

A reflection on our planet

'The whole of creation is on tiptoe of expectation to see the wonderful sight of the children of God coming into their own. The hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God.'

Romans 8. 19-21 JB Philips translation

Creation and all of us are called to worship the Creator, working together for a future of active hope and action. Only when we work together with Creation can the first fruits of hope be born. St Paul reminds us that both Creation and Humanity are conceived from the beginning in Christ and therefore are entrusted to each other.

There's a phrase commonly attributed to St Augustine that says, 'Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are and courage to see that they do not remain as they are.' As we witness the cries and sufferings of Earth and all its creatures, let holy anger move us towards the courage to be hopeful and active for justice. We believe that the incarnation of God's Son offers guidance enabling us face a troubling world. God is with us in our efforts to respond to the challenges of the world we live in.

From the introduction to 'The Season of Creation', 2024

Prayer God of hope,
renew us with a vision of Earth
free from loss and decay,
rejoicing again in the harmony and peace
for which you loved it into being
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

October

Daily prayer for the month

God of all Creation,
may we notice the rhythm of life around us.
As wildlife bustles before winter,
help us acknowledge our coexistence with them
and find our own way to prepare
and conserve the bounty of this earth.
As fruits have ripened and seeds now fall around us,
show us the possibilities they contain,
the hope of fresh life. Amen.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 As truth is so distorted especially through the internet, pray for the evolution of understanding, and of a good way to use it.

Week 2 Bitterness and despair go hand in hand. Pray that the different generations may grow in understanding and forgiveness of each other.

Week 3 Local councils and individuals can do their part in slowing down climate change by recycling. Pray that money problems don't stop this movement.

Week 4 Practically, what do we need to achieve climate justice? Pray first for yet more and better ways to produce clean energy, and in all these things the worldwide willingness to use them.

Dates in October

4 – No disposable cup day
11 – International Day of the Girl Child
14-20 Recycle Week
16 - World Food Day

November

Daily prayer for the month

God of all things, of the storm and the darkness,
as seasons turn and the last of the leaves cling on,
give us faith in your presence.
As the dying back of trees reveals landscape's solid structure, may we be aware of your permanence and steadfastness.
As rivers flow stronger with the days of rain, thrill us with the potential of life-giving energy. Amen.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 Pray for low energy and low waste technologies, especially for steel, concrete, transport and mining, that protect our environment.

Week 2 Pray for low impact food production that works with the planet and environment, changing things for good; also for the willingness to accept changes in diet & food produced by new methods.

Week 3 Pray for COP 29 in Azerbaijan meeting now. What does humanity most need? Leadership? Truth? Intelligence? Communication? Humility? Courage? Respect? Strength? Hope? Choose – and pray.

Week 4 The world desperately need PEACE, not war; cooperation, not coercion; ears to hear one another, rather than hard hearts of stone and fear. Courage to compromise. Courage to listen. Pray for good outcomes from COP 29.

Dates in November

11-22 COP-29 World Climate Conference, Baku
23 – 1 December – National Tree Week
24 – Buy Nothing Day

December

Daily prayer for the month

God of all comfort,
as soft ground becomes hard and the chill bites,
may we notice how nature hunkers down
and huddles for warmth.

Just as starlings swirl in huge murmurations
before roosting together,
and wagtails fluff up next to each other
like baubles on a Christmas tree,
so may we seek and value life-giving
and sustaining community. Amen.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 As we build up towards Christmas, pray for a little JOY (or maybe a lot!) in every human heart - the touch of our loving God. Pray too for those in low lying coastal areas and fishing communities, whose environments and ways of life are being destroyed.

Week 2 The people most affected by change of environment - and now "global boiling" - are always the poor and the powerless. Pray especially for the poor in hot countries.

Week 3 Pray for indigenous groups, such as those in the Amazon or the arctic, whose environments and ways of life are being destroyed.

Week 4 As we contemplate our Saviour born in outcast poverty for us, we truly give thanks for Him, and for all our blessings. Perhaps we can pray for all who are not blessed as we.

Dates in December

5 – World Soil Day

11 – Protect Mountains Day

18 – International Migrants Day

The Southwell Minster Creation Prayer

Gracious God, source of all life,
we praise you for the wonder and diversity
of the natural world, and we thank you
for the genius of the craftsmen who carved
the Chapter House leaves that speak to us still.
Open our hearts and minds to your guiding Spirit
that we may discern together
how best to cherish this good earth
and safeguard its resources.

As we listen to the leaves,
show us how to share in Creation's song
and rediscover our harmony in you,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



Southwell Minster in partnership with A Rocha UK

Action Points

- *When buying Christmas presents, check they are ethically sourced*
- *Wear more clothes indoors, and turn down the heating by one or two degrees*
- *Eat and drink smaller portions of dairy products*
- *Consider buying Eco charity gifts, e.g. from Tree Aid, CAFOD, or ethicalsuperstore.com*



**Prayers for the
Integrity of Creation
October - December 2024**