

# Calling Out in Prayers for the Planet



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

**10.00 am Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> to  
10.00 am Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church**



You are welcome here.

Please feel free to stay quietly, to sit, to pray, to contemplate.

# Calling Out in Prayers for the Planet

The planet is facing two emergencies threatening life as we know it for both humankind and all living things. The **Climate emergency** threatens the world with temperature rises by the end of the century that would devastate the way we live rendering many parts of the world uninhabitable. The associated **Biodiversity emergency** threatens the continued survival of many species of plants and animals and the destruction of the habitats in which they live. Because of how we use nature, this would also severely impact on humankind's future.

In light of these two emergencies, the United Nations is holding a major conference on Climate Change in Glasgow 31<sup>st</sup> October – 12<sup>th</sup> November hosted by the UK Government. This is widely known as COP26 (the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties). Its goals are laid out on the next page.

Christians, and members of other faiths around the world, view this as a crucial opportunity for humankind to pull back from the continued despoiling of God's creation. As in Romans 8 we see "creation groaning in labour pains", we pray that "the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay".

In this Prayer Vigil we variously invite you to contemplate God as Creator; to lament for the despoiling of that creation by human actions; to request forgiveness for our own culpability; to pray for all who will be present at COP26 (national leaders, delegates, lobbyists); to intercede for those who are already experiencing the direct impacts of climate change, especially in the global south; to recall the St Andrews of the past and what we may pass on to our children; to rejoice that are called to participate in God's creation now and have an opportunity for better stewardship.

You are invited to engage in prayer stations around the church (numbered sequentially to suggest a journey/pilgrimage). These incorporate themes and challenges reflecting the climate emergency and include activities suitable for all ages. Some stations will offer interactive engagement; others will provide quiet space for contemplation. One of the prayer stations is a soundscape – Sibelius and the Sparrows – which will be played quietly each 30 minutes. Optional prayers for some of the prayer stations are provided separately.

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We have provided this booklet to guide you through the stations and for your own reflection and pilgrimage. Please retain as you leave.

## Goals for COP26

### 1. Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach

Countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century.

To deliver on these stretching targets, countries will need to:

- accelerate the phase-out of coal
- curtail deforestation
- speed up the switch to electric vehicles
- encourage investment in renewables.

### 2. Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats

The climate is already changing and it will continue to change even as we reduce emissions, with devastating effects.

At COP26 we need to work together to enable and encourage countries affected by climate change to:

- protect and restore ecosystems
- build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives.

### 3. Mobilise finance

To deliver on our first two goals, developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year by 2020.

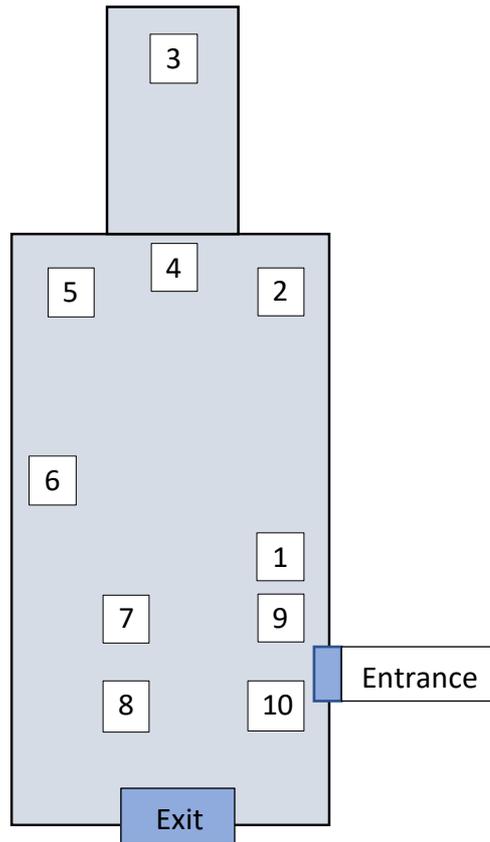
International financial institutions must play their part and we need work towards unleashing the trillions in private and public sector finance required to secure global net zero.

### 4. Work together to deliver

We can only rise to the challenges of the climate crisis by working together.

At COP26 we must:

- finalise the Paris Rulebook (the detailed rules that make the Paris Agreement operational)
- accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society.



Location of prayer stations

### Acknowledgments

We thank the following for their support and encouragement:

- Vestry of Saint Andrew's Church and the St Andrews Churches Eco-Network
- Planning Group: Rosalind Hind, Lorna Hutcheon, Maureen Jack, Caroline Rochford, Steve Watson, Aiden White
- Members of the Institute for Imagination, Theology and the Arts – Magda Andrews-Hoke, Liz Crichton, Eryn McGraw, Hannah McKnight, Matthew Nelson, Zeb Rose
- Members of the Eco-strand of Just Love (St Andrews University)

Alan Werritty, Karen Kiefer and Dan Drage (Saint Andrew's Church)

### Carbon footprint of Vigil

Lighting and heating will be reduced over the period 22.00-06.00 and energy readings taken at the beginning and end of the Vigil. The Vestry of Saint Andrew's will offset the carbon used during the Vigil.

## **Station 1: All Things New**

You are invited to take a piece of sea glass and hold it in your hand as you journey through the prayer stations.

The glass in your hand represents the ways in which we have contributed to the pain and suffering of our home, as we have carelessly discarded items into our seas that collectively have caused great harm. You are encouraged to consider how these and other actions or neglect have contributed to the state in which we currently find our delicate ecosystems, and how we each have participated in that.

As you move through the stations, consider any prayers that come to mind that you would like to offer and any promises you would like to make.

Near the end of the recommended journey through the stations, you are invited back here for an **ACTIVITY**, at **Station 9** in which your reflections and prayers can collectively be represented as prayers for our planet and become a beacon of hope, rooted in God's new creation.

## Station 2: Lamentation

You are invited to use a form of prayer known as *Lectio divina* in lamentation for today's Earth using extracts from Joel 1.

The practice of *lectio divina* uses repeated readings of scripture as an aid to contemplation. It is designed to discourage reading the passage in an overly analytic manner. Each reading is usually spoken aloud, or under one's breathe in this setting. With the first pass, the readers familiarize themselves with the text and attend to the passage as a whole. With the second, they each focus on something that strikes them from the text – an image, a phrase, or whatever else might catch their attention. With the third, the focus from before is kept and, after the reading, offered up to God in prayer. This need not be a request, but can be thanksgiving, lamentation, questioning, or anything else that need be communicated. With the final reading, the reader rests knowing that God has heard the prayer and contemplates again what is being said through the passage.

At this station you are invited into a prayer of lament taking a word or verse from the text displayed as your starting point and praying as your imagination and the spirit leads.

At station 4 you will be invited to use the same form of prayer praising God for the bounty of His creation.

### **Station 3: Confession**

Just as these tangled nets block us from the high altar, so too does sin obscure our vision and damage our right relationship to God, to each other, and to the world. By our misuse of creation, we have failed to appreciate it as a sign pointing us to God. What God created out of love, we have abused out of selfishness.

However, at the centre of that tangle stands the cross. Here Christ enters into the very midst of our sin and bears it himself. We cannot re-establish our right relationship to God on our own; God had to come to us. Let us cast our sins, then, on the cross, sorrowful for what we've done but confident in God's mercy.

#### **ACTIVITY:**

1. On an unnecessary piece of rubbish, perhaps a receipt or a plastic bottle, write down a way you have either contributed to or been complicit in the destruction of creation. Or use the scrap paper provided.
2. Place the object in the netting, representing that which has entangled us and kept us from right relationship to God and God's creation.
3. Gaze at the image of Christ and take a moment to reflect on the following:

*Lord, you died for this too. Please forgive me for all I have done and all I have failed to do, and please let your love for me transform the way I love and care for your creation*

#### **Station 4: Prayer for those attending COP26**

This three-part station offers us a chance to pray through action.

First, we are invited to pray for **heads of state** to have God-given courage to *step up* in this moment. Choose one country from the United Nations, name its Head of State if known, and prayerfully *step up* the chancel steps. May your own movement—from the nave, through the transept, up steps to the chancel (terms defined below)\* and facing the altar—be a prayer for their movement: may God give them the courage to *step up*, even if it means stepping out of the crowd (nave); may they even be transformed (passing through the transept) as they go, and may God orient them toward God’s will (toward the altar).

The second part invites us to stand ‘with’ **national delegates from around the world**, as we stand in front of the microphone (as much as ours is silent, may theirs be loud). In this stance, quietly pray for loud courage, truth, and conviction of message for those who will negotiate on behalf of the nations and peoples they represent.

In the third part we join with **all those lobbying outside the conference centre**, outside the central talks. Follow instructions to cut out and place paper chain people and/or paper chain trees alongside those already in place. We pray that these voices be united, peaceful, and multiplied! As stated in the fourth goal of the summit, we can only rise to the challenges of the climate crisis by working together.

Now light a tea-light as a prayer and place around the Pascal Candle.

*\*Nave — central area of the church, space of the congregation (‘nave’ from Latin, meaning ‘ship’)*

*Transept — area set cross-wise to the nave, making the building cross-shaped*

*Chancel — area around the altar, including the choir*

## Station 5: Adoration

As in station 2, you are invited to use a form of prayer known as *Lectio divina* but this time using extracts from Psalm 104 to offer praise to God as Creator.

The practice of *lectio divina* uses repeated readings of scripture as an aid to contemplation. It is designed to discourage reading the passage in an overly analytic manner. Each reading is usually spoken aloud, or under one's breathe in this setting. With the first pass, the readers familiarize themselves with the text and attend to the passage as a whole. With the second, they each focus on something that strikes them from the text – an image, a phrase, or whatever else might catch their attention. With the third, the focus from before is kept and, after the reading, offered up to God in prayer. This need not be a request, but can be thanksgiving, lamentation, questioning, or anything else that need be communicated. With the final reading, the reader rests knowing that God has heard the prayer and contemplates again what is being said through the passage.

At this station, there are three panels; you can follow this process with one or more of the panels as you feel led.

## **Station 6: Intercessions for the most vulnerable to impacts of climate change**

The presentation on the screen illustrates existing and projected impacts of climate change – most notably on vulnerable groups in the global south. The threats of drought and hunger, flooding and sea-level rise will be felt much more severely and sooner than here in Scotland. The Amazon rainforest is threatened with extinction should current trends continue.

Reflect on what this means for the future of individuals, families and, in some instances, the very existence of the nation they live in.

Pray that their voices will be heard at the COP alongside the voices of those outside the conference centre.

Pray that the target of climate finance of \$100 billion a year for developing countries will be met.

Pray that funds for emergency relief as climate change takes its toll will be provided by the rich developed nations.

Pray for the official delegation from the government of Malawi which includes members of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Dr Billy Gama, Rev Masauko Mbolebole and Ms Maness Nkhata Ngoma).

### **ACTIVITY:**

1. Examine the front of the “Amazonia wheel “– with the global map locating the Amazon rain forest and images of its current status.
2. This is being rapidly deforested and is approaching a ‘tipping point’ from which recovery is in the balance.
3. If that tipping point is reached in the near future, “How many years before the rain forest is replaced by savannah grassland and scattered trees – 15, 30 or 45?”
4. Turn over, and now check your answer by rotating the wheel.

**Station 7: Sibelius and the Sparrows**

This soundscape in which locally recorded birdsong is interwoven with Sibelius' *Finlandia* was created by Jane Pettegree. Reflect on how God's creation embraces all the senses and that humankind and all living things can join together in his praise.

This piece will be played softly every half hour throughout the Vigil.

## **Station 8: Intergenerational Seaside Memories**

The sea holds a special place in our lives. From the vastness of the oceans to the intricate microcosms of rockpool life, the sea is a beautiful and crucial part of God's earth. Even before any life entered the oceans, God cherished His waters:

Then God said, "*Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear*"; and it was so. God called the dry land 'earth', and the gathering of the waters He called 'seas'; and God saw that it was good.

—Genesis 1:9-10

This station consists of a flip album composed of reflective memories of seaside trips and holidays from all generations, encompassing experiences of the sea both now and in the past.

### **ACTIVITY:**

We invite you to read these memories of seaside trips, reflect on your own experiences of the sea but also to remember that the coastlines of the world are already being affected and will be further submerged by rising sea levels, and to pray for the safety of the habitats of people and animals most threatened by this.

You are also invited to write or draw your own seaside memories (especially of St Andrews) on the note papers provided and add them to any empty spaces of the flip album.

As you watch this video of a child's sandcastle being destroyed by the incoming tide, reflect on how the coastline of the world will be altered if we don't deliver on climate change. How might the terrain of coastal towns like St Andrews change over the next 50, 100, 200 years?

**Also in this area, on wood wall: *I see No Fish* wall hanging**

Artist: Sally Freedman, August 2021

Edinburghs

This hanging is one of a pair which are a response to the state of our oceans. The hessian strips denote water, grey and discoloured, full of ironically festive seeming pieces of detritus, colourful but deadly. The masks symbolise humans who continue to avert their eyes, and the prospects of such an attitude. The overall appearance is festive, the message less so.

Connection with the Pilgrimage triptych on the opposite stone wall is an overarching ecological message.

Recycled materials, wood, hessian and synthetic netting, 4ft x 7ft

## **Station 9: All Things New ACTIVITY**

Return to station 1 **All things New** where you collected your piece of sea glass.

The small wax pieces that you see are from candles used for prayers to God over some time. We invite you to join your own prayers for our planet to those that were lifted up through these previous candles. May the re-use of these candle remnants also serve as an encouraging reminder for each of us to renew, reuse and refresh items in our own daily lives.

Even in the climate and biodiversity emergencies we face, God is still at work in His world. His Kingdom is already here though not yet in its fullest form. Together we look forward to the New Creation where the shattered pieces will one day be made whole, and Creation restored.

### **We are invited into that hope.**

We are called to participate in God's creation now and have an opportunity to encourage better stewardship of it by changing our own behaviours and encouraging others to do the same.

### **ACTIVITY:**

Use the wax from melted prayer candles to add your piece of sea glass to the map of Earth.

1. Place a piece of wax in the ceramic dish to soften it.
2. Use a wood spill to dab some soft or melted wax on the back of your piece of sea glass.
3. Reflect on God's promises in Revelation 21, and how our own promises align.

## **Station 10: Set your course for a new or renewed voyage**

As you continue your own journey as part of the climate pilgrimage we are on together, consider the hopes you have and promises you wish to make. You are invited to make a sail representing these hopes and promises and craft a boat that you can launch as part of a new or renewed voyage in praising and being a better steward of God's creation. For many of us, this may represent a renewal of our baptismal vows.

Just as the popular fisher's prayer states:

*Dear God, be good to me. The sea is so wide and my boat is so small.*

—Breton fisherman's prayer

our own seemingly small promises may feel insignificant against the tide of climate change. We may feel a bit lost at a very wide sea of issues. But God hears our prayers and can multiply our efforts for a far greater good. Even Saint Columba and monks used very small and simply crafted vessels, like coracles, to carry the good news of the Gospel to remote Scottish islands and beyond.

### **ACTIVITY:**

1. Consider a promise you wish to make and/or hope you carry, and use the small pieces of scrap paper and utensils provided to design a sail to represent them (an image, symbol, word, etc).
2. Slip a toothpick through the sail.
3. Select a walnut boat.
4. Pull off a small amount of white sticky tack and stick to the bottom of the toothpick. Then stick it firmly in the inside bottom of the boat.
5. 'Launch' your boat in the font or in the waterway and reflect on the promise and/or hope that it represents.
6. Follow the waterway to see the Climate Pilgrimage triptych, under the window, celebrating our journey together, then on to the remaining station as you consider this new or renewed voyage

## **On wall, under the window: *Climate Pilgrimage Triptych***

Artist: Sally Freedman, August 2021

Edinburgh

The pilgrimage pieces are a response to the current need for people to unite in supportive activity, with a common higher purpose, and inspired by the COP 26 pilgrimages currently underway from various parts of Europe to Glasgow. They reached Dunbar on Sunday 17th October.

Raising consciousness about our responsibilities to the Earth and fellow humans is currently crucial to the continued existence of civilisation as we know it. The physical and spiritual momentum carried by each walker and the group as a whole will increase with each step taken. There will be discussion, debate, theatre, art and music to carry people along and to spark hope and the will to survive with and for each other.

This triptych reminds us of the optimism and powerful energy of uniting and journeying forward together.

Clay relief on wood, each 36''x 12''

1 Pilgrims

2 Walking with Greta

3 Musicians

## **Living more lightly on Planet Earth**

As you leave the Prayer Vigil, pause to reflect on what God has been saying to you. Could you make changes to the way you live that would reduce your personal carbon footprint? This might include thinking about energy use in your home; the food you eat; how you chose to travel; how you decide on what you purchase.

At Saint Andrew's we have produced a booklet explaining our "Green Ticket Scheme" which is designed to help members of the congregation pose such questions and explore possible responses. Please feel free to take a copy away with you and if you are minded make a pledge to "live more lightly on Planet Earth"

### **ACTIVITY:**

1. Identify one action you are willing to undertake to reduce your personal carbon footprint.
2. Write this action on one of the "green leaves" but don't include your name.
3. Pin it with the pledge visible onto the "Tree of Life".

Please leave the church via the door at the West

You are welcome to visit the informational tables in the foyer  
and take leaflets with you.

**Be sure to visit other activities happening this weekend  
planned by the St Andrews Churches Eco-Network:**

**Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

***“Climate Awareness Stall“***

In the Courtyard outside  
Holy Trinity Church  
South Street  
From 10.00 am to 5 pm

***“Ringing out the bells for the COP***

Carillon Recital: 12 noon, Holy Trinity

***“Thank You for the Rain“***

Christian Aid film  
at Hope Park & Martyr’s Church  
St Mary’s Place  
At 7 pm

