SUSTAIN AND RENEW THE LIFE OF THE EARTH

THE COMMUNION FOREST

TO PLANT IS TO HOPE
TO RESTORE IS TO HEAL
TO PROTECT IS TO LOVE





Tree planting liturgy & prayers





Tree planting liturgy

The Communion Forest is a global initiative comprising local activities of tree growing and ecosystem conservation, protection and restoration undertaken by parishes, dioceses and provinces across the Anglican Communion.

The Communion Forest is a sign of the Anglican Communion's shared commitment to the Anglican Fifth Mark of Mission: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The Communion Forest is a practical, spiritual and symbolic response to the environmental crisis, and an act of Christian hope for the well-being of humanity and all God's creation.

We invite you to use this short liturgy when planting trees, as we join together in growing the Anglican Communion Forest around the world.

Prayer of Preparation

O Lord, open our lips.

ALL: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Blessed are you, Lord God,
creator of heaven and earth.
Your Word calls all things into being,
and the light of dawn awakens us to life.
May your wisdom guide us this day
that we may cherish and care for your good creation,
so all may flourish together,
and offer to you the sacrifice of our lips,
praising you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ALL: **Blessed be God for ever.**

We pause in silence to reflect on the beauty of God's creation around us.

Psalm 104

Verses of the psalm will be read in different languages.

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. ♦
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

19 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, ♦
and the sun knows the time for its setting.

20 You make darkness that it may be night, ♦
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.

21 The lions roar for their prey ♦
and seek their food from God.

22 The sun rises and they are gone ♦|
to lay themselves down in their dens.

23 People go forth to their work ♦
and to their labour until the evening.

24 O Lord, how manifold are your works! ♦
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

25 There is the sea, spread far and wide, ♦
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

26 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan ♦
which you have made to play in the deep.

27 All of these look to you ♦
to give them their food in due season.

28 When you give it them, they gather it; ♦
you open your hand and they are filled with good things.

ALL: **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus, our deliverer, we harm your good earth
and take your freedom from others.
Lord, have mercy.

ALL: **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, our hope, we threaten the integrity of
creation and deprive others of hope.
Christ, have mercy.

ALL: **Christ, have mercy.**

Jesus, God's shalom, we distort your peace in all
the earth.
Lord, have mercy.

ALL: **Lord, have mercy.**

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

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

ALL: **Amen.**

Song

Thuma mina; thuma mina; thuma mina,
Somondla.

Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me,
Jesus; send me, Lord.

Reading

Revelation 22: 1-2

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life, with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Planting of a tree

The place in the soil is prepared

And the Lord God planted a garden. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
Genesis 2.8,15

(Each scripture reading is repeated in another language)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

(Please say in your own language)

The tree is placed in the soil

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.
Ecclesiastes 3.1-2

God spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Earthing-in with soil

Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so.
Genesis 1.11

O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Watering

I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.
Leviticus 26.4

Give thanks to him who formed all things,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Growing

And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
Revelation 22.2

God alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image.
Give us grace to wonder at your gift,
to treasure the earth
and to work for its protection and renewal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns
supreme over all things,
now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Together, each in our own language, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Commitment

Let us stand to affirm our commitment to care actively for God's creation and all humanity.

**Lord of life and giver of hope,
we pledge ourselves to care for your people and world:
to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.
May your wisdom guide us,
so that all creation may flourish
and sing your praise.**

May the commitment we have made this day be matched by our faithful living.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Blessing

May God who made heaven and earth bless us and keep us
And give us grace to show forth in our lives the loving care of our Creator;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst us and remain with us now and through all eternity.

Amen.

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Sources and copyright:

The Confession is adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book/ He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. ANZPB Liturgies of the Eucharist – Creation and Redemption anglicanprayerbook.nz

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Prayers

Prayer Station 1

Please pray for God's world, our planet

Prayer 1

Creator God, we thank and praise you for giving us the opportunity to be co-creators with you and to ensure the sustainability of Mother Earth," our meeting place with God.

God as a community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit teach us as the Anglican community to work together for mutual respect with one another and your creation. We repent for our negligence leading the earth to be in peril from loss of habitats and species. Help us to be caretakers of your gifts, protecting the land from abuse, and ready to share with all in need.

Amen.

The Late Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya, Swaziland, Southern Africa (RIP)



Prayer 2

Breath of Life, from whom all order was created, the whole of creation bears witness to you. Teach us to respect all creatures, increase our gratitude for your loving providence. Forgive us for our insensitivity and carelessness with the environment. Instigate us to fight for socio-environmental preservation and for the end of the climate crisis, taking care and working for the preservation of species and the maintenance of life on earth, as living proof of our conversion to the way of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(inspired by the Collects for the Environmental Responsibility of the Common Prayer Book of the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil)

Bishop Marinez Rosa dos Santos Bassotto, Amazon, Brazil



Prayer Station 2

Please pray for God's people

Prayer 1

Eternal God, our world is on the run and there are no peaceful locations for farming and raising animals. Natural disasters are causing food insecurity and your children are hungry and sick. We lack clean water and medicines. Father, give us peace in our nations, fertile lands for farming, good rainy seasons and wisdom to live peacefully and produce enough food for everyone. As Isaiah says: "He will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the land will be rich and plentiful. In that day your cattle will graze in broad meadows." (Isaiah 30:23)

Lord, we ask this promise to happen through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Bishop Bertin Subi, Katanga, DR Congo

Prayer 2

Our Creator God, we praise you for all the creation. Your entire creation is a blessing and a gift of your grace. We are grateful to you as you have given us this holy responsibility of taking care of your creation. We confess that we have not done our duty faithfully; we ask your forgiveness for this. Our negligence and abuse of the creation have impacted very dreadfully in our country and around the world. Many in Bangladesh have been homeless; due to climate-induced disasters people have lost their land, livelihoods and loved ones. We pray for the people who are not responsible for climate change but are the victims of it.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayers. Amen.

Bishop Shourabh Pholia, Barishal, Bangladesh

Prayer Station 3

Please pray for human flourishing, that all may prosper

Prayer 1

Eternal God Almighty,

Today we come to drop at your feet the disparity between rich and poor which has strained the economic fabric of our society leading gradually to the destruction of our world. You, Christ, were never more angry than when You drove the money-changers out from the Temple in Jerusalem. Let us, Dear God, before it is too late, find the ways, the means, and the will to reduce the scandalous inequality between rich and poor.

Let not this world, once created with the purpose of hope for all people, become a vicious land of the misers and the miserable. All this we pray to You, God of Mercy, God of Justice, God of Love, God of All People. Amen.

Laurance Agathe André, Mauritius, Indian Ocean



Prayer 2

Lord Jesus Christ,
when stormy waves of fear
and rising tides of danger distress us,
you shelter us in your strong heart,
and you hold us steady with your wounded hands.
From the unshakeable certainty of your love,
send out a flood of peace and rivers of justice.
Open up a fountain of health
to cleanse, refresh and renew us.
Gather the whole wide world
into the safety of your embrace. Amen

Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, Perth, Australia

Prayer Station 4

Please pray for peace

Prayer 1

Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of love, joy and peace. We pray for humanity and all those living in conflict and post conflict countries. May they find hope in Christ and safety in these situations. Lord, transform and open the way for the global Church and the Anglican Communion to reach out in love and witness to those affected and displaced by violence and civil unrest. May we know your peace in a divided and conflicted world. Strengthen the ministry of peace and reconciliation in your church and make this world a better place for all. Amen.

Jane Poggo-Namurye, Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation Ministry, and Lambeth Conference Spouses' Planning Group



Prayer 2

O Lord and Father, we pray for your world – for the healing between both men and women of different races and religions, that the legacy of past division and injustice will be swept away in the tide of your loving grace. We pray that there would be a wearing down of the barriers between the oppressed and their oppressors, leading to justice, forgiveness and reconciliation.

We pray this particularly where your Church has been an instrument of power. May there be humility, openness, repentance and a willingness to empty itself – after the pattern of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that the good news of the gospel may be heard with trust and your Word received with joy and openness and not suspicion. May the Anglican Communion throughout all of its manifestations be like a living coral reef, growing on the bedrock of our Lord, swaying to the currents of the world but fastened thereto, filled with the luminescent and myriad array of fish of every hue and sheltering and protecting in the times of storm.

Bishop Nick Dill, Bermuda



Prayer Station 5

Please pray for partnership in seeking God's Kingdom

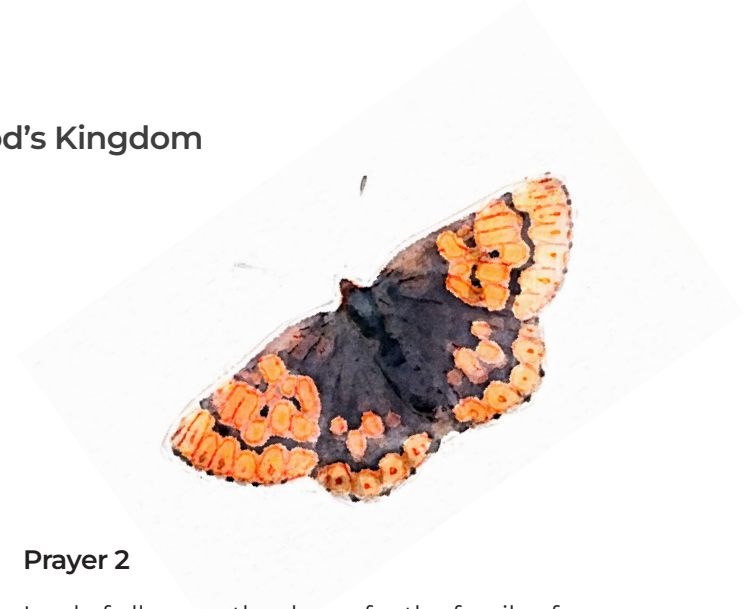
Prayer 1

Creator of all, your love embraces the whole world and all peoples of every language, race and nation. In our midst the sin of racism infects our communities with hatred and death and obscures the recognition of your image in every human being.

May our commitment to one another through the transforming love of Christ heal divisions, restore justice and bring reconciliation between races and nations.

May the witness of the Anglican Communion to partnership, mutual respect and interdependence be a beacon of hope to your world as ambassadors of reconciliation, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada



Prayer 2

Lord of all, as we thank you for the family of the Anglican Communion, we pray that in our wonderful diversity we may each know ourselves created in your image and loved by you.

Inspire us to work together to hasten the day when people will come from north and south, east and west, to find their honoured and equal place at your table and their home in your kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chelmsford, UK