

Climate Change

Throughout scripture we see God's love for this world. 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, The world and those who dwell in it' declares the psalmist (Psalm 24:1).

But with record-breaking storms, severe droughts and rising temperatures, we're seeing creation being knocked out of balance – and people being pushed back into poverty as a result. If we are to truly love our global neighbours, we have to tackle the climate crisis. Climate change is already having a big impact on people who are the least responsible for causing it, including people living in poverty. The climate crisis is accelerating, but we still have a small window of time to limit some of the worst effects. Let's pray for world leaders, to make wise decisions and take concrete actions for long-term good.

STEP 1 Take a Post-it note and write a prayer for the leaders of a country which is already suffering the effects of climate change. Pray that they have wisdom about how to adapt to a changing world, and that they would hear the cries of the most vulnerable. Find the country on a map and stick your post it note on it. Some ideas of who to pray for:

Malawi and Mozambique devastated by Cyclone in 2019

India, which is suffering increasingly regular and extreme droughts and floods

Ecuador, Vietnam or island nations which are fast losing ground to rising sea levels

STEP 2 Take another Post-it note and write a prayer for the leaders of a country which has contributed a lot to climate change. Pray for them to be ambitious in their commitments and actions, and to prioritise justice and equality. Place your Post-it prayer on or beside the map. Some ideas of who to pray for:

The UK, the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution and our carbonintensive world

The USA, where most of the world's emissions have come from since the 1800s

China, the biggest generator of carbon emissions today

Give praise For leaders seeking more sustainable ways to run an economy, such as Jacinda Ardern in New Zealand and for leaders speaking up with increasing boldness, such as Archbishop Justin Welby For companies genuinely seeking to be part of the solution, by building more renewable energy infrastructure, phasing out plastics, or making their operations sustainable. For the diverse groups of people coming together to speak up on this unifying issue – from indigenous communities, to racial justice activists, refugee campaigns and disability groups

'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.' Genesis 1:31 'Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.' Psalm 96:1 .

Throughout scripture we see God's people meet with their creator and worship him through the beauty of the world. As we lift up prayers and requests about these issues, injustices and difficulties, we must also remember to give thanks and praise for the wonders of the world. As you look at some of God's creation, can you notice patterns, details and beauty? Spend time admiring God's handiwork and thank and worship Him for it. To finish, reflect on the words of this prayer: Creator God, Renew our spirits and cleanse our hearts. Renew our minds and transform our lives. Renew our cities and rebuild our ruins. Renew our world, in your name we pray, Amen

