

Uxbridge Parish

Creation Care Focus Week

31st October - 7th November
2021



**Daily Readings and Prayers
For the Care of God's World**

Monday 1st November

Theme: Praising God for his Creation

Bible Reading: Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,
The world and all who live in it.

Prayer

Loving Father, we praise and thank you for the wonderful gift of creation that you have given us. We thank you for its abundance and beauty. Help us always to be aware of your goodness to us and to be generous to those in need.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Activity

Spend some time in your kitchen, garden, or a local park. Notice the food in your cupboards and the creative beauty of the outside world. Take a moment to thank God for the food he has provided and the beautiful world he has given. Ask that he will help us to be always willing to share what we have, with those who struggle to feed themselves and their families.

Tuesday 2nd November

Theme: God's Commission for Us, to Care for his World.

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Prayer

Creator God, we thank you for the privilege of sharing with you in the care of your world. We are sorry for times in which we have thoughtlessly misused the earth's resources. We commit ourselves afresh to obeying your call, by living in a more sustainable way.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Activity

Find a card or postcard with a picture from the natural world. Or you can draw your own if you prefer. Inside, or on the back, write a simple promise of commitment to care for God's world. Place it where it will be a daily reminder of your promise.

Wednesday 3rd November

Theme: Praying for the COP 26 Climate Change Conference

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-2

I pray then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Prayer

King of Kings, we pray for all the delegates who have gathered at COP 26 and for the decisions they will make. May there be wisdom and sensitivity in all discussions, and a shared commitment to act in response to the urgency of climate change. Give them boldness to implement measures, which will make a real difference to the world.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Activity

Discussions can be delicate and can easily fall apart.

Take a tissue and hold it. Ask God to place words and prayers on your heart for COP 26.

Begin to carefully write your prayers on the tissue, noting how fragile the tissue is. If it rips, pray for gentle words and restoration of the discussions, so that they may not founder but result in positive change.

Thursday 4th November

Theme: Climate Change and the World's Poorest

Bible Reading: Psalm 142:1

I cry aloud to the Lord;

I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.

Prayer

Father God, we cry out to you for your provision for the poorest of our world, who are most affected by climate change. For those whose crops are damaged by too much or too little rain, or whose lives have been devastated by extreme weather events. We pray that the needs of poorer people will be central to the discussions at COP 26 and that decisions made will benefit them and bring fresh hope into their lives.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Activity

Sit by a window or go outside.

Notice the weather where you are right now. If it is raining, spend a moment in gratitude for fresh water and pray for those who do not have enough.

If it is sunny, remember God's provision and pray for those whose weather is harsh and unpredictable.

Friday 5th November

Theme: The Spiraling National Debt of Poorer Countries

Bible Reading: Micah 6:8

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Prayer

God of justice, we hold before you those nations which are overwhelmed by increasing national debt. We pray for a compassionate response from wealthy nations, that there may be a breakthrough in debt cancellation, and that poorer communities will be free to use their finances for pandemic recovery.

Activity

Cut a piece of string as long as you like.

Begin to tie knots into your string. Tie several knots. Consider how messy and tangled it looks – much like the opportunities of nations in debt.

Begin to untie the knots and pray for this release over countries who are currently bound in the chains of debt.

Saturday 6th November

Theme: Restoration of the Earth's Resources

Bible Reading: Colossians 1:15-17

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created... all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge that you are King of all things and the one who holds everything together. We long to see our world renewed and restored in all its fullness. We pray for the protection and restoration of forests and other wildlife habitats. May there be local, national and international commitments to preserving the earth's resources.

In your name we pray, Amen

Activity

Draw a simple picture of a tree. Among the branches, write the names, or draw pictures, of animals, birds and insects whose futures are threatened by loss of habitat and the impact of climate change. As you do this, pray for the restoration of the natural world.

Sunday 7th November

Theme: What can we do?

Bible Reading: John 13: 34-35

Jesus said, "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Prayer

Loving Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son to us. Thank you that, out of love for us, he went all the way to the cross so that we can know forgiveness of sins and a new relationship with you. We praise you also for the gift of your Spirit, so that we may be empowered to live for you. Please guide and help us to reduce the impact that we have upon the natural world and to be always alert to the needs of others. Enable us to reflect your love in the way we care for your world and those who share it with us.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

Activity

Ask God to bring to mind one practical thing you can do to live more sustainably, such as:

Walk to the shop rather than drive.

Take a reusable bag to the shops.

Read a book on climate change or watch a climate change documentary.

Begin recycling or start to food compost.

*With grateful thanks to the COP 26 Prayer Guide,
as produced by Tearfund, Renew our World and 24/7 Prayer*