

Lights for Lima

The Second week of Advent Prayer for Climate Change

Leader:

Our world is waking up to the reality of Climate Change and to the reality that human activities contribute greatly to the extent of that change. We will begin our prayer by listening to a young woman who is a mother, a poet and a citizen of the Marshall Islands. She is speaking at the UN.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4fdxXo4tnY Marshallese poet Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner

Leader: Take a moment to reflect on what you have just heard. Then share with one other person near you one thought you heard that touched your heart.

Let us resolve to work together as we sing_____

1. **Leader:** During the month of December, we who live in the northern hemisphere of Earth, experience the increasing brevity of sunlight and the lengthening of night. The winter solstice, December 21st, is the day of the longest night. Our ancestors, so aligned with earth's rhythms, were acutely aware of Earth's annual retreat from her glowing star, and created many rituals to seduce the sun's return. Today, in the context of this hemisphere's deepening darkness, the Christian community celebrates the ritual of lighting Advent candles and awaits the return of Jesus, the Light of the Creator's Love, into our lives and world. During Advent, we gather around a wreath of green, representing hope and the generative gift of life. The circular shape of the wreath reminds that we, with Earth and her community of creation, are held in the eternal, evolving, and abiding presence of the Creator.



Light First Advent candle

All: O come, O come Emmanuel!

Reader: This Advent, however, we are increasingly aware that Earth and her community of life are threatened by the unremitting darkness of human ignorance regarding climate change. More than ever we must all commit to study, understand, and address the causes, the consequences, and our personal contributions to the demise of the delicate balance of Earth's interconnected systems.

All: O come, O come Emmanuel!

Reader: Hope however is on the horizon! Global leaders will meet in Peru this December to craft agreements and a more comprehensive plan to address the death-dealing impact of greenhouse gases on our planet. This meeting is critically important. These leaders need our support and prayers. The Lima Climate Change Conference will shape a tone and a direction for the forthcoming 2015 Climate Change Conference in Paris where global leaders will be called to affirm policies and provide resources that will stop the rise of global warming. Beginning the second week of Advent, communities throughout the world will 'light a pathway to Lima.' Together we pray and hope that our leaders will be "enlightened" as they discern ways to heal the planet.

Light Second Advent candle

All: O come, O come Emmanuel

Leader: As we pray in hope that the light of love and wisdom will turn our minds, hearts, and resolve toward the needs of earth, let us join our hearts and voices together...

1. Your creative love, O God, brought forth our world once a garden where humans could taste and see the goodness of the earth.
2. But our eyes have been blinded to the beauty of Creation, to the knowledge that it is Gift—one given, so that all may live and flourish.
1. Our indifference changes the world; even mighty glaciers weep now.
2. Our disregard for our sisters and brothers, threatens the very skies above us. Our passivity begins to choke us, the excess of our lifestyles blots out the sun.
1. Call us to renewal, to stewardship; call us to solidarity to the earth and all its creatures.
2. Give us new vision to see the fragile beauty that remains. Give us new spiritual energy to become active in loving the world through concrete actions in our daily life.



Give us new voices to speak out for earth's health and sustainability.

1. Bless us again with the gift of being a joyful community; Bless us with a love of your Creation and for You who dwell within all, Amen

(adapted) Jane Deren, 2009

As we bring our prayer to a close, let us ask God our Creator to renew us in hope that our world and our planet will be restored to peace. Let us pray together the prayer written by Archbishop Emeritus Tutu.

*Together we
pray and
hope that our
leaders will
be
"enlightened"
as they
discern ways
to heal the
planet.*

ALL:

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 *create the plans to restore Your Creation*.

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. Amen

All Sing: Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.

What can you do after tonight?

Join Fast for the Climate The Fast for the Climate campaign is an interfaith initiative bringing people of different faiths to fast, as a spiritual exercise, in solidarity with the victims of climate change. ClimateFast invites you to consider fasting one day per month to draw attention to the urgency of climate action. This could be a food fast or a carbon fast. Those of us who **Fast on the 1st** are doing so in solidarity with the International Fast for the Climate. <http://fastfortheclimate.org/en/> Visit here to sign on to fast.

Join us in praying that world leaders act with compassion and courage, to reach an agreement that will protect our children and our planet.

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 Lima at the 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.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

All: O come, O come Emmanuel!

Prayer prepared by Arlene Flattery OP and Rose Mary Sullivan CND