

ORDINARY HEROES PRAYERS

Paris 2015 Prayer Resources

Thousands of Christians across the world will be praying as the United Nations climate talks take place in Paris this November and December. Please join this prayer movement wherever you are, recognising the impact that climate change is having, especially on our poorest neighbours, and asking for God's hand to be upon the talks.

You can either organise something on the same day as the Paris and London rallies (Sunday 29th November), or any time in the run up to it. We have prayers, bible studies, and ideas to help you below. We'd also like to keep the pressure on our political leaders by sending them photos of you praying and messages to show that we support them agreeing a deal to tackle climate change, so please email your pictures through to us (campaigns@tearfund.org).

How you can join in...

Here are some ideas to get you started, you'll find resources and prayers to help below too:

1. Pray together with others.

This might be a vigil at church, leading the intercessions in the Sunday service, or an evening of prayer with your homegroup. You could use some creative prayer exercises, and we have prayer activities for children too. It's great to gather people together to pray as a community of believers.

2. Spend some time praying and reflecting yourself.

You might prefer to pray on your own, taking time to read more about the issues, and listen to God.

3. Plan a local pilgrimage.

If you can't join our pilgrimage to Paris, or one of the UK rallies, you might like to plan a local pilgrimage with your church or friends. This could be a short walk from your church around your local area or parish or a trek through the countryside. Use prayers and Bible readings to get people thinking about climate issues and the Paris talks. You can add your pilgrimage to the map on the [People's Pilgrimage](#) website or the [Pilgrimage2Paris](#) website, as you join with thousands of others around the world in journeying towards and for climate justice.

4. Share your prayers.

Please let us know how you're joining in by emailing us a photo of your local group, services, pilgrimages, or your creative prayer idea or by tweeting using #Paris2015 and including @TearfundAct in the tweet - we'd love to hear from you! You could include a small sign saying what you're doing in your photo, e.g. 'St Mary's, Alveley praying for climate justice.' Send your emails to campaigns@tearfund.org. We'll then use these photos to add to the political pressure on world leaders to reach an agreement.

ORDINARY HEROES PRAYERS

Resources

Here are some resources to use and adapt. Do incorporate your own ideas to create a unique event that's right for you and your church or group.

PRAYER SERVICE IDEAS

- Worship - for creation-themed songs see A Rocha's comprehensive [list](#). Also our [God of Justice](#) and [How Long?](#) worship videos
- Brief introduction to Paris, what it is, why it matters - you could show our [Paris video](#), or perhaps our *Ordinary Heroes* video (see the [campaigns](#) pages of our website).
- Use Bible readings on the theme of creation, stewardship of the earth, remembering the poorest and loving our neighbours. (For example Amos 5:24, Luke 4:16-21, Lev 25, Matt 25, Acts 4:32-35).
- Include a short message linking the Bible to our call as Christians to protect God's earth and to lead the way in efforts to protect the environment and help those living in poverty. A Rocha has some [sermons](#) on creation care issues which might be useful.
- Prayers - intercede for the climate talks, as well as praying for our personal and local care for creation (see below).
- Campaign - If you'd like some action cards addressed to the Prime Minister or Amber Rudd (Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change) on the climate talks, for people to fill in, please email us.

STORIES AND PICTURES

- You might like to use Nyasa's picture and quote to illustrate how climate change often hits the poorest first:



"Because of climate change, I was not harvesting enough and wasn't able to feed my family. If I had the opportunity to face world leaders today, I would give them the facts, so they would believe that climate change is really affecting us now."

- *Nyasa, a farmer in Malawi*

For more ideas and inspiration, see the Pray and Fast for the Climate's ['Journeying Towards Paris' Pray and Fast Service](#) resource.

ORDINARY HEROES PRAYERS

PRAYERS

See the [prayers](#) section of our website, as well as these below:

Creator God,
You bring all things to life
and gift all living creatures
with an everlasting covenant.
Yet, at times we are indifferent
towards the Earth and our neighbours
and do not tend your gifts with care.
For the times we fail to see the goodness of creation
We ask your forgiveness, Lord.
For the times we forget your fruits are meant for all
We ask your forgiveness, Lord.
For the times we plunder and don't protect the Earth
We ask your forgiveness, Lord.
For the times we are indifferent to each other's needs
We ask your forgiveness, Lord.
For the times we fail to love our neighbour as ourselves
We ask your forgiveness, Lord.
Loving God,
Have mercy on us.
By your grace, open our eyes to your goodness,
and help us to share your love with our neighbours and all of creation.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.
(Prayer from the *For the Love of Mass Lobby* service on 17th June 2015)

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of
compassion for the global family, and continue to share in the
joys, hopes, grief and anxieties of people living in poverty.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for politicians: that God may move them to hear
the voices of vulnerable communities, and they may make
just decisions that respect the integrity of creation.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

ORDINARY HEROES PRAYERS

We pray for our neighbours around the world who are affected by droughts, storms and floods: that God may bring comfort, and they may look to the future with hope.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for our local community: that God may inspire us to stand alongside our sisters and brothers who are affected by the changing climate, and speak up for the love of creation.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

silent reflection

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

(Prayer from the *For the Love of Mass* Lobby service on 17th June 2015)

God of all creation,
You have filled the earth with good things:
Food, fuel, seedtime and harvest; land, property and prosperity
Placed at our disposal through your goodness.
We confess our capacity to make good things bad
Through taking and using more than we need;
Through placing profit and gain above the principles of care and sustainability;
Many are left without while others use the earth's resources for their personal gain.
And in its midst Your world is speaking
Ravaged by storm and flood.
Melting ice and rising seas
Declare afresh the message of their creator.
This earth is not ours to exploit
But yours, entrusted to our care.
Forgive us when we fail to listen.
Forgive us for when we hear
But find the challenge too much for us.
Give us the resolve to act differently,
The wisdom to be faithful stewards of your creation,
The courage to work for change, and the contentment
To be satisfied only with what this earth can afford to give.
So may we be part of your new creation In every aspect of our living and being

ORDINARY HEROES PRAYERS

Through Christ our Lord,
Amen
Written by Rev Phil Jump

A prayer for leaders and politicians

Leader: God, we pray for you to raise up a generation of leaders with the courage to take responsibility for our changing climate, and the part we have played in it. We intercede for our politicians and leaders – cause them to act in the best interests of all nations today, and all peoples’ in the future, in order to avoid catastrophic changes. We ask for a generation of leaders who will be willing to act justly so that those who have contributed so little to the problems we are facing, and have fewer resources with which to face them, are not left to shoulder our burden. We ask for you to fill the hearts of all who lead rich nations – give them your mercy and compassion on poor countries already suffering the effects of a changing climate. Just as they have been moved to cancel debt in the past, encourage them also to release funds so that poor communities can adapt to the effects of climate change, and develop cleanly.

All: **God, in your mercy, lead our leaders to truth, and transformation.**

Pilgrim prayer

Dear Lord,
You called your disciples to follow in your way:
You are the Way, The Truth and the Life
And so we come,
Seeking to follow in your footsteps.
Creator of the earth,
As we journey
Help us to walk lightly,
Treasuring the world You have given us
And cherishing each other.
And grant, we pray
That our walk
May be part of your plan
To care for creation
Seeking climate justice
And the coming of your Kingdom
On earth as it is in heaven.

A whole range of other [pilgrimage prayers](#) can be found on the Pray and Fast for the Climate website, as well as other [resources](#) to equip and inspire. If you’d like to join others in praying for the climate once a month please do join the Pray and Fast mailing list on their website.

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CREATIVE PRAYER AND CHILDREN'S RESOURCES

- For an [interactive children's session](#), see our *Ordinary Heroes* resource for kids with accompanying [PowerPoint](#) and [printout](#).
- Why not try using poetry in your prayer? Here's one called the [A to Z of Creation](#), courtesy of A Rocha, or you might like to try writing your own!
- For some great creation-themed inspiration for engaging kids, see A Rocha's [children's activities resource](#), which is full of creative ideas. See their [At Your Service](#) website for lots more options for church services.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

- You can find a Bible study around sustainability on our [website](#).
- A Rocha's [small group materials](#) have studies on creation care issues.

STUDY AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

- If you'd like to engage at a deeper level with environmental and sustainability issues please visit our website for [further reading](#) materials.
- Pray and Fast for the Climate have a [section](#) dedicated to prayer and study.