

Prayers



Houses damaged by Cyclone Idai: Ngango New Stands, Chimanimai - Zimbabwe. Severe weather events like cyclones have become much more intense as a result of climate change.

Prayers for Justice for those facing Climate Loss and Damage

This resource contains some prayers that you may wish to use when thinking about climate-related loss and damage. Alternatively, you might like to use them as a starting point for writing your own prayers. If you decide to write your own prayers, you might want to consider including the following elements.

- Lament for the contribution polluters have made in causing climate-related loss and damage and the impact on climate-vulnerable communities around the world.
- Prayer that our leaders will ensure that money is provided to the newly created fund for loss and damage without delay.
- Prayers that the newly created fund ensures the money reaches the poorest and most vulnerable communities.
- And prayers that polluters will be compelled to pay up for the damage they have caused

Christian prayer and social action have been at the heart of great social changes, from the end of slavery to

the civil rights movement to the end of apartheid. There were times when the end of these systems seemed unimaginable, but with the power of prayer and people acting together for the common good the world was changed. The great social injustice of our day is loss and damage - through prayer we can see a loss and damage fund established which meets the needs of the least developed countries and provides true climate justice.

Prayer of Praise and Lament

Living God, we praise you for the world that you have created,
A world of wonders, from the starry heavens above
to the ocean depths beneath,
A world teeming with life in all its infinite variety,
A world whose bountiful resources are sufficient
to sustain and bless all your creatures.

Merciful God, we ask that you forgive us for the harm that we have done to your world,
Forgive us for grasping too greedily at earth's resources,
Forgive us for taking more than our share and more than can be sustained,
Forgive us for the damage we have done to the natural world and to our sisters and brothers.



Janet Zirugo working in a dusty field at her homestead in Njani village, Zimbabwe. Mutoko District where Janet comes from experiences harsh climatic condition with extended dry spells in recent years.

Spirit of God please come to us afresh, equip us to meet this hour,
Give us compassion for those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by climate chaos,
Grant us the courage to cry out with them for truth and justice,
Give us a vision of your world as it should be and the strength to pursue it.

We ask these things in Jesus' name.
Amen.

To Act Justly and Love Mercy

Gracious God, as we look upon your hurting world, please give us the courage to act justly

Help us to speak and act for justice for our sisters and brothers facing loss and damage through changes to the climate for which they bear little responsibility

Compassionate God, come and fill our hearts with your Spirit that we too may love mercy

Empower us that we may be your hands on earth, feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked and showing your love to those facing the devastating consequences of the climate crisis.

Redeemer God, who walked amongst us as a carpenter, teach us what it means to walk humbly with our God

Forgive us for the attitudes that have let us exalt our needs and desires over those of the poor and oppressed, teach us what it means to put our sisters and brothers before ourselves that we may be more like Jesus.
Amen.

Standing with the Prophets

Mighty God who inspired the prophets,
Grant us the courage of Moses who stood before Pharaoh to demand freedom for his people,
that we might speak boldly to our leaders and demand climate justice.

Grant us the tenacity of Elijah who persevered even when he felt he was a lone voice in the wilderness, that we may keep on calling on polluters to pay for the damage they have done and the loss they have caused until hope rises like a rain cloud on the horizon of a dry and thirsty land.

Grant us the vision of Mary who saw that you are a God who scatters the proud and brings down rulers but lifts up the humble and fills the hungry, that we may pray with faith that your kingdom will come, and your will be done here on earth just as it is in heaven.
Amen.

A Prayer for Courage

Mighty God who inspired the prophets,
Grant us the courage of Moses who stood before Pharaoh to demand freedom for his people,
that we might speak boldly to our leaders and demand climate justice.

Grant us the tenacity of Elijah who persevered even when he felt he was a lone voice in the wilderness, that we may keep on calling on polluters to pay for the damage they have done and the loss they have caused until hope rises like a rain cloud on the horizon of a dry and thirsty land.

Grant us the vision of Mary who saw that you are a God who scatters the proud and brings down rulers but lifts up the humble and fills the hungry, that we may keep praying with faith that your kingdom will come, and your will be done here on earth just as it is in heaven.
Amen

A Cry for Justice

Lord, we have seen the droughts and we have
prayed for rain

We have seen the floods and we have
prayed that the rains relent

We have seen the storm, the hurricane and the
typhoon, and we have prayed for mercy

Now we have seen the truth – we pray for justice

Now we understand that the climate crisis is driven
by human action

Now we see that the rich have profited and the poor
stand to pay the highest price

We pray for justice for our sisters and brothers

We pray for the nations and corporations that have
done most to drive this climate chaos

We pray that you will move their hearts and inspire their
actions; that they would commit to paying into an
international fund to repair the damage and make good
the losses they have inflicted

And we pray for ourselves; that our prayers would not
cease, nor our cries of outrage fall silent until justice
rolls on like a river, and righteousness like a
never-failing stream!

Amen.

