

A reflection on our planet

The Canadian novelist and poet Margaret Atwood published her poem 'The Moment' in 1964, two years after Rachel Carson published 'The Silent Spring'. Both signalled the onset of Creation degradation. Sixty years on, time is running out, their call to Creation care is urgent, and our prayer and action are crucial.

The Moment

The moment when after many years
of hard work and a long voyage
you stand in the centre of your room,
house, half-acre, square mile, island, country,
knowing at last how you got there,
and say, I own this.

is the same moment the trees unloose
their soft arms from around you,
the birds take back their language,
the cliffs fissure and collapse,
the air moves back from you like a wave,
and you can't breathe.

No, they whisper, You own nothing.
You were a visitor, time after time
climbing the hill, planting the flag, proclaiming,
We never belonged to you.
You never found us.
It was always the other way round.

Prayer God our Creator, give us a new heart,
a new understanding and a new way of living.
God our redeemer, open our eyes
to see in Nature our companion.
God our Sustainer, inspire us to live humbly
and cooperatively with each other
and the world around us,
through Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the
fullness of Life. Amen.

July

Daily prayer for the month

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we marvel at the way we are gathered
into an intimate relationship with you
that includes
the entire family and community of creation.
May the unity you desire to have with us
extend to the rest of the natural world
so that we learn to have a dialogue with creation
and live in harmony within it.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 As we keep noticing the 'crazy' weather in the UK this year, we pray for those across the world whose livelihoods, and even lives, are threatened by the new weather. And we pray for the UK election!

Week 2 The realisation that climate change is real is spreading. Pray that this goes farther and deeper. Pray for a common understanding of the problem, and a willingness to work together.

Week 3 With the holiday season upon us pray that as we plan our times of rest we may do so with the planet in mind. Pray that we may see how we can change our lives, and still be blessed.

Week 4 Wherever in the world temperatures are at dangerous levels, pray for those who are vulnerable to them, those who cannot avoid working outside, and those who can no longer stay where they are.

Dates in July

1 – 31 Plastic Free July
28 National Conservation Day (prevent extinction)
27 National Marine Week begins

August

Daily prayer for the month

Creator God,
we thank you for the wonderful cycle of life
and all the varied resources
in the natural world we depend upon.
Help us recognise
that this is a reciprocal relationship,
and to acknowledge that creation in all its diversity
is just as dependent on us.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 We pray for courage in our leaders both in power and opposition to take and persevere in the hard decisions. Pray courage for ourselves, so we all face the truth, and be willing to act and change.

Week 2 We need an awareness of the scale of the problem, an awareness of the scale of action needed to address it, and above all the ability to cooperate.

Week 3 We have to have peace to be able to focus on this challenge. Pray for peace, and the ability to communicate and work together; for hope not fear.

Week 4 We pray for a spiritual - and moral - reawakening across the world, and for the Lord to move in power. Pray for God's people and our true witness everywhere.

Dates in August

11 5pm St Clare's Day Eucharist, Minster garden
12-18 National Allotments Week

September

Daily prayer for the month

Loving, heavenly Father, we are grateful for your concern not only for our wellbeing, but also for the health and wellbeing of the earth of which we are part.

Fill us with your light and love so we are able to bring healing, restoration and wellbeing to one another. In the same way teach us to respect and care for the earth, recognising the pain we have caused it, and so with increasing urgency, find ways to protect and nurture it.

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 "My life is hard enough" - is such a barrier to change. In this Season of Creation, we pray that through togetherness we can give each other the hope with which to enter the fray.

Week 2 Pray for the many volunteers across the world who do so much for the environment in many contexts, to help those in need, and to raise awareness - sometimes at the risk of their lives. .

Week 3 Subsistence farmers are perhaps the ones who suffer the most, and yet have the greatest potential to save the planet. Pray for ways which work in each situation.

Week 4 Pray for a consensus as to how to attack the root problems of emissions, energy use, excess and waste. Pray for ourselves that we can see what we can do, and for projects we can join in with others.

Dates in September

1 Sept – 4 Oct UK Churches' Climate Season
8-22 Fairtrade Fortnight, UK
15 Southwell Minster Climate Sunday
22-24 Summit of the Future, New York

The Southwell Minster Creation Prayer

Gracious God, source of all life,
we praise you for the wonder and diversity
of the natural world, and we thank you
for the genius of the craftsmen who carved
the Chapter House leaves that speak to us still.
Open our hearts and minds to your guiding Spirit
that we may discern together
how best to cherish this good earth
and safeguard its resources.
As we listen to the leaves,
show us how to share in Creation's song
and rediscover our harmony in you,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



Southwell Minster in partnership with A Rocha UK

Action Points

- *Check the incoming government's commitment to prevent climate change*
- *If summer fruits are from the developing world, check they are Fairtrade*
- *Be sure to visit the Minster's 'Season of Creation' display in September*



**Prayers for the
Integrity of Creation
July - September 2024**