

Closing Prayers



Christian

From Pope Francis's Encyclical on Ecology, *'Laudato Si'*: "[A Christian prayer in union with creation](http://goo.gl/SqUEhM)"
<http://goo.gl/SqUEhM>

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your
tender love. Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to
everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the
weak, and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us
to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

From the Sanctuary Centre: [“A prayer for leaders and politicians”](http://goo.gl/qJMZju) | <http://goo.gl/qJMZju>

Leader: God, we pray for you to raise up a generation of leaders with the courage to take responsibility for our changing climate and the part we have played in it. We intercede for our politicians and leaders—cause them to act in the best interests of all nations today, and all people in the future, in order to avoid catastrophic changes.

We ask for a generation of leaders who will be willing to act justly so that those who have contributed so little to the problems we are facing, and have fewer resources with which to face it, are not left to shoulder our burden.

We ask for you to fill the hearts of all who lead rich nations—give them your mercy and compassion on poor countries already suffering the effects of a changing climate. Just as they have been moved to cancel debt in the past, encourage them also to release funds so that poor communities can adapt to the effects of climate change, and develop cleanly.

All: God, in your mercy, lead our leaders to truth and transformation.

From Jay C. Rochelle: [“Litany of Commitment”](http://goo.gl/OnWuay) | <http://goo.gl/OnWuay>

Leader: as we seek to relax our grip so that the earth, our fragile sister, might rest from our labors, help us to see our world more vividly than we have done in the past.

People: Grant us vision for the challenges of this age and give us hearts full of courage for the future.

Leader: As we seek to be wise stewards of the gifts of the earth in timber and oil, coal, and gas, help us to know your world more humanely than we have in the past.

People: Make us learn that wisdom which we see among those wise and humble people of the earth, that we might walk with care and reverence so as to caress our fair sister.

Leader: Sharing God, draw us to contemplation and silence so that we might see, in wonder, our lives intertwined with the squirrels and the cardinal, the creatures great and small, the beauty of each season. Help us to see the birth, growth, death, and rebirth so as to give us courage in the ongoing creation of our Creator.

People: Deepen our faith and enliven our thinking, nourish our bodies and strengthen our souls, that we may be your message in the world, your servants for the common wellness of earth. Make us weavers of new order, crafters of a new earth.

Leader: Grant us grace through the Christ of the Cosmos. Call us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, in love with earth and with our brothers and sisters. Give us a measure of the Spirit that these commitments we make before your might make our work holy. Let us go forth from his sacred ark with steady hands and lifted hearts, with clear eyes and alert minds, with firm steps and willing hands. May we arrive at fresh springs of renewal through God’s holy Work in our communities of faith and in deep solidarity with all creation.

People: Let all creation hear and bear witness. Amen.

Jewish

From Rabbi Arthur Waskow, drawing on traditional midrash about the danger of a Flood of Fire, and on the passage from Malachi 3:20-24—[“Between the Fires”](http://goo.gl/PXwVNu) | <http://goo.gl/PXwVNu>

We are the generation that stands
between the fires;
Behind us the flame and smoke
that rose from Auschwitz and Hiroshima;
From the burning of forests of the Amazon,
From the hottest years of human history
that bring upon us
Melted ice fields, Flooded cities, Scorching droughts.
Before us the nightmare of a Flood of Fire,
The heat and smoke that could consume all Earth.

Here! We ourselves are coming
Before the great and terrible day of smiting Earth—
For we ourselves shall turn the hearts
Of parents to their children
And the hearts of children to their parents
So that this day of smiting
Does not fall upon us.

It is our task to make from fire not an all-consuming blaze
But the light in which we see each other fully.
All of us different, All of us bearing
One Spark.
We light these fires to see more clearly
That the Earth and all who live as part of it
Are not for burning.
We light these fires to see more clearly
The rainbow of our many-colored faces.

Blessed is the One with many.
Blessed are the many who make One.

Interfaith

From Pope Francis's Encyclical on Ecology, '[Laudato Si'](http://goo.gl/SqUEhM): "[A prayer for our earth](http://goo.gl/SqUEhM)" | <http://goo.gl/SqUEhM>

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, low and peace.

From GreenFaith: "[A call to prayer](http://goo.gl/UoL3Hz)" | <http://goo.gl/UoL3Hz>

We who have lost sense and our senses—our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are: we who frantically force and press all things, without rest for body or spirit, hurting our earth and injuring ourselves: we call a halt. We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the earth to rest. We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us, that is the ground of every unique expression of life, the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.

We declare a Sabbath, a space of quiet; for simply being and letting be; for recovering the great, forgotten truths; for learning how to live again.
