

Reflection on our Planet

For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him,
so that he might save us.

Isaiah Chapter 25:4,9

Record-breaking heat, flooding and disaster from rains and melting glaciers alike, rising sea levels; and all this before the might of El Niño breaks upon us. While we humans have brought the climate emergency upon ourselves, we ought not to forget that its dangers and the privations of failed harvests and food insecurity fall disproportionately upon the weakest and poorest across the globe. We are further than ever from the goal of eliminating food poverty.

No wonder, then, that humans feel embattled, scared, hopeless, and discouraged. There is much in Scripture to encourage a positive activism in combatting climate change and its effects; we are, after all, to work out our salvation in fear in trembling, relying upon the Lord. And that salvation is deeply connected to the places and the ways we live our actual lives, it is not some spiritualising mental orientation that does not connect with real life. God will bless our efforts to make real changes.

At the same time, we are a people of hope. The prophecies of Isaiah, devastating as they are in predicting the disruption and destruction of so much, are also insistent on this truth – salvation comes from the Lord. Whatever we may attempt will fall short, but our prayers need to be addressed, day by day, to the God who is our hope and our fortress, our refuge and our shelter.

October

Daily prayer

Creator God, we pray for the farming community that it will find ways to tread more lightly upon your earth. Help all to be aware of the demand we place on farmers, of the impact of intensive farming practices which affect the way animals are treated, rivers are polluted and the soil impoverished over the long term. As we repent of our past failures in caring for creation, help us now to think creatively how to develop plans for the long-term future.

Daily response:

*By the word of the Lord were the heavens made
and all their host by the breath of his mouth,*

Intercessions for the month.

Week beginning 4 Oct At St Francis-tide, we pray for the welfare of animals, that we may all have reverence for God's creation seen in rivers, valleys and mountains, in the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and the animals of the earth.

Week beginning 11 Oct We pray for this week's International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage. Also aid agencies which teach farming and irrigation. & for those affected by conflicts over water shortages.

Week beginning 18 Oct We remember the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and give thanks for the River Trent which winds its way through the landscape. May we be alert to signs of pollution, and support efforts to clean up our waterways..

Week beginning 25 Oct We pray for the Oct 19-30 UN Biodiversity Conference in Armenia, that people of all countries, rich and poor, will learn to live at harmony with the natural world.

November

Daily prayer

You are a wise and loving God who speaks the truth. Please uncover lies and misinformation perpetuated in denying climate change and environmental breakdown. May those in power and authority in our society speak out, and may the Church be seen to be taking an active and prayerful role with regard to the crises we are facing. Help us all find ways to become more responsible as a cathedral church.

Daily response:

*Praise the Lord from the earth, wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and birds on the wing.*

Intercessions for the month

Week beginning 1 Nov. This month the 'Earthshot Prizes' will be awarded. As we give thanks for this international initiative, we ask God to inspire us all to work towards the goal of protecting our planet for the future..

Week beginning 8 Nov We pray for all preparing for next Sunday's Creation Service, 5.00pm in the Chapter House, coinciding with COP 31, the global meeting in Turkey to solidify plans to reduce carbon emissions..

Week beginning 15 Nov We pray for today's Creation Service in the Minster. Also for a willingness among world leaders to act upon agreements reached at COP 31 this week, so that words become hopeful plans.

Weeks beginning 22 and 29 Nov World Soil Day is 5 December and we give thanks for the wonderful way in which soil is formed and how it nourishes and supports plants, giving food to eat, trees which bear fruit and give shade, and flowers to sustain pollinating insects. We pray for people working to stop soil erosion and all who teach us how to care for the soil.

December

Daily prayer:

Father God, we pray for your love, compassion and protection for people, creatures and habitats affected by climate change, especially those affected by recent wildfires. We pray for all working to protect the environment. May their efforts be recognised, their voices heard, and their advice acted upon for the flourishing of all creation.

Daily response:

*And God saw all that he had made
and indeed, it was very good.*

Intercessions for the month

Week beginning 6 Dec Human Rights Day is 10 Dec, and this includes concern for environmental justice. We pray for people living in communities where the natural landscape and way of life are being destroyed because of business enterprises. We remember miners working in dangerous conditions.

Week beginning 13 Dec El Niño – the regular warming of sea temperatures which can cause serious storms – will peak this month. We pray for all affected by food shortages caused by violent weather, especially in poor countries.

Week beginning 20 Dec As we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into the world as an infant, we pause to reflect on this most amazing event; that God, Creator of all that is, comes in humility and weakness for the salvation of the world. As we give thanks, we pray that we may play our part in caring for his creation.

Week beginning 27 Dec Jesus was born among animals in the stable. We pray for the RSPCA, World Wildlife Fund, and Compassion in World Farming.

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.

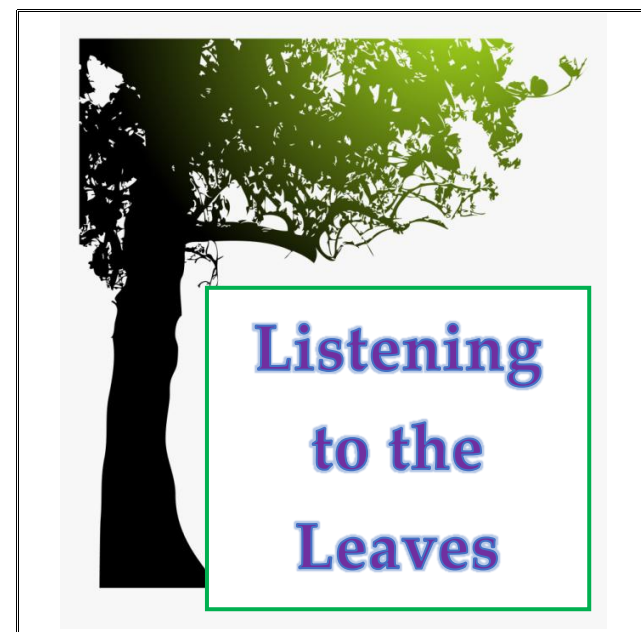
As we listen to the leaves,
show us how to share in Creation's song
and rediscover our harmony in you,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



Southwell Minster in partnership with A Rocha UK

Signposts for Action

1st to 31st October International Walk to School Month,
1st October, World Vegetarian Day
4 October St Francis' Day. World Animal Day
16th October, World Food Security Day
1st to 30th November World Vegan Month
13th November, World Kindness Day
21st - 29th November, National Tree Week
27th November, Buy Nothing Day
1st December, Giving Tuesday
5th December. World Soil Day



**Prayers for the
Integrity of Creation**
October - December 2026