

Climate Justice Prayer Activities

For children, young people, and their families



This photo was taken in Westminster Square, outside Parliament at the launch of the Prayer Chain. Christian Aid staff gathered with supporters and clergy to pray for Climate Justice.

Quick note

Climate change is a big issue for children and young people. Some children and young people (and anyone else for that matter) may be experiencing anxiety about the climate – and open, honest prayer may be a good way to explore and articulate that anxiety.

Prayer is transformative, it can help us to grow and change, and help us to join with God's transformative action in the world. These prayer activities have been written with that in mind. These prayers are also written to be shared between children and adults.

Prayer for Climate Justice

"Creator God,

You have created us, and the world, because you are love.

The world is hurting through climate change.

It hurts us and our global neighbours, but it is hurting the poorest people in our world the most.

God, change our world, our communities, and us with your love.

We want to journey with you, to create a better future for everyone.

God, to love you is the same as loving your world. To love you is the same as loving our global neighbours.

Help us to love others, and all of creation, so your world can be what you want it to be. Amen."

You may want to use the above prayer at the beginning of your prayer time. Prayer isn't only about the quiet. It's not only about the conversation with God. Prayer is also about conversation together – as part of your time, have a conversation as a family/group about climate justice. What do you and your children/grandchildren feel about it? Is it having the same impact around the world? How is it affecting people in different places?

As well as having a conversation here are a few follow-up ideas that can also help to explore climate justice through prayer.

Crafty prayers

Doing craft can be a great way of praying. Art can help us to share how we feel beyond the limitations of words. One thing you could do is create a picture of hope. You could do this by making some drawings with

colouring pencils and paper, or you could make a collage out of things that would otherwise be thrown away. (We would love to see your artworks and put them on our website. If you would like to submit your Climate Justice crafts then send them to campaigns@christian-aid.org

(If you made something and you want to use it to influence others, have a look at our Craftivism guide. As a family, you could make something and give it to your local MP alongside a request for them to take action to tackle climate change).

Prayer Walk

Climate Change is a big issue in all of our lives. God has created an amazing and wonderful world and has asked us to look after it. Over a very long time, people haven't looked after the world as well as they should have. For this prayer activity, instead of giving you words to pray, we invite you to take a walk together and go to a local park or somewhere you can connect with God's creation.

We have provided some suggestions and questions to consider as you walk together as a family.

Prayers of Joy

As you go on your walk, look out for things in the world that you think are amazing. It could be a flower, a beautiful tree, a leaf, or the way the sun lights up a space – anything about creation that you want to give thanks for. Look for God in the world around you – what do you see?

You may want to take a photo or draw a picture of what gave you Joy. Consider a way that you could put your drawing/photo somewhere to remind you of the goodness of God's creation.

Prayers of Lament (sadness/mourning)

We may feel anxious and sad about things going on in the world and it's good to share those with God through prayer. God is interested in the whole of who we are, our happiness and joy as well as our sadness and anger.

On your walk you may also see things that are causing harm to the world.

These may be things we would like to change, or it may be things that remind you of bigger problems. As you walk and see those things, pray for healing in God's world.

Prayers of Hope

Hope is very important. Our hope for a better world is what drives us to act. Recognising the world isn't perfect, but making the choice to go on a journey with God to make the world a better place, through how we live our lives and how we use our voice to call for action from people with power.

On your walk, make sure to look for things that give you hope: small spots of natural beauty, communities coming together – the sky is the limit! As you find things that give you hope, pray thanks to God for them. God is a God of promises, have a conversation about what a better world would look like. What do we hope the future holds?

Climate justice

As you go on your walk, think about the weather. Climate change is causing extreme weather changes around the world. If it is raining, you may want to consider people around the world who are dealing with flooding that destroys their homes and their sources of food. If it is sunny, you may want to consider people who live in areas of drought, where a lack of water means there is no drinking water or means to grow food.

Climate change is affecting many people right now, and at Christian Aid, we believe that it's very, very important that as we try to stop climate change. We also need to make sure that people who have been impacted already are not forgotten.

Pray together for people who are already struggling to survive because of climate change. As you pray, talk to each other about the ways in which you can use your voice as families, or in your workplaces and schools, to make sure that no one gets left behind. You could join a Christian Aid campaign, or you can think of other ways to get involved. But it's really important that we all, together with God, do what we can.



Keeping on the journey

As you bring your time of prayer to a close, reflect on how you as a family - and your wider community - can live out God's love, peace and justice. There are many ways you might want to explore together, taking further action through continued prayer, talking to others, writing to your local MP and making sure your church is taking action and learning together.

This is about more than stopping climate change; this is about making sure that no-one is left behind while we tackle climate change. It is about listening to, and learning from, those who have been experiencing the impacts of climate change for a long time.

Christian Aid is continuing to campaign on climate justice. If you want to find out more, visit: www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns.

