
Candlelight Sunset Vigil for Creation

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In the name of the Trinity of Love:
God above us, God beside us, God beneath us,

All **Amen.**

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

At the onset of dusk we gather. We gather to keep vigil - the act of keeping watch on the eve of a special event.

We keep watch as the sun sets here, knowing that its rising is watched by sisters and brothers across the world.

Its warmth beginning to awaken animals and plants, touching forests, mountain tops, rivers and oceans, giving light and life as we move into shadow and sleep.

But we gather here to keep watch at its setting, staying alert, reflecting on the devastation, trauma, tragedy and heartache that Climate Change is bringing to millions across the world.

We keep watch, staying alert to the actions of political leaders [gathering soon at *place*] to let them know we are calling for change.

We keep watch because we believe in a better world, the promise of a new creation, and the redemption of all things in heaven and on earth through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Words of introduction based on Christian Aid G7 vigil.

Prayers of lament and hope

“Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself. According to the Bible, these three vital relationships have been broken, both outwardly and within us. This rupture is sin. The harmony between the Creator, humanity and creation as a whole was disrupted by our presuming to take the place of God and refusing to acknowledge our creaturely limitations.”

Pope Francis, Laudato Si’, 2015

“The high,
the low
all of creation
God gives to humankind to use. If this privilege is misused,
God's Justice permits creation to punish humanity.”

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), Ordo Virtutum, c. 1151

Let us repent
of the ways in which we have damaged
God's good creation:

The land mourns:

All **and all who dwell on it languish.**

The beasts of the field, the birds of the air:

All **and even the fish of the sea are perishing.** *(Hosea 4.3)*

For the earth is scorched with fire:

All **the air polluted, and the waters choked with waste.**

The ice melts and the seas rage:

All **the waters surge and floods devastate the land.**

The water springs are silent, and the streams run dry:

All **the green places are a dry land
where there is no water.**

(Ps 63)

The fertile ground is exhausted:

All **the land has become a parched and windswept wasteland.**

The holy cities have become a wilderness:

All **Zion has become a desolation.**

(Isaiah 64.10)

So turn us again, O Lord:

All **and come to our help.**

(Psalm 80.4a,3b)

Drop down, O heavens, from above:

All **and let righteousness rain down upon the poor.**

(Isaiah 45.8)

Let the earth open:

All **and let wholeness and healing spring forth.**

(Isaiah 45.8b)

Then the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad:

All **the desert shall rejoice and blossom.**

(Isaiah 35.1)

The mountains and hills shall break forth into singing:

All **and the trees of the forest shall clap their hands.**

(Is 55.12b)

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from your sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Silence

We share in our first period of silence, which will last for approximately five minutes. Watch and pray.

A Prayer for our Leaders

This prayer was written by Archbishop Desmond Tutu for COP21.

Creator God,
you have called us to be keepers of your Earth.
Through greed, we have established an economy
that destroys the web of life.
We have changed our climate and drown in despair.
Let oceans of justice flow.
May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother, Earth.
We pray for our leaders, custodians of Mother Earth
[as they gather in *place* for their climate talks.]
May they negotiate with wisdom and fairness;
May they act with compassion and courage,
and lead us in the path of justice
for the sake of our children
and our children's children.

All **Amen.**

Silence

We share in our second period of silence, which will last for approximately five minutes. During this period of silence, participants at the Vigil are invited to come forward and light candles at our installation of prayer for the earth. Please follow the directions of the event stewards.

Creator, Sustainer, Renewer

Creator I have sculpted mountain ranges,
and I gasp in wonder at the beauty
that this act of love always reveals.

I am the Creator.

Sustainer In the past you were told,
'an eye for an eye.'
No longer: now 'love your enemy.'
Only this is sustainable living

I am the Sustainer.

Renewer Who believes creation is finished,
completed and done for all time?
There is yet more hidden beauty.

I am the Renewer.

Creator I have loved creation
out from primordial chaos
into the dance of cosmos.
I have balanced it all
and let it loose to live.

When human greed distorts life,
the loss twists all out of sync.
When conceit unbalances life,
snowcaps slide, deserts groan,
forests struggle, life bends.
I bear the pain.

I am the Creator.

Sustainer Take only your need for today,
live in balance,
live in love with the world.

Hatred of enemy is not sustainable;
storing up treasures is not sustainable;
ignoring your neighbour's need is not sustainable;
this is not the way.
I am the way.

I am the Sustainer.

Renewer I am the world's life force.
I bring buds to flower,
persuade grass to grow,
ice-caps to shrink and renew.
Imbalance threatens hope,
hopelessness threatens the future.

Live today in a way that blesses the future.
Work with me to renew life.

I am the Renewer.

Creator Live in love with the creation.

Sustainer Live in balance with all life.

Renewer Live to renew the earth.

Together We are the three-in-one, your God
 O people of the world,
 listen and hear!

*From Chris Polhill (2010) A Heart for Creation,
used with permission.*

Silence

*We will share in our third period of silence, which will last for
approximately five minutes. Watch and pray.*

Affirmation of Commitment

God's world is an island of life and beauty –
formed of stardust, warmed by the sun.

Below us lies melting rock, above us stretches cold vacuum.

We live between: our home –
this thin strip of soil, water and air –
in which we share our lives together;
which is alive with the Holy Spirit;
upon which Jesus lived, died and rose again;

All **God, we thank you for our lives together.
We thank you for your love and care.
We thank you for the earth, our common home.**

Amen.

*Wild Goose Big Book of Worship Resources,
© The Wild Goose Resource Group 2017*

Please stand.

Knowing that God has blessed us with abundant riches,
let us commit ourselves to strive to safeguard the integrity of
creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Will you order your life to protect and preserve the earth's
resources, living simply so that others may simply live?

All **We will.**

Take a moment to think of a practical action which you could take.

All **Lord of life and giver of hope,
we pledge ourselves to care for creation,
to reduce our waste,
to live sustainably,
and to value the rich diversity of life.
May your wisdom guide us,
that life in all its forms may flourish,
and may be faithful in voicing creation's praise. Amen.**

Blessing

Go in strong and growing faith.
Trust in the tenderness of Christ
to heal a bruised and broken world.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Go in eager and refreshing hope.
Work with Christ risen from the dead,
to fulfil the promise of a new creation.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Go in costly and courageous love.
Proclaim the power of Christ
to cleanse a defiled and disfigured world.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Go in peace,
to treasure and to tend
the world God made and loves.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

From The Anglican Church of Australia

The Grace

All **May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

chooselife
WORSHIP AND ACTION FOR CREATION