



Prayer Service for COP28



Entrance Hymn

Come to the Water (John B Foley SJ) Listen (or watch for those parishes with projection facilities) (5:26):

<https://youtu.be/EcxRvfTC2D8>



Welcome and opening prayer:

You might consider hosting the Climate Justice Candle from Eco Congregation which could be lit here, or create your own climate justice candle for this occasion.

Reader: Creator God, Source and Sustainer of light and life throughout our world, we praise you. Shine your light this evening on all of us here in this place. And as we pray for all those attending COP28 in the coming weeks, that they may commit to urgent change. Renew our own relationships with your creation and with each other. Give us your vision of the world, so that when COP28 is over we may continue to be bearers of your light and life, in our parishes and communities, and wherever your world needs it most. We ask you this in the name of Jesus, our brother, Amen.

Leader: We gather together in hope, praying for the Spirit to guide the work of COP 28. We will hear first a reading from Laudate Deum, Pope Francis' exhortation (teaching) on the Climate Crisis, with a few moments of silence after to reflect.

Reader 1: Laudate Deum,

'Praise God for all his creatures.' This was the message that Saint Francis of Assisi proclaimed by his life, his canticles and all his actions. In this way, he accepted the invitation of the biblical Psalms and reflected the sensitivity of Jesus before the creatures of his Father: 'Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these' (Mt6:28-29). 'Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight' (Lk 12:6). How can we not admire this tenderness of Jesus for all the beings that accompany us along the way! (LD, 1)

Leader: Consider the lilies of the field. Lord, we ask you to write this on the hearts of the leaders who are gathered in Dubai for the UN Climate Conference, COP28. May your Spirit inspire them to act for the good of all life on earth, at all stages of creation, from the wild flower in the field to great rainforests and ecosystems which sustain life on earth. We now listen to our second reading and pause to reflect.

Reader 2: Genesis 2: 1-9, 15

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to

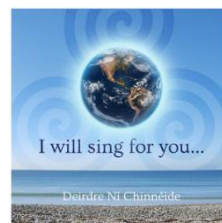
grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

The Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Meditative Chant:

Oscail Mo Chroi (Deirdre Ní Chinneide)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW7niPuhxpY>



Reader 3: Gospel Reading Luke 12: 22-31; 34

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If, then, you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well ... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reflection from an invited speaker or parish leader

Gesture of Commitment:

Leader: In *Laudato Si'* we read that, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship ... simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness. Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care ... makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world (LS, 230-231).

Together let us look at: As part of a silent reflection, we have a Gesture of Commitment. Each member of the congregation receives two 'foot-prints'. After thinking about what you have heard this evening, please write on one footprint a message for world leaders at COP28. These can be placed in the church, in a prayer space for the duration of COP28 and referred to throughout Sunday liturgies etc. You could invite local schools to also contribute to this prayer space. On the second footprint, write one small change you might be able to make in your own life or in your parish community to contribute to the 'little ways of love' for our common home.

Leader: Intercessions for the climate and our common home

(adapted from CAFOD and the Laudato Si' Working Group Season of Creation resources)

The United Nations climate conference, COP28, has begun (or is starting). Let us bring our prayers to God, who created the earth and all within it.

- 1) We pray for the Church: may we speak and act together as we urgently work towards good stewardship of your creation and your presence in all living things. We pray for Pope Francis as he travels to Dubai to address the UN Climate Conference, may his words ignite a desire for justice, Lord, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer

- 2) *At this time in human history, we are mindful that the survival of our planet and the well-being of humanity is threatened. Let us pray that the COP28 leaders will act on UN Agreements to reduce global warming and to care for the poor will be honoured by governments throughout the world. Give courage to world leaders as they meet in the coming months to make crucial decisions for our common home. Lord in your mercy,*

All: Hear our prayer

- 3) We pray for the world; we acknowledge the interdependence of all living things; the beauty and flourishing of the planet plundered and misused for generations by human activity; may we all, through our actions, help repair the harm we have caused. Lord, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer

- 4) *God of all life, we give thanks for the gift of the earth, our common home. At this time, many people, the oceans, and the eco-systems of the earth are struggling to survive. It is the poor who suffer the most. Help us to change our ways, to join the river of justice and guide us to live a life which is conscious of the needs of others, especially those suffering from climate injustice. Lord in your mercy,*

All: Hear our prayer

- 5) We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may examine our environmental impact and make choices for the common good, acting as a beacon of light in our fragile world. Lord, in your mercy...

All: Hear our prayer

O God, who calls all people to justice and care for the earth, hear and grant these prayers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Leader Closing Prayer: Prayer for the COP28 climate summit (From CAFOD)

God of blessings,
the universe sings of your glory.
Deepen our gratitude for all you have made
and awaken in us a renewed commitment
to care for the earth and each other.
Inspire world leaders at COP28,
with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change
and with courage to act urgently and wisely,
so that our common home may be healed and restored
and all people, and generations to come, may delight in it.

Amen.

Or A Prayer for our Earth, from Laudato Si' 246:

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Recessional Hymn

Our God Reigns (Chet Valley Churches):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n82_H4yabC4

