



Okra plants growing in Senegal where ongoing drought has threatened the livelihoods of communities that rely on agriculture

Blessed are we when we
sing your praises
and walk faithfully on
your earth.

Blessed are we when we
proclaim your justice
and enjoy together the fruits
of creation.

Blessed are we when we
are guided by your wisdom
and live in harmony with
your world.

Amen

Climate change service

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: 'Whoever benefits from the world without first blessing God is as if they robbed God or violated God's property.' (Talmud) Let us bless God, to acknowledge that nothing in nature is to be taken for granted.

Leader: Blessed are you O God,
maker of heaven and earth,
giver of all good things.

All: Creation sings your praises

Leader: Blessed are you O Christ
Son of God eternal
bringer of good news to the poor.

All: Creation cries out for your justice

Leader: Blessed are you O Holy Spirit,
giver of life and renewal,
uniting us in worship and service.

All: Creation longs for your wisdom

HYMN

READING (based on the Creation story in Genesis, NRSV)

Voice 1: In the beginning God created

Voice 2: the heavens and the earth,

Voice 1: day and night,

Voice 2: and there was evening:

Voice 1: that was the first day.

Voice 3: By burning coal, oil and natural gas, we have released billions of tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere, locking in warmth in what is known as the greenhouse effect.

Voice 2: Then God separated the waters

Voice 1: under and above the dome.

Voice 2: God called the dome, sky

Voice 1: and there was evening and morning:

Voice 2: that was the second day.

Voice 3: When sunlight strikes ice and snow, 80 per cent is reflected back into space and 20 per cent is absorbed as heat. The opposite holds true for land and open water, further increasing the rise in temperature.

Voice 1: God summoned the waters under the dome

Voice 2: to form the seas and let dry land appear.

Voice 1: And the earth put forth vegetation.

Voice 2: God saw that it was good:

Voice 1: that was the third day.

Voice 3: Melting glaciers will bring floods to some areas, while changing sea temperatures will shut down ocean currents and change rainfall patterns, causing droughts.

Voice 2: God made the sun to rule over the day,

Voice 1: the moon to rule over night,

Voice 2: to be for signs and for seasons and for days and for years.

Voice 1: And God saw that it was good:

Voice 2: that was the fourth day.

Voice 3: Prolonged periods of drought will wreck harvests and destroy lives. Communities that depend on fragile agricultural cycles will be devastated.

Voice 1: God created every living thing

Voice 2: that moves and swims and flies.

Voice 1: God blessed them, saying,

Voice 2: 'Be fruitful and multiply':

Voice 1: that was the fifth day.

Voice 3: Everything will have to adapt to the effects of climate change. But while rich people and nations can more readily afford to build barriers to counter rising sea levels, or repair the damage caused by hurricanes, poorer countries cannot.

Voice 2: And God said,

Voice 1: 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind'.

Voice 2: And it was so

Voice 1: and God saw that it was good.

Voice 3: The pressure that increasing floods, famine and drought will put on vulnerable countries will be devastating – for some developing countries, the effects of climate change are already catastrophic.

Voice 2: Then God said,

Voice 1: 'Let us make humankind in our image

Voice 2: and let them have dominion over all the earth.'

Voice 1: God saw everything and indeed it was very good:

Voice 2: that was the sixth day.

Voice 1: On the seventh day God rested.

Voice 3: It is time to change the climate of apathy that prevails in our privileged communities, and take action to stop global warming devastating the world's most vulnerable communities.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Blessed is the one who calls for an end to poverty.
Forgive us for protecting our piece of heaven here on earth
when we collude with systems which keep people poor.

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed is the one who gives no cause for sorrow.
Forgive us for preserving our own self-comforts
when others pay the price for our indulgence.

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed is the one who lives simply.
Forgive us for squandering the inheritance of future
generations
when we take more than our fair share of the earth's
resources.

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed is the one who hungers and thirsts for
righteousness.
Forgive us when we fill our stomachs on unfair trade
and food that has travelled too far.

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed is the one who shows mercy.
Forgive our lack of compassion and respect for the world:
we have left it too late to undo the damage already done.

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed is the one whose heart is pure.
Forgive us when we call for others to change
yet fail to examine the lives we lead.

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed is the one who strives for peace.
Forgive our squabbles over earth's bounty
which send God's children to war.

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed are those who give their lives in the service
of others.
Forgive us when we forget we live in one world
as one people, neighbours to each other.

All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.

Blessed is Christ who showed compassion for the poor.
and taught us a better way when we truly repent.

[silence]

Jesus Christ says to us now, 'Your sins are forgiven'.

All: Amen, thanks be to God.

BIBLE READING – Matthew 16:1-4 (NRSV)

The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, 'When it is evening, you say, "It will be fair weather, for the sky is red." And in the morning, "It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening." You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.' Then he left them and went away.

SERMON or ADDRESS

HYMN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: When we pray, show us how to use our feet
and challenge the climate of complacency
which denies the facts.

Leader: Your kingdom come

All: Your will be done

Leader: When we pray, renew our sense of urgency
for challenging the climate of ignorance
which threatens to cloud our judgement.

Leader: Your kingdom come

All: Your will be done

Leader: When we pray, fuel our imagination
to challenge the climate of apathy
which resists our need to change.

Leader: Your kingdom come

All: Your will be done

Leader: When we pray, teach us how to speak out
and challenge the climate of hypocrisy
to match good intentions with action.

Leader: Your kingdom come

All: Your will be done

Leader: When we pray, give us the energy to campaign
to change the climate of injustice
for as long as it takes.

Leader: Your kingdom come

All: Your will be done

Leader: For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory
All: Forever and ever. Amen.

CREDAL STATEMENT

**All: We believe in God the creator
maker of heaven and earth,
who set the time of day and night
and the passing of the seasons,
who fashioned the diversity of the planet
and engineered its abundance.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ
Redeemer of the world,
who taught us the meaning of good news
and demonstrated it in action,
who commanded us to share our bread
and to drink from the same cup.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
giver of life and renewal,
who opens up the possibility for change
and assures us of hope for the future,
who grants us time to amend our lives
and unites us in our quest for justice.**



David Rose/Christian Aid

SYMBOLIC ACT

Symbols of climate change are placed at the front (for example, water, ice cubes, a globe, car keys)

PLEDGE

**All: We pledge ourselves
to live responsibly
and use only our fair share of the earth's
resources.
And we call upon those in positions of power
and influence
to bring honour to your creation
and redress the injustice of climate change.**

HYMN

BLESSING

Blessed are we when we sing your praises
and walk faithfully on your earth.

Blessed are we when we proclaim your justice
and enjoy together the fruits of creation.

Blessed are we when we are guided by your wisdom
and live in harmony with your world.

Amen

Suggested Hymns

All creatures of our God and king, *St. Francis/W H Draper*
Creator of the earth and skies, *Donald Wynn Hughes*
Dance and sing, all the earth, *John Bell & Graham Maule*
Enemy of Apathy, *John Bell & Graham Maule*
For the fruits of his creation, *Fred Pratt Green*
For the healing of the nations, *Fred Kaan*
God of grace and God of glory, *Harry Emerson Fosdick*
I sing the almighty power of God, *Isaac Watts*
I the Lord of Sea and Sky, *Daniel L Schutte*
Inspired by love and anger, *John Bell & Graham Maule*
Immortal, invisible, God only wise, *W Chalmers Smith*
It is God who holds the nations in the hollow of his hand,
Fred Pratt Green
Let All the World, *George Herbert*
Lord, bring the day to pass, *Ian Fraser*
Lord God, in whom all worlds, *Fred Pratt Green*
Lord of creation, *Jack Winslow*
Lord of the boundless curves of space, *A F Bayly*
Now join we to praise the creator, *Fred Kaan*
O come, and let us to the Lord (Psalm 95) *Metrical Psalm*
O praise him, O praise him! (Song of Caedmon)
Arthur Scholey
O worship the King (Psalm 104) *Robert Grant*
Praise and thanksgiving, *A F Bayly*
Praise my soul, the King of heaven (Psalm 103) *H F Lyte*
Praise the Lord of heaven, *Timothy Dudley-Smith*
Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him,
Timothy Dudley-Smith
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (Psalms 103, 150)
Joachim Neander
Praise ye the Lord, tis good to praise (Psalm 147) *Isaac Watts*
Praise with joy the world's Creator, *John Bell & Graham Maule*
Think of a world without any flowers, *Bunty Newport*
We turn to you O God of all creation, *Fred Kaan*
We will not take what is not ours, *John Bell & Graham Maule*

This service was written by Helen Garton and draws on material from
Christian Aid's It's time to change the climate.

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