



Prayers and Religious/Spiritual Statements for Earth Hour

The prayers and statements below represent a sampling of resources which may help you organise a moment of prayer during Earth Hour

First, what is Earth Hour?

Earth Hour is a global annual event where hundreds of millions of people switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about our planet. It's about people from across the globe coming together to create a symbolic and spectacular lights out display and asking for change.

It happens every year between 8.30 and 9.30pm, with switch offs starting in Samoa and finishing in Tahiti. It's been growing every year, with more and more countries and people signing up - last year we hit an all-time record with 162 countries taking part!

This year it's taking place on Saturday 28th of March at 8.30PM

BUDDHISM

A Green Environment for Now and the Future

The Dalai Lama

From *Kalachakra Initiation at Samath*

<http://www.dalailama.com/messages/environment/a-green-environment>

Global warming has brought changes in climate, including making perennial snow mountains melt, thereby adversely affecting not only human beings but also other living species... . In the past the perennial snow mountains of Tibet had very thick snow. Older people say that these mountains were covered with thick snow when they were young and that the snows are getting sparser which may be an indication of the end of the world. It is a fact that climate change is a slow process taking thousands of years to realize its effect. Living beings and plant life on this planet also undergo change accordingly. Man's physical structure too changes from generation to generation along with the change in climatic conditions.

Because of the growth in the population, a large number of trees are cut for fuel, and to reclaim land for agricultural cultivation. In the case of Tibet, ancient trees have been destroyed in a similar way to shaving a man's hair off. ... Similarly, the continuing decline in forests in many parts of the world, including America, is adversely affecting the already changing global climate, thus upsetting the lives, not only of mankind, but also of all living beings.

Similarly, the harmful effect on the atmosphere brought about by chemical emissions in industrialized countries is a very dangerous sign. Although this is a new thing for us Tibetans, the world is paying a lot of attention to this problem. It is the responsibility of us, who speak of the welfare of all sentient beings, to contribute towards this.

Excerpt from Dharma Teachers Statement on Climate Change

<http://greenfaith.org/religious-teachings/buddhist-statements-on-the-environment>

As shocking and painful as it may be, we must recognize that without swift and dramatic reductions in fossil fuel use and major efforts to increase carbon sequestration, global temperatures will rise close to or beyond 2 degrees C. This increase will lead to injury and death for millions of people worldwide and the extinction of many of the Earth's species. Millions more will experience severe trauma and stress that threaten their physical, emotional, and psychological wellbeing. These stresses will, in turn, trigger social and political unrest. In a grave injustice, low-income communities, poor nations, and people systematically subjected to oppression and discrimination, who contributed little to climate change, will initially be harmed the most. Even worse, as frightening as it is, if we fail to make fundamental changes in our energy, manufacturing, transportation, forestry, agricultural, and other systems along with our consumption patterns with utmost urgency, in mere decades irreversible climate shifts will occur that undermine the very pillars of human civilization. Only by

recognizing these truths can we adopt a meaningful path toward solutions.

Come to This Dusty World

Prayer from Mahayana Tradition

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-interfaith.pdf>

Supreme One, you are an obscure mystery to us. You made all things and can purify all things. You are far beyond our understanding. Even to speak to you is to enter an unknown region. Yet your light shines on all creatures, and your wonder illumines their souls. We beg you to leave your bright celestial palace in heaven, and come to this dusty world. Reveal yourself to us. Use your power to extinguish all evil and banish all sickness. Give peace to troubled soul. Reconcile those who are enemies, turning them into friends. Show us how we should live, that we may learn to obey you in all things.

Time is Short

Sakyong Mipham

Joy comes when we see a yak
Dancing in the meadows.
Power comes when we see a mountain,
Full of heritage,
Displaying all its wonder.
In this world, where uncertainty seems to dominate space,
Let us at least say certainly that we don't know what certainty is.
Be heavy and walk light.
Smile and have a heavy heart.
Be open and always know that time is short.

(Unnamed)

Thich Nhat Hanh

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/3.html>

Be aware of the contact between your feet and the Earth.
Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet.
We have caused a lot of damage to the Earth.

Now it is time for us to take good care of her.
We bring our peace and calm to the surface of the Earth and share the lesson of love.
We walk in that spirit.

HINDUISM

From *Hindu Declaration on Climate Change*

http://www.hinduismtoday.com/pdf_downloads/hindu-climate-change-declaration.pdf

The Hindu tradition understands that man is not separate from nature, that we are linked by spiritual, psychological and physical bonds with the elements around us. Knowing that the Divine is present everywhere and in all things, Hindus strive to do no harm. We hold a deep reverence for life and an awareness that the great forces of nature—the earth, the water, the fire, the air and space—as well as all the various orders of life, including plants and trees, forests and animals, are bound to each other within life's cosmic web.

Our beloved Earth, so touchingly looked upon as the Universal Mother, has nurtured mankind through millions of years of growth and evolution. Now centuries of rapacious exploitation of the planet have caught up with us, and a radical change in our relationship with nature is no longer an option. It is a matter of survival. We cannot continue to destroy nature without also destroying ourselves. The dire problems besetting our world—war, disease, poverty and hunger—will all be magnified many fold by the predicted impacts of climate change.

The nations of the world have yet to agree upon a plan to ameliorate man's contribution to this complex change. This is largely due to powerful forces in some nations which oppose any such attempt, challenging the very concept that unnatural climate change is occurring. Hindus everywhere should work toward an international consensus. Humanity's very survival depends upon our capacity to make a major transition of consciousness, equal in significance to earlier transitions from nomadic to agricultural, agricultural to industrial and industrial to technological. We must transit to complementarity in place of competition, convergence in place of conflict, holism in place of hedonism, optimization in place of maximization. We must, in short, move rapidly toward a global consciousness that replaces the present fractured and fragmented consciousness of the human race.

There is a Light

From *Chandogya Upanishad*
<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/5.html>

There is a light that shines beyond all things on earth,
Beyond all of us, beyond the heavens,
Beyond the highest, the very highest heavens
This is the light that shines in our hearts.

Prayer for the Unity of All Life

(Unknown Author)

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/5.html>

May the winds, the oceans, the herbs, and night and days, the mother earth,
The father heaven, all vegetation, the sun, be all sweet to us

Let us follow the path of goodness for all times,
Like the sun and the moon moving eternally in the sky
Let us be charitable to one another
Let us not kill or be violent with one another
Let us know and appreciate the points of view of others
And let us unite

May the God who is friendly, benevolent, all-encompassing, measurer of everything,
the sovereign, the lord of speech, may He shower His blessings on us

Hindu Prayer for Peace

(Unknown Author)

From UN Day of Prayer for World Peace

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/5.html>

Oh God, lead us from the unreal to the Real,
Oh God, lead us from darkness to light.
Oh God, lead us from death to immortality,
Shanti, Shanti, Shanti unto all.
Oh Lord God Almighty, may there be peace in celestial regions.
May there be peace on earth.
May the waters be appeasing,
May herbs be wholesome, and may trees and plants bring peace to all.
May all beneficent beings bring peace to us.

May the Vedic Law propagate peace all through the world.
May all things be a source of peace to us.
And may thy peace itself bestow peace on all and may that peace come to me also.

(Unnamed)

From *The Upanishads: The Prashna Upanishad Introduction*
Introduced and Translated by Eknath Easwaran

May we hear only what is good for all
May we see only what is good for all
May we serve, Lord of Love, all our life
May we be used to spread your peace on earth
OM shanti shanti shanti

ISLAM

From *Holy Qur'an 24:35*
<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/6.html>

Allah is the light
Of the heavens and the earth
The smile of Allah's light
Is like a niche in which is a lamp,
The lamp in a globe of glass,
The globe of glass as if it were a shining star,
Lit from a blessed olive tree
Neither of the East nor of the West,
Its light nearly luminous
Even if fire did not touch it
Light upon light!

From *Holy Qur'an 3:190-91*
<http://greenfaith.org/resource-center/spirit/greenworship-resource/muslim-greenworship-resource/muslim-greenworship-verses-and-books>

Behold! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of night and day, there are indeed signs for men of understanding, men who celebrate the praises of Allah standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and contemplate the

wonders of creation in the heavens and the earth, with the thought: "Our Lord, not for naught hast Thou created all this! Glory to Thee! Give us salvation from the penalty of the Fire.

Through the Silence of Nature

Hazrat Inayat Khan

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/6.html>

Through the silence of nature,
I attain Thy divine peace.
O sublime nature,
in thy stillness let my heart rest.
Thou art patiently awaiting the moment
to manifest through the silence of sublime nature.
O nature sublime, speak to me through silence,
for I am awaiting in silence like you the call of God.
O nature sublime,
through thy silence I hear Thy cry.
My heart is tuned to the quietness
that the stillness of nature inspires.

Sufi Prayer for Peace

(Unknown Author)

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/6.html>

Send Thy peace, O Lord, which is perfect and everlasting,
That our souls may radiate peace.
Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may think, act,
And speak harmoniously.
Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may be contented
And thankful for Thy bountiful gifts.
Send Thy peace, O Lord, that amidst our worldly strife
We may enjoy thy bliss.
Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may endure all,
Tolerate all in the thought of thy grace and mercy.
Send Thy peace, O Lord, that our lives may become a
Divine vision, and in Thy light all darkness may vanish.
Send Thy peace, O Lord, our Father and Mother, that we
Thy children on earth may all unite in one family.

JUDAISM

Let There Be Light

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-jewish.pdf>

Leader: *O Source of Light, by Your light we see light. (Psalm 36:10)*

"And God made the two great lights...and God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the Earth...and God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:16-18)

Creator God, may we have the wisdom to appreciate the goodness in Your creation.

All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.

Leader: *"Give thanks...to the maker of the great lights, whose loving kindness extends eternally." (Psalm 136:1,7)*

Gracious God, may we experience Your ever-renewing bounty with awe and gratitude, and may we use it wisely.

All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.

Leader: *"With a rising-place at one end of heaven, and a circuit that reaches the other, nothing escapes [the sun's] heat." (Psalm 19:7)*

Holy God, may this simple act of harnessing Your eternal light help us escape the global heating that our generation is causing over Your creation.

All: O Source of Light, by Your light we see light.

Leader: *"Arise, shine, for Your light has dawned -- the presence of the Eternal will shine upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)*

Loving God, Your gift of light enables us to shine. May we, created in Your image, be worthy reflectors of Your glory.

All: Amen.

First Berakhah before K'riat Sh'Ma

Rabbi Jules Harlow

From *A Prayerbook for Shabbat, Festivals, and Weekdays*

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-jewish.pdf>

Leader: Light and Darkness, night and day.

All: We marvel at the mystery of the stars.

Leader: Moon and sky, sand and sea.

All: We marvel at the mystery of the sun.

Leader: Twilight, high noon, dusk and dawn.

All: Though we are mortal, we are Creation's crown.

Leader: Flesh and bone, steel and stone.

All: We dwell in fragile, temporary shelters.

Leader: Grant steadfast love, compassion, grace.

All: Sustain us, Lord; our origin is dust.

Leader: Splendor, mercy, majesty, love endure.

All: We are but little lower than the angels.

Leader: Resplendent skies, sunset, sunrise.

All: The grandeur of Creation lifts our lives.

Leader: Evening darkness, morning dawn.

All: Renew our lives as You renew all time.

All Things Pray

(Unknown Author)

<http://www.arrcc.org.au/jewish-prayers>

It is not we alone who pray;
all things pray.
All things pour forth their souls.
The heavens pray, the earth prays,
every creature and every living thing prays.
In all life, there is longing.
Creation itself is but a longing,
a prayer to the Almighty.
What are the clouds, the rising and the setting of the sun,
the soft radiance of the moon, and the gentleness of the night?
What are the flashes of the human mind
and the storms of the human heart?
They are all prayers –
the outpouring of boundless longing for God.

We Pray for All

(Unknown Author)

From *Liberal Jewish Prayer Book*

<http://www.worldhealingprayers.com/7.html>

We pray for all who come here this evening.
Although differences in thought and belief divide us,
let the desire to serve you,
the love of truth
and the pursuit of holiness unite us.
Strengthen the spirit of friendship
among people of various faiths
and increase mutual understanding between us.
We look to a time
when greater knowledge of you and your word
shall bind all who serve you
into one holy fellowship.

CHRISTIANITY

A prayer for leaders and politicians

From The Sanctuary Centre

<http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/resources/written-prayers-prayers-in-response-to-climate-change.pdf>

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 peoples’ 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

(Unnamed)

St. Basil the Great

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-christian.pdf>

O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, our brothers, the animals, to whom thou gave the earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of man with ruthless cruelty, so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song, has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live not for us alone but for themselves and for thee and that they love the sweetness of life.

A Prayer of Awareness

Hildegard of Bingen

<http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/liturgy/prayers.htm>

God is the foundation for everything

This God undertakes, God gives.

Such that nothing that is necessary for life is lacking.

Now humankind needs a body that at all times honors and praises God.

This body is supported in every way through the earth.
Thus the earth glorifies the power of God.

Litany of Commitment

Jay C. Rochelle

<http://www.webofcreation.org/Worship/liturgy/litany.htm#commitment>

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 the earth. Make us weavers of a 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 the love with earth, and with our brothers, and sisters. Give us a measure of the Spirit that these commitments we make before you might make our work holy.

Let us go forth from this sacred ark with steady hand up lifted heart, with clear eye and alert mind, with firm step, and willing hands. May we arrive at fresh springs of renewal through God's holy Word, in our communities of faith, and in deep solidarity with all creation.

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

Environmental Prayer

Carlos J. Correa Bernier

http://www.ucc.org/earthcare/pdfs/enviromental_prayer.pdf

Gracious God, your amazing love extends through time and space, to all parts of your creation, which you created and called good. Your covenant with the human family is remembered in every rainbow in the sky, symbolizing your promise of love and blessing to every living creature, and to all successive generations. In Jesus, you invite us to enter into a new covenant, in communion with all who seek to be faithful to you and to do justice. As people of faith, we are called into covenant. Your covenant of faithfulness and love extends to the whole creation. Today we pray for the healing of our planet that present and future generations may enjoy the fruits of creation, and continue to glorify and praise you.

INTERFAITH

(Unnamed)

Service from August 1992, "Coming to See"

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-interfaith.pdf>

All people of the earth, each and every nation
Arise and rejoice at the continued creation
Of beauty, of springtime, the yearly rebirth
Of our protector, our home, our own Mother Earth!

Who despite our apparent lack of care
Creates bountiful splendor for all to share
From mountain tops to the deepest sea
All wonderful earthly miracles bursting free!

Yet this miracle of renewal requires the helping hand
Of the people to replenish and renew the land
From the largest of cities to the most remote farms
To unite in spirit and with the strongest arms.

Become a midwife to the birth of each flower
A guardian of our resources hour by hour

We must learn to take time to appreciate
The miracles of which we did not create.

For God has given this wonderful treasure
And its preservation will be the measure
Of people who recognize and will celebrate
The birth of each season before it's too late.

In citizenship, in willingness to toil
We must bend our backs and tend to the soil
In stewardship, arise and applaud the worth
Of the wondrous marvel of our Living Earth!
Consider creation. . . . Consider it now.

A Litany for God's Guidance

Service from August 1992, "Coming to See"
<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-interfaith.pdf>

Leader: O sing to God a new creation song.

People: For God has done marvelous things.

Leader: We are born citizens of God's world.

People: For God has done marvelous things.

Leader: Let us see the earth as children of the earth.

People: Give us a clear vision, O God.

Leader: May our sights be greater than house to house.

People: Give us clear vision, O God.

Leader: Grant us the knowledge to make tough choices for our world.

People: God, year with us from the foundations of the earth.

Leader: Cause us to share life from generation to generation.

People: God, you are with us from the foundations of the earth.

Leader: Challenge our stewardship to renew the heights with living things.

People: God's hands are upon all creatures who live upon the earth.

Leader: Many and great are your things, O God, maker of earth and sky.

People: God's hands are upon all creatures who live upon the earth. Amen

A Call to Prayer

(Author Unknown)

<http://greenfaith.org/files/prayers-interfaith.pdf>

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.
