

PRAYERS FOR THE CLIMATE

Southern Africa is facing the worst drought in decades, which will lead to hunger and suffering for hundreds of thousands of people. Sadly this is only the beginning of climate change in our region and the situation is going to get worse as the Earth warms.

So we are called to pray for rain, but also called to pray for the leaders of the world as they gather in the traumatized city of Paris to forge a new climate agreement. As the UN Climate Summit begins, we enter the season of Advent. It's a time when Christians around the world are waiting and watching in expectant hope, preparing for the birth of the Christ child. We are concerned about the threat climate change poses to the earth, our common home. However, Advent is a time of hope, for the Christ whose birth we celebrate, is the light of the world, who comes "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death", and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Let us pray for a meaningful and just global climate agreement to emerge. We long for an agreement that will help the whole global community to put aside selfishness and to walk together in ways that bring peace, show love for neighbours near and far, and reconcile us all with the beautiful creation that God has given us to cherish.

A PRAYER FOR RAIN

God, you send rains in season.

It is a season of need in Southern Africa. Send more rain to our parched land and thirsty countries. Let the drought unite us as we ask you for help. We trust in you.

You created the world to need the waters of life. You are the source of rain. Let the rain of your blessing fall.

In Jesus name. Amen



A PRAYER FOR ADVENT SUNDAY – PLEASE LIGHT A CANDLE FOR THE EARTH

**Spirit of God, You established the dance of Creation;
bring life out of death
bring order out of chaos.
Call us to radical action:
to care for the web of Creation
to share our resources justly
and to work for the renewal of our Mother, Earth.**

We light this candle as we commit ourselves to fast and pray for climate justice.

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Cape Town

A PRAYER FOR THE CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS IN PARIS

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 Paris 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

