

Forest Prayers

Call to Prayer

Praise God, all you people of the earth.

Blessed be God forever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

Blessed be God forever.

As high as the tree soaring above the forest

As beautiful as the river flowing through many lands

As rich as the eco-systems of an abundant earth

As close as the smallest creature on the ground

So good is the God of all creation

Blessed be God forever.

Courtesy of Christian Aid

A poem and prayer of Confession for the Brazil Nut Tree

You reach for the sun yet
though all competition is gone.
Water still drips from your tips
though no thirsty vegetation waits below.
Your leaves still shed in deciduous season
though not enough for your own sustenance.
Your future lost to coffee tables and book cases.

For a while longer you will stand, still,
for orchid, bee and rodent to
perform their reproductive miracle.
For a while longer you will breathe life
And the fruit of your branches generously
provide
for those who know and live by nature's
rhythms

But in time they will come and find no nuts
There will be no harvest to gather
With sadness they will search but know
That the land has been stripped of all you need,
the fragile cycle of nature broken.
The community of the forest is as we are
It cannot exist without all the parts.

So help us, God.
Your good creation pillaged
Your life giving land depleted
Your abundant ecosystems disturbed
Light has broken in where for once it is not
wanted
Dark green growth can no longer
Give life to lush extravagant layers

Have mercy on us, God.
Grant us the wisdom
To be still enough to notice
that the cycles of life
intertwining us all
have a fragile strength
and we are all diminished in their breaking.

Courtesy of Christian Aid

A selection of prayers

Prayer 1

'For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.' Matthew 6:21

Liberating God,
standing on a mountainside,
you spoke words of challenge and freedom.

With the attention of the gathered then
we listen to you now
beckoning us to recognise real treasure.
To untangle our hearts from the slavery of
desire
from having more, yet never enough.

Help us to value the things of Earth
with the perspective of heaven.
To stand with you on the mountainside
and see the wealth of creation
the worth of all people
and to invest in a flourishing future
to the glory of God,

Amen.

Courtesy of Christian Aid

Prayer 2

You spoke into the silence
Light suffusing darkness.
You spoke into the silence
Blowing clean life giving air into the space
You spoke into the silence
Warmth and cold infusing the air
You spoke into the silence
Solid ground formed out of gushing water.
You spoke voice carrying over the sound
People, plants and animals came to life.
You spoke each creation balanced against the next so life would
be abundant and sustainable. You saw everything you had
made and declared it to be very good.
You spoke choosing to give us humans stewardship over all that
You had made.
We speak and act
Darkness of pollution limits light levels and damages the air we
breathe.
We speak and act
Ground poisoned, burnt, stripped bare.
We speak and act
Spoiling, limiting, destroying quality of life and life itself.
We speak and act
Without hearing Your call over the noise of the world to be good
stewards.
You speak . You create. You want us to be stewards of Your
creation.
We come to You to re-learn how to care for the earth and
people you have made.

Katrina Rowland Apr 2017 , Courtesy of Christian Aid

Prayer 3

God of all creation,
as the seas rise and the air changes,
when the storms rage and the crops die,
do you still call it good?

Jesus our Saviour,
as the birds of air change their flight,
and the lilies of the field are coated with dust,
do you still tell us not to be anxious?

Holy Spirit, source of life,
as we see what we have done,
and hear the cries of the hungry,
give us a vision of a hopeful future,
for an earth renewed and restored,
good for everyone.
Amen.

Courtesy of Christian Aid

A prayer based on the Great Commandment

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength...and you shall love your neighbour as yourself."
(Mark 12, 29-30)

God who loves us so much,
we know that we need each other.
Let us find you in each other,
let us find each other in you.

God, present in every movement of creation,
let us be responsible sharers of your garden of life.
And as the sky in all its mystery and glory
points out into the cosmos,
so may our lives display the mystery and glory of love,
your will for life on earth.

Open our hearts to those who need our solidarity.
We pray for people facing failed harvests and dry river beds,
for people facing unpredictable and extreme weather,
for people throughout the world who struggle to make a
living in difficult circumstances.
Let your will for justice and equity be done,
That our love for our neighbour,
Even those far from us,
may make known our love for you.
In the name of Christ.
Amen

Courtesy of Christian Aid

Intercessions

God, Creator of all,
made known to us in Jesus,
among us by your Spirit,
we bring to you our concerns for the earth, its
life and its people.

We give thanks for those who are willing to take
on the responsibilities of government among
the nations
and we pray for them;
(particularly we pray for)
may they always make their decisions with
regard for the future of the earth
and the needs and rights of those who are poor;
give them the humility to work together
and the wisdom to make the best decisions in
the face of complex problems.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the work of international
bodies and non-government organisations
working to combat climate change and bring
peace and relief amidst violence and turmoil;
(particularly we pray for)
give them the insight, strength, determination
and courage they need.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all that we enjoy as a result
of industry and trade,
and we pray for all who have power through the
management of industry and commerce,
and in the movement of money or the
organisation of labour;
(particularly we pray for)
may they respond to the needs
of those who have little power,
of future generations
and of all life on the earth.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the numerous signs of your
kingdom
in the life, joys and struggles of the world,
and we pray for all who suffer poverty, injustice
or violence;
(particularly we pray for)
may they know your presence with them
in their fears, their pain and their grief;
may they be aware of the compassion of others
and that they are not alone in their cries and
prayers for justice;
and may they receive the justice that is your will
for them.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all that we enjoy in life,
our communities and friendships, freedoms and
wealth,
(and today we particularly give thanks for
.....);
give us a continual sense of wonder amidst your
creation,
compassion to respond to the needs of others,
courage to take what action we can for justice
in your world,
and wisdom to choose ways of living which are
good for the climate,
the needs of future generations
and the health of the earth.
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the fellowship of the Church,
for its worship and its teaching,
for all who support us now in our discipleship of
Christ
and for all who have been an inspiration or
companions in the past;
by your Spirit give your Church humility to hear
your word,
courage to work for your justice,
grace to share your peace with the earth,
and the faith to live and proclaim the gospel.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
and pray as he taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are
yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Courtesy of Christian Aid

Prayer of Intercession for Creation

Shining, light-bringing sun, you tell us about God. Let us conserve your energy carefully, limiting ourselves where we are rich that we may not all choke and burn and die.

Glowing, birth-announcing moon, you tell us about God. Let us honour your wisdom reverently, respecting the ebb and flow of the tides, and the rhythms of the seasons

Surging, hearth-warming fire, you tell us about God. Let us direct your power creatively, putting people before profit and preserving livelihoods and land.

Rippling, thirst-quenching water, you tell us about God. Let us use your refreshment sparingly, protecting its sources and restoring purity to rivers and lakes

Blossoming, breath-bearing tree, you tell us about God. Let us love your beauty joyously, sustaining its fruitfulness and greening the air

Toiling, load-lifting tool, you tell us about God. Let us use your capacity responsibly, tilling and building peaceably, gently tending soil and city alike

Life-giving, nurturing earth, you tell us about God. Let us share your bounty equitably,

cherishing your diversity of species and eco-systems and stewarding your precious gifts of land and sea.

Courtesy of Christian Aid