

LITURGICAL SUGGESTIONS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE



(A high resolution version of this image (by Cathy Mc.Partlan) is available for download on the J&P website)

Introduction

These suggestions originate from a mass and prayer vigil about Climate Change that was held in Our Lady of Lourdes parish in November 2015. The mass suggestions can be used separately from the Prayer Vigil suggestions.

They are offered as suggestions and may help in any planning that you may do for a similar event. The Commission would like to thank Marian Emly and Kathy Webb for making this more widely available.

MASS

Penitential Rite

God our Father has created a wonderful world but our actions put it at risk and creation itself groans under the burdens placed on it by our greed and selfishness. With this in mind, let us call to mind our sins....

For the times we have wasted your gifts

Lord have mercy

For the times we have not considered the needs of others

Christ of mercy

For the times we have despaired and given up hope in you

Lord have mercy



Opening Prayer

Father, teach us to contemplate you
In the beauty of the universe,
For all things speak of you.
Awake our praise and thankfulness
For every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

Liturgy of the Word

These are suggested special readings for the theme of Climate Change rather than the readings for any particular day.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Listen closely to my words,
be attentive and understand what I am saying.
Does the ploughman do nothing but plough
and turn the soil and harrow it?
Will he not, after he has levelled it,
scatter fennel, sow cumin,
put in wheat and barley
and, on the edges, spelt?
He has been taught this discipline
by his God who instructs him.

For fennel must not be crushed,
nor a drag be rolled over cumin;
fennel must be beaten with a stick,
and cumin with a flail.
Does a man crush wheat? No;
he does not thresh it endlessly.
When he has rolled the drag over it
he winnows it without crushing it.
This too comes from the Lord God Sabaoth,
whose advice is always admirable,
whose deeds are very great.

*The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

Responsorial psalm (Ps.135)

**Response: O give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love endures for ever.**

O give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love endures for ever.
Give thanks to the God of gods
for his love endures for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his love endures for ever;
**O give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love endures for ever.**

Who alone has wrought marvellous works,
for his love endures for ever;
whose wisdom it was made the skies,
for his love endures for ever;
who fixed the earth firmly on the seas,
for his love endures for ever.
**O give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love endures for ever.**

It was he who made the great lights,
for his love endures for ever;
the sun to rule in the day,
for his love endures for ever;
the moon and the stars in the night,
for his love endures for ever.
**O give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love endures for ever.**

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and money.'

That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well.'

Bidding Prayers

We pray for the world we live in;
that God may open our eyes
to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given



Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for world leaders:

that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it,
especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for people who are struggling to grow their crops:

who are hungry or thirsty

who cannot meet their basic needs because of droughts, floods or other extreme weather;

that God make strengthen and support them

and that they may have reason to look with hope to the future

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our local community:

that through God's grace we may be good neighbours to each other

and to the whole of creation,

restoring and caring for all that God has made

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Prayer over the Gifts

O God, who bring forth bread from the Earth to sustain our lives and wine to gladden the heart. Be pleased to accept these gifts and make them the sacrament of our salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer for various needs IV

It is truly right and just

Our duty and salvation

Always and everywhere to give you thanks,

Father of mercies and faithful God

For you have given us Jesus Christ, your Son,

As Our Lord and redeemer.

He always showed compassion for children and for the poor,

For the sick and for sinners,

And he became a neighbour to the oppressed and the afflicted.

By word and deed he announced to the world

That you are our Father

And that you care for all your sons and daughters.

And so with all the angels and saints

We exalt and bless your name

And sing the hymn of your glory,

As without end we acclaim:



Holy, Holy, Holy.....

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
bring to perfection within us
the communion we share in this sacrament.
Help us to learn from your generosity
How to share our bread with the hungry
And to commit ourselves to preparing
A banquet for all peoples
A generous feast for all to share

Blessing

May God bless us with wonder at creation's glory. **Amen.**
May God bless us with fury at creation's spoiling. **Amen.**
May God bless us with courage at this critical hour. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest upon you and on all creation, this day and for the future to come. **Amen**

PRAYER VIGIL

Introduction

(Possible introductory wording)

We come together tonight in prayer for many reasons:

To celebrate the wonders of creation that we find all around us
To recognise our inter-connectedness with all of creation – that all of God's creation affects us and helps to make us who we are and that, equally, we impact on all of the rest of God's creation
To reflect on the times when we have ignored this interconnectedness for our own selfish reasons
To ask our Creator God to inspire in us a new heart to live more simply and sustainably with creation and in solidarity with the rest of humanity
To witness to our responsibility towards God's creation and to future generations by ensuring that our prayer leads to us continuing to put pressure on those in power to take radical action on Climate Change
To ask your intercession that the world leaders will hear our cries, hear the cries of the poor who are worst affected by climate change and hear the cries of creation as it groans under the burdens placed on it by our greed and selfishness

CANTICLE OF DANIEL

O all you works of the Lord, O bless the Lord
To Him be highest glory and praise forever

And you, angels of the Lord, O bless the Lord
To Him be highest glory and praise forever



And you, the heavens of the Lord, O bless the Lord
And you, clouds of the sky, O bless the Lord
And you, all armies of the Lord, O bless the Lord
To Him be highest glory and praise forever

And to you, sun and moon, O bless the Lord
And you, the stars of the heavens, O bless the Lord
And you, showers and rain, O bless the Lord
To Him be highest glory and praise forever

And you, all you breezes and winds, O bless the Lord
And you, fire and heat, O bless the Lord
And you, cold and heat, O bless the Lord
To Him be highest glory and praise forever

And you, showers and dew, O bless the Lord
And you, frosts and cold, O bless the Lord
And you, frosts and snow, O bless the Lord
To Him be highest glory and praise forever

And you, night time and day, O bless the Lord
And you, darkness and light, O bless the Lord
And you, lightning and clouds, O bless the Lord
To Him be highest glory and praise forever

O let the earth bless the Lord
To Him be highest glory and praise forever

And you, mountains and hills, O bless the Lord
And you, all plants of the earth, O bless the Lord
And you, fountains and springs, O bless the Lord
To Him be highest glory and praise forever

And you, rivers and seas, O bless the Lord
And you, creatures of the sea, O bless the Lord
And you, every bird in the sky, O bless the Lord
And you, wild beasts and tame, O bless the Lord
To Him be highest glory and praise forever

And you, children of men, O bless the Lord
To Him be highest glory and praise forever.

HOW CAN ONE SELL THE AIR – CHIEF SEATTLE'S VISION **By Ted Perry inspired by Chief Seattle's speech of 1854**

.....

The white man does not understand.



One portion of land is the same to him as the next,
For he is a wanderer who comes in the night
And borrows from the land whatever he needs.
The earth is not his brother, but his enemy,
And when he has won the struggle,
He moves on.
He leaves his father's graves behind, and he does not care.
He kidnaps the earth from his children.
And he does not care.
The father's graves and the children's birthright are forgotten by the white man,
Who treats his mother the earth and his brother the sky
As things to be bought, plundered, and sold,
Like sheep, bread, or bright beads.
In this way, the dogs of appetite will devour the rich earth and leave only a desert.
The white man is like a snake who eats his own tail in order to live.
And the tail grows shorter and shorter.
Our ways are different from your ways.

.....

I am a red man and do not understand.
I prefer the wind darting over the faces of a pond
And the smell of the wind itself,
Cleansed by a midday rainshower.
The air is precious to the red man,
For all things share the same breath –
The beasts, the trees, and man,
They are all of the same breath.

Laudate Si –chap2:86

“God wills the interdependence of creatures, the sun and the moon, the cedar and the little flower, the eagle and the sparrow: the spectacle of their countless diversities, and inequalities tells us that no creature is self-sufficient. Creatures exist only in dependence on each other, to complete each other, in the service of each other”.

ALL: AMEN

BLESSING OF EACH OTHER

(each side of the church turns to the other and all say together)

May the Maker's blessing be yours
Encircling you round, Above you, Within you

May the angels' blessing be yours
And the joy of the saints, To inspire you, To cherish you

May the Son's blessing be yours
The wine and the water, The bread and the stories
To feed you, To remind you

May the Spirit's blessing be yours
 The wind, the fire, The still small voice
 To comfort you, To disturb you

And may my own blessing be yours
 A blessing rooted in our common **pilgrimage, The blessing of a friend**

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

'God of Day and God of Darkness' Marty Haugen (Laudate 881)
 'I am a child of this planet' by Marty Haugen
 'For the fruits of this creation' by Fred Green
 'All creation shows your glory' by Christopher Walker
 'Laudato Sii' by Damian Lundy and Michael Irwin
 'Touch the Earth lightly' by Tony Alonso and Shirley Erena Murray
 Morning has broken
 All Creatures of our God and King
 Immortal Invisible God only wise
 For the Healing of the Nations

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS

A few suggestions for sources for suitable prayers – there are many more! – but it's somewhere to start

Prayer / resource	Source	Author/publisher/web address
'They will not rob me of hope' a prayer from Chile Harvest	Bread of Tomorrow p133 Ibid pp 170-194	Ed Janet Morley published by SPCK
Various – plus suggestions for different styles of event	Christian Aid "The Big Shift" worship resources	http://www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/climate-justice/resources.aspx?Page=2
Various readings and prayer suggestions	Operation Noah – the ecumenical Christian Charity about Climate Change	http://operationnoah.org/resources/climate-change-resources-worship/
Loads of ideas for prayers and services at all times of the year	The Global Catholic Climate Movement	http://catholicclimatemovement.global/liturgical-prayer-and-spiritual-resources/
Laudato Si Powerpoint reflection	CAFOD Laudato Si resources page	http://www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Encyclical
A Prayer for our earth from Laudato Si	Leeds J&P Prayer card	Just email jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk if you would like some copies of this prayer card

The Justice & Peace office has a number of resource books that contain other prayers and suggestions. Get in touch (by emailing jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk) if you want to come into the office and browse through what is available.