedgerows, flower-rich meadows, ponds, marshes, and woodland. People can help by having wildlife friendly gardens.

- Pray for Apimondia, the International Federation of Beekeepers Associations, and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust as they work to halt the decline in bees.
- Pray for gardeners and those responsible for public lands and churchyards, that they will encourage nectar-producing plants, reduce insecticides and plant more wild flowers.
- Reflect on how we can help our gardens, parks, allotments and wasteland to become havens for bees and how we can help people to care for the natural world.

75 Encouragement from Archbishop Rowan Williams

Archbishop Williams says; "We can, and we should, pray. Climate change is not only an environmental issue - probably the most important we face; it is also an issue of justice. As usual the poorest are likely to suffer the most, though the richest have contributed most to pollute the atmosphere and accelerate global warming. So we can pray that a proper sense of responsibility (not least to the generations who will follow us) and of justice, guides the hearts and the minds of the politicians who will meet in Copenhagen".

"Let us do what we can do to get involved in the preparations for Copenhagen. Between now and December there will be activity, lobbying and hard thinking going on in civil society as well as government in preparation for the Climate Summit. Many faith groups and civil society organizations, (and that includes the Church of England), will be organising events to heighten awareness of the issues and the opportunities which the summit brings.

"I shall be going to Copenhagen to support those and to emphasise the strength of the concern that people of faith have for the future well-being of our planet.

"Please pray for all whose efforts could make a real difference for the sustainability of our planet and we who live in it - it is God's creation that we are striving to care for and as God's children that we pray and act."

76 A confession

God our Creator and Healer
we confess that we have sinned:
we have used creation not cherished it;
we have lived selfishly; not watched the balance of life;
we have been greedy - not sharing earth's gifts;
and our footprints are heavy not gentle.

Forgive us the damage that disturbs our planet.
Grant us the grace to live for the world's healing and our own.
Bless the seasons of the year, may they be restored to Your design.

Lent Challenge 2008, Lichfield Diocese

77 Preparations in Bangladesh

Low lying Bangladesh is one of the countries likely to be severely impacted by rising sea levels. Funding to help with adaptation is certainly necessary. However, the Bangladeshis are not sitting around waiting for help. They have set up a national Adaptation programme of Action. Even in the poorest areas, Bangladeshis are building dykes and embankments, changing their agricultural practices and sharing their knowledge with other countries. They have an early warning system in place for cyclones.

Floating gardens were first introduced in Bangladesh. Water weeds provide the base for a thin layer of soil and crops. They cost little to build and will survive flooding.

Pray for the work of HEED Bangladesh, providing extensive training in community developments and disaster preparedness.

78 In you lies our hope for transformation

Lord, you make all things new- you are the God of the exiled - in times of darkness, uncertainty and fear we can only cling to you. Though we may walk through the valley of shadows, we will fear no evil for you are with us.

Lord, you are the God of the resurrection. In you lies our hope for transformation. You have shown us a glimpse of the mountain top, and we will keep walking that path with you. Give us the vision to see how things can be, and help us work together to achieve this.

Clothe our leaders with humility and grace to put actions before words, and bring greater justice and sustainability in this world.

Put People First prayer

79 Sinking Pacific islands

Rev. Baranite Kirata from Kiribati, one of the three Pacific island states which are losing their territory to the rising sea levels, explained what it means to know that not only will his people become refugees but that the place they call home will disappear under the rising waters: "Myself, when I am travelling my heart always longs for home, for where I can cry and rejoice with my people," Kirata said.

For the Pacific churches, the issue is not only political and economic, but deeply theological, ethical and spiritual. They feel that their place in God's creation is at stake. "The storms and waves eat away our beaches and as they continue they will some day eat us," said Kirata. Those whose houses on the coast have been destroyed move further inland. It is clear, however, that this is not a lasting solution. "If we don't end up in the lagoon, we will end up fighting each other over land, food, water."

With a mixture of realism and optimism, Rev. Baranite Kirata explained that "it is now too late to do something for Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands; but together, we are the world, and it is not too late to do something for us all."

80 Live simply – a prayer by Linda Jones

Compassionate and loving God,
you created the world for us all to share,
a world of beauty and plenty.
Create in us a desire to live simply,
so that our lives may reflect your generosity.

Creator God,
You gave us responsibility for the earth,
a world of riches and delight.
Create in us a desire to live sustainably,
so that those who follow after us
may enjoy the fruits of your creation.

God of peace and justice,
You give us the capacity to change,
to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom.
Create in us a desire to act in solidarity,
so that the pillars of injustice crumble
and those now crushed are set free.
Amen.

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81 A prayer from the Community of Grandchamp

Come light, light of God, give light to creation, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

We beseech you, bless every effort and every search,
Every struggle and every pain that seek to restore the
harmony and beauty of your Creation.

Renew the face of the earth, so that every human being may
live in peace and justice, fruits of your Spirit of love.

Blow your Spirit of life on your creation and all humanity.

Come light, light of God, give light to creation, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

We beseech you, Lord, bless the fruits of the earth and the
work of our hands and teach us to share the abundance of
your goods.

Send rain to the dry soil, sun and fair weather where harvest
is endangered by storms.

Blow your Spirit of life on your creation and all humanity.

Come light, light of God, give light to creation, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

Community of Grandchamp, Areuse, Switzerland

82 Reading from 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

"If my people, who are called by my name,
Will humble themselves, pray and seek my face
And turn from their wicked ways,
Then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin
And heal their land".

Compiled by Dr Isabel Carter

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