

# No Faith in Fossil Fuels

## Lent Vigil for Climate Justice

### Vigil from home

### Prayer Hour Guide



### Give an hour to pray and act for climate and environmental justice, 14- 24 February 2023

Starting on Ash Wednesday people from across the UK will be holding vigil for environmental and climate justice outside UK Parliament around the clock for 10 days. Together let's pray, reflect, and act for climate justice from home or church.

### Prayer is powerful!

As the climate crisis wreaks havoc in our world, we are drawn to our most ancient of traditions – prayer. Bringing us to a posture of humility, prayer allows us to lament the brokenness of creation and hope for the restoration of our world.

We have faith that our prayers are

heard and can bring transformation, even in the midst of injustice. That is why we gather in vigil, to pray for creation, for our global neighbours, for bold climate action from the UK Government.

As we enter the season of Lent, join us as we pray 24 hours a day, for 10 days at Westminster, London. Pray for an hour, pray for a day! Join the vigil from your home or church as we declare, No Faith in Fossil Fuels.

### Why we need climate justice

Around the world creation is crying out. Heatwaves, fires, droughts and floods are becoming more frequent, wrecking lives, land, and livelihoods. Meanwhile, the biggest polluters who have caused this crisis make vast profits from fossil fuels. As creation groans, the poorest, who have done the least to cause the problem, are paying the price. Poverty and debt crises mean poor countries are struggling to respond. This is unjust.

### Why we need action from the UK Government

We believe that the UK government has a historic and current responsibility to take bold climate action. The extraction of wealth from many nations kicked off the industrial revolution, leading to Britain being the world's 8th biggest historical carbon emitter.

At COP28, while we celebrated the Loss and Damage Fund becoming operational with support pledged for climate vulnerable countries, the UK's financial commitments were well below what is possible and came from existing climate funds. Meanwhile UK

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based fossil fuel companies are raking in billions of pounds in profits a year.

As we vigil, as we pray, we call on the UK Government to:

- 1. Make the UK's biggest polluters pay for climate action.**
- 2. Deliver and build on the UK's international climate finance pledges and pay into the UN's Loss & Damage Fund.**
- 3. Ban new UK-based fossil fuel projects.**

### Your hour of prayer, reflection and stillness for climate justice

Here you will find a guide to spending an hour in prayer and reflection. The hour is split into four 15-minute sections.

Light a candle to mark the start of your vigil.

#### 1. Marvel (15 min)

Take a moment for silence

**Read:** Genesis 1:1 - 31

**Reflect:** What causes me/us to marvel at creation?

**Pray:**

Creator God, You with unlimited imagination

We celebrate all of creation, from the greatest mountain to the smallest grain of sand.

We celebrate the great diversity of people you have brought forth.

We thank you for the earth and the great eco-system we are part of.

We thank you for those that care and protect our environment.

May we all respond to your calling to look after all you have given us,

Amen

- Acknowledge God's creative spirit that imagined and brought the earth into being
- Give thanks for the earth and all that is in it
- Pray for those who till and keep the earth to feed humanity
- Pray for communities around the world who protect land and resources – for example the Quilombola communities in Brazil who protect areas of the Amazon from destruction

Pause take a moment for silence

#### 2. Lament (15 min)

**Read:** Psalm 30: 1-6

**Reflect:** to tackle the climate crisis what do we need to turn away from as individuals, churches and wider society?

**Pray:**

We lament that this year climate breakdown has destroyed lives around the world,

Communities suffer floods, fires and drought.



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People lose their homes, livelihoods and loved ones.

We grieve their losses.

We recognise and repent of our broken humanity that has embedded patterns of inequality.

We bear witness to the vast profits of fossil fuel giants who push us deeper into climate chaos

We bow our heads.

Amen

- Recognise and ask forgiveness for the ways we are complicit in damaging God's world and our global neighbours, for our lack of shock at climate impacts, for the way we live our lives, for our inaction.
- Lament the inaction of governments and those in places of power around the world
- Lament the exploitation of and damage to the natural environment
- Pray for people driven into deeper and deeper poverty by the climate crisis

Pause for a moment of silence

### 3. Hope (15 min)

**Read:** Hebrews 11: 1-3

**Reflect:** What is your hope for how you, the church and UK Government can act for climate justice?

**Pray:**

God of hope, you sent Jesus so that all may have life, life in all its fullness.

We see the thief of injustice kill, steal and destroy - the loss and damage of the climate crisis, the scandal of poverty.

Help us be part of your vision for all creation, set your hope deep in our hearts.

Keep us steady in solidarity, remembering always our global neighbours.

May all live life in all its fullness.

Amen

- Pray that churches across the UK (including yours) will rise up in hope for climate justice
- Pray that the UK Government will take bold climate action
- Pray for your MP specifically, that they will be a champion of environmental and climate action

Pause for a moment of silence

### 4. Transform (15 min)

**Read:** Romans 12:2

**Reflect:** In what ways can I/we be part of the transformation of the world for environmental and climate justice?

**Pray:**

Great Redeemer,

you journeyed to the Cross, meeting us in our weakness.

Ready and waiting to transform us by your Spirit while we were still far off,

you sought us out.

Great Redeemer,

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who in Spirit groans with all creation

for the redemption and renewal of all things, redeem us from our destructive ways, deepen in us the longing for renewal, transform us and the world around us.

Amen

- Pray that systems and structures that perpetuate environmental and climate injustice will be transformed
- Pray that all will be able to live life in all its fullness
- Pray that global leaders, including those in UK Government will have wisdom, compassion and integrity when addressing the climate crisis

### From prayer to action

Joining the Westminster vigil from home is no less political than being there in person. You are bearing witness to the impacts of the climate crisis and praying for the UK Government to take bold climate action. Let's move from prayer to action by telling our local politicians why we're involved.

Here are three ways you can make the prayerful political as you join the vigil and engage your MP:

- 1. If you are praying together as a church, invite your MP to your meeting or service.**
- 2. Write to your MP – you can do this before or after you take part in the vigil, as an individual or as a church.**

- 3. Tag your MP – if you use social media, take a photo or record a short message after your time of prayer and tag your MP.**

Whichever option works for you, make sure you tell your MP why you're

taking part in the vigil from home/ church, and what you want them to do to champion bold climate action in

parliament. You can give them an MP briefing to take away. You can download Christian Aid's MP briefing at [caid.org.uk/C4CJbriefing](http://caid.org.uk/C4CJbriefing)

Together, let's declare, No Faith in Fossil Fuels, Amen.

