



## **COP28 prayer walk**

### **Praying with our feet, our words and our hands**

This prayer resource is a collaboration between CAFOD, Christian Aid and Tearfund, and is designed to help us pray together for COP28 (30 November to 12 December 2023). People across the world will be gathering to march and pray on [9 December](#). You could prayer-walk with others as part of a march, or walk around your own community alone. You could even join us in praying from your living room.

**Together, we put our faith into action for climate justice. We pray with our feet, one foot in front of the other. We pray with words on our lips. We pray with our hands, holding placards high. We believe in the power of prayer and our calling as the church to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly before our God.**

Today, we bear witness to climate injustice as we walk through London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast and many other towns and places. Today, we walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world. Today, we say, your kingdom come, Lord, your will be done, and we say 'Amen' to climate justice.

As we pray today, we may pass key locations where we invite you to pray for specific things relating to climate justice. Pray in the way you find most comfortable. At each step, we've given you a bit of information to set the scene, but if you prefer, just jump straight to the *prayers*.

### **Starting your prayer journey**

As we walk together today, we will journey towards the hope we find in God. But we must also reflect on the context of injustice and poverty we find ourselves in. So brace yourself for a heavy start: we will get to *hope* in time.

We're living in a time when inequality and environmental breakdown are accelerating. Without an urgent change of direction, we will see these trends continue and the climate crisis push millions of people deeper into poverty.

Love does no harm to a neighbour (Romans 13:10). And yet the historical systems and current structures we live in today continue to cause so much harm, increasing hunger, poverty and inequality, and driving the environmental crisis.

### **Praying for polluters**

Pray as you pass anything that reminds you of the damage we are doing to the climate. Lament the ways in which we have destroyed and damaged our world instead of protecting it, and the impact that is having on some of the world's poorest people.

In London, the march will pass the headquarters of BP, a company which announced profits of £4.7 billion for the first three months of the year. And the march will end at Shell Tower: in the first quarter of this year, Shell turned a £9 billion profit. Meanwhile, people around the world are paying for the climate crisis in lost homes, lost livelihoods, lost lives. It's time to make polluters pay instead.

### **Lament this exploitation and pray:**

*We lament that this year climate breakdown has destroyed lives around the world. Communities suffer floods, fires and drought. 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, and we bear witness to private creditors who push vulnerable communities into deeper poverty. We bow our heads.*

### **Prayer points:**

- Pray that COP28 will deliver an agreement to phase out all fossil fuels and shift to clean energy for all.
- Ask God that the voices of communities worst affected by the climate emergency will be heard above the influence and lobbying of fossil fuel companies.
- Pray that we will see action to make the biggest polluters change their practices and bear the costs of the climate crisis which they have caused.

### **No more fossil fuels. Amen!**

#### **Praying for communities around the world**

Around the globe, communities are being driven into deeper poverty by the climate crisis. Those who have done least to cause the problem, and have the least resources to deal with its impacts, are bearing the brunt of the 'loss and damage' of climate change. As you walk around your own neighbourhood and community spaces, pray for our global neighbours.

*Almighty God,*

*As floods, droughts and wildfires wreck lives, homes and livelihoods, our hearts break as we recognise the injustice at the heart of the climate crisis: it's the communities who have done the least to cause it who are most affected.*

*We pray that as these communities act to recover from climate disasters, and look to adapt to the changing conditions, you will provide protection for them as you did for Noah and his family.*

*We pray that polluting corporations and nations will listen to the calls of affected communities and change their ways, so all your people may live a full life in peace, love, and prosperity.*

*Amen*

### **Prayer points:**

- Please pray for communities in the global south who are most affected by the climate crisis, yet who are often silenced or excluded by richer countries when climate policy is decided.
- Pray for all those affected by the loss of productive farmland and damage to crops and livestock, which means they have less food, lower incomes, fewer opportunities.
- Pray for the growing number of people denied access to safe, clean drinking water due to drought, pollution and salinisation

### **Praying for climate finance**

As you walk, you may pass banks, cash points and, if you're in London, the Treasury. Use these everyday markers of money to pray about the financial costs of the climate crisis and the need for climate finance. At COP28, money for loss and damage, adaptation and mitigation for climate-vulnerable countries will be on the agenda. Pray that rich, developed nations will take responsibility and provide the funds needed to help climate-vulnerable nations respond to the impacts of the climate crisis.

*God who is Just*

*We pray for our world where there is loss and there is damage.*

*We pray you would cause those who have benefited from the climate crisis to pay for the damage they have done.*

*We pray for wisdom in the creation of financial systems and for just flows of finance to those that need it.*

*May your scales of justice tip in favour of those living in poverty.*

*Amen*

### **Prayer points:**

- Please pray that the international community will agree and uphold just mechanisms for collecting and distributing 'loss and damage' finance.
- Pray that rich countries commit to and pay their fair share of climate finance.
- Pray that climate-vulnerable countries get the resources they need to address the loss and damage of the climate crisis, and the support they need to adapt to and mitigate future shocks.

### **Praying for our churches**

As you are walking, you will no doubt pass church buildings. For tourists, these may be just photo ops and historic landmarks. But look now with the eyes of faith: these buildings represent communities of faith, centres of transformation, the body of Christ called to bring restoration and life to those around them.

**Give thanks** for the actions churches are taking, both in the UK and around the world. We can be hopeful because of initiatives such as Eco Churches, declaring climate emergencies and reducing their own carbon emissions, and about churches globally speaking up, responding to climate disasters in their communities and helping those in poverty adapt.

**Pray for church communities you know, that they would be engaged and motivated to pray and act for climate action.**

*Loving God,*

*We pray for the global church, your body here on earth. That she would be salt and light in every community. And that she would be a prophetic voice, both locally and globally, on climate change.*

*We pray for your people who are at COP28 right now. Give them the words to say and the love to say it with, that they may indeed be salt and light.*

*Amen*

### **Praying for creation**

Even in the most built-up cities, there are green spaces and reminders that this earth is full of wild biodiversity. But climate change is threatening this. Let's pray for the protection, repair and restoration of the diverse habitats which enable all of creation to thrive.

### **A prayer for our earth**

*This prayer by Pope Francis appeared at the end of his 2015 encyclical, Laudato Si'. It is for all who believe in God who is the all-powerful Creator.*

*All powerful God,*

*you are present in the universe*

*and in the smallest of your creatures.*

*You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.*

*Pour out upon us the power of your love,*

*that we may protect life and beauty.*

*Fill us with your peace, that we may live*

*as brothers and sisters, harming no one.*

*O God of the poor,*

*help us to rescue the abandoned*

*and forgotten of this earth,*

*so precious in your eyes.*

*Bring healing to our lives,*

*that we may protect the world and not prey on it,*

*that we may sow beauty,*

*not pollution and destruction.*

*Touch the hearts*

*of those who look only for gain*

*at the expense of the poor and the earth.*

*Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,*

*to be filled with awe and contemplation,*

*to recognise that we are profoundly united*

*with every creature*

*as we journey towards your infinite light.*

*We thank you for being with us each day.*

*Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle,*

*for justice, love and peace.*

## **World and UK leaders**

To see the change we need, we have to see world leaders taking ambitious climate action and decisions. As our prayer walks come to an end, or as we pass Parliament, town halls or political statues, let's pray for our leaders. We pray for all those leaders at COP28 but we also look beyond COP28 to the UK general election in 2024. We remember our power as citizens to urge our sitting and prospective candidates to take bold climate action, and action on domestic and global poverty. And we praise almighty God, creator of all things, that it is his restoration plan for the earth that we are pursuing and our hope is secure in him.

*Jesus Christ, you are the King of Kings, and in your name all things are possible.*

*We pray for our earthly leaders. May they model your leadership of mercy, justice, and love.*

*May their hearts break like yours when they see the destruction and pain greed has caused to planet and people.*

*May they work together to seek solutions which benefit all of creation.*

*Amen*

**Thank you for joining us to pray!**

