

CLIMATE CRISIS - WHAT CAN I DO?

Song **All Creatures of our God and King** (© German /Arr. R.V. Williams)

All sing: All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him, Alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him, O praise Him
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heaven along
O praise Him, Alleluia
Thou rising moon in praise rejoice
Ye lights of evening find a voice
O praise Him, O praise Him
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Dear mother earth, who day by day,
Unfoldest blessings on our way.
O praise Him, Alleluia
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow
Let them his glory also show.
O praise Him, O praise Him
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



Introduction

We are here to reflect on the question ‘What can I do?’ in the face of climate change, destruction of the earth’s resources, the decrease in many species and other environmental issues of our time. Some people yawn when they hear this kind of talk – they are over it – old news – fake news.

We are inspired by *Laudato Si* – On Care for our Common Home – written by Pope Francis, which highlights the ways in which the blessed gift of nature is being exploited deliberately or destroyed by carelessness or ignorance. As co-creators of the planet which we share with all other species. We have the opportunity now to say sorry for what we have done or failed to do.

We gather with hope because we are not helpless in the face of these issues. Many of us are already conscious and active in doing our bit for the environment. Let us support each other by praying for God’s help, by recognising the beauty of the earth and by opening up to ideas for restoring it that way.

Prayer for the Earth

All say:

Let us pray,

All powerful God,

You are present in the whole 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 peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters,
harming no one. **Amen.**

Song

For The Beauty of the Earth (John Rutter)

Reflection

(Laudato Si, 8)

Patriarch Bartholomew of the Greek Orthodox Church, has spoken in particular of the need for each of us to repent of the ways we have harmed the planet, for “inasmuch as we all generate small ecological damage”, we are called to acknowledge “our contribution, smaller or greater, to the disfigurement and destruction of creation”. For “to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God”.

Instrumental

Lament (Traditional)

Litany of Repentance

Human beings have sinned against creation. Let us ask for forgiveness.

Human beings have helped to destroy the biological diversity of God’s creation.

All sing: Kyrie eleison (Plainchant)

Human beings have degraded the integrity of the earth by causing change in its climate.

All sing: A Thiarna, déan trócaire (Seán Ó Riada)

Human beings have stripped the earth of its natural forests or destroyed its wetlands.

All sing: Kyrie eleison (Taizé)

Human beings have contaminated the earth’s waters, its land, its air and its life.

Kyrie eleison (William Byrd)

I’m
Sorry!

Prayer

In Union with Creation (Pope Francis – Laudato Si)

Let us pray,

All say:

God we praise you with all your creatures.

They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!

Pause

Son of God, Jesus, you were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you!

Pause

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards God's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you!

Pause

Song

In You Creation finds its Joy (© Ronan McDonagh)

All sing:

In you creation finds its joy, you have clothed it in your beauty, alleluia

Reflection

Thanksgiving (© Rev. Peter Lippett)

We thank you, creator God,
for the goodly heritage you offer us,
from green downland
to the deep salt seas,
and for the abundant world
we share with your creation.
Keep us so mindful of its needs
and those of all with whom we share,
that open to your Spirit
we may discern and practice
all that makes for its wellbeing,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song

What a Wonderful World (©Weiss/Thiele)



Reflection **Saint Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)**

Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever Francis of Assisi would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them “to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason”. (L.S.11)

Song **Brother Sun, Sister Moon (© Donovan Leitch)**

Reflection **Hildegarde of Bingen (1098 -1169)**

Glance at the sun. See the moon and the stars.
Gaze at the beauty of earth’s greenings.
Now, think.
What delight God gives to humankind
with all these things.
All nature is at the disposal of humankind.
We are to work with it.
For without it we cannot survive.

Song **Faithful is the Lord (© Liam Lawton)**

All sing: Faithful is the Lord, our King, let us all in glory sing.
Ever praise in song and word: Holy, holy, holy Lord.

Reflection **(Pope Francis)**

‘Let us mention, for example, those richly biodiverse lungs of our planet which are the Amazon and the Congo basins. We know how important these are for the entire earth and for the future of humanity. The ecosystems of tropical forests possess an enormously complex biodiversity which is almost impossible to appreciate fully, yet when these forests are burned down or levelled for purposes of cultivation, within the space of a few years, countless species are lost and the areas frequently become arid wastelands. (L.S. 38)

Song **Listen to the Rain {© Stephen Lawrence)**

What Can I Do? (See extra page)

Song **The Peace of the Earth (©Guatemalan John Bell Arr.)**



Closing Prayer

All say:

Let us pray

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize 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. Amen.

Song

All sing:

Sing for the Climate (© Nic Balthazar)

We need to wake up (Need to wake up)
We need to wise up (We need to wise up)
We need to open our eyes
And do it now, now, now

We need to build (We'll build)
A better future (A better future now)
And we need to start right now (To start right now)
We need to build (We'll build)
A better future (A better future now)
And we need to start right now

We're on a planet (On a planet)
That has a problem (That has a problem)
We've got to solve it, get involved
And do it now, now, now

We need to build ...

We'll make it greener (Make it greener)
We'll make it cleaner (We'll make it cleaner)
We'll make it last, make it fast
And do it now, now, now



What Can I Do?

Here are some simple ways we can help renew our climate:

Eat more meat-free meals

Buy organic and local whenever possible.

Don't waste food.

Grow your own.

Change to energy-efficient light bulbs

Unplug computers, TVs and other electronics when you're not using them

Wash clothes in cold or warm water (not hot)

Hang-dry your clothes when you can

Install a thermostat

Start a climate conversation

Use compostable bags for your fruit and groceries

Pick up trash - especially plastics - whenever you see it, especially in ponds, streams, rivers, beaches, when possible

Participate in organized clean-up activities

Do not wash off lint from your dryer down the drain. Dispose of it in the bin.

Print as little as necessary

Recycle

Use a reusable container for drinks

Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.

Don't turn the shower on until you are getting in

Use Reusable bags

Limit water usage as you wash dishes

Carpool when possible

Plan your week shop in advance to reduce throwing waste out (don't shop when you're hungry)



One big bag of rice uses less plastic than five smaller ones, so consider purchasing **bulk quantities** of foods that last a long time (think pasta, cereal, and nuts). Just be sure to store them properly so they don't go bad before you can use them.

Using a new disposable aluminum tin every time you make a cake is hardly the way to reduce food packaging waste. Instead, **consider investing** in some metal and ceramic baking pans that you can re-use.

If you're ordering take away at home, there's **no need to use plastic** forks and knives. One of the easiest ways to be more eco-friendly is simply to ask the restaurant not to include napkins, utensils, or condiments with your order.