

Intercessions 6 September 2020 -

Climate Sunday

by Andrew Goodman

Creationtide 1/6: Stewardship - whose world is it anyway?

Readings: Psalm 8 and Matthew 25. 14-30

Lord, thank you for all the resources available to help us mark Climate Sunday today and reflect on the creationtide season between now and October's Harvest Festival, some of which we will use this morning.

Creator God, what a complex tapestry your creative fingers have woven; we delight at the daily reminders of your creative power.

This tapestry is closely interwoven, fragile, changing; changing too fast. Scientists confirm what our hearts already know – and we are fearful.

We are fearful of seasons that have lost their pattern; of all the uncertainties that climate change is bringing.

Politicians bend and bow to meet national priorities while greenhouse gases build, oceans acidify and air streams shift.

Forgive us for our lack of response; for seeing the scale of this crisis as reason not to engage.

Grant that through our prayers your Holy Spirit may give wisdom, inspiration and resolve to our politicians, leaders and negotiators, enabling them to make the tough decisions necessary for all people to live, to hope and to shape a greener world.

(Pray and Fast for the Climate)

This week, an early day motion was tabled in the UK Parliament which expressed "*profound alarm at the climate and ecological emergency*" and welcomed the presentation of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill which seeks to ensure that the UK plays its fair and proper role in limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C.

(Lord) 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 it, 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.

Creator God, you have called us to be keepers of your Earth; through greed, we have established an economy that destroys the web of life. We have changed our climate and drown in despair. Let oceans of justice flow. May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Earth. We pray for our leaders, custodians of (the) Earth as they gather in (Glasgow in November next year) at the (UN Climate Change Conference

COP26). May they negotiate with wisdom and fairness, may they act with compassion and courage, and lead us in the path of justice for the sake of our children and our children's children.

(The Sanctuary Centre/ Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Lord, the past 6 months have been a challenge for us. We may have changed, but we thank you that "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.*" (*Hebrews 13:8*) We were surrounded by suffering, pain and death yesterday, and are today, and will be in the future, but just at this time the level of oppression feels heavier and overwhelming.

Strengthen our church leaders and workers with wisdom. Help us discern how to safely be your church over the next few months and fulfil the mission you have given us.

Strengthen school, college and university leaders and staff as students return for the new academic year. Keep them all safe, restore the joy of learning and increase the awareness of your world of wonders.

Strengthen and keep safe those who are working within NHS services and Care Homes to care for Covid-19 patients and those recovering from the virus. We remember and give thanks, too, for ongoing, non-Covid-19 services. Sustain them as they care for people with cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and a myriad of other conditions. Sustain maternity and paediatric services helping to bring new life into the world and care for the little ones that Jesus taught us are as important and loved as any adult.

Restore the joy of your salvation and sustain those we know who are unwell, including:

Barbara, Susan, Win, Connie, Bernard, Jean, Debbie, Mark, Chrissy, Dorothy, Joe, Andy, Chris, Tim, Paul, Julia, Colin.

Comfort those who mourn the death of a relative or friend. We remember those who have died:

Norman, Ellen Cook, Geoff Mutch

We remember the anniversary of:

Mary Howe

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Using Eugene Petersen's paraphrase of the apostle Paul's advice to the Ephesian church:

May we be prepared. We're up against far more than we can handle on our own. May we take all the help we can get, every weapon God has issued, so that we can remain on our feet. May we learn how to apply truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation which are more than words. We need them throughout our life. God's word is an indispensable weapon, and prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Help us to pray hard and long, especially for each other. Help us to keep our eyes open and to encourage one another. (Based on Ephesians 6:13-18; from The Message)

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