



## Daily and/or Weekly Prayers for the Planet and The United Nations Climate Summit 2022 (UNCOP27)



Interfaith Scotland is honoured to partner with the Interfaith Liaison Committee to the UNFCCC to encourage the hosting of **Prayers for the Planet and the UNCOP27**. This is an initiative, begun in the lead up to and during the UNCOP26, started by Bishop Philip Huggins (Australia) and Ms Sarwat Tanseem (New Zealand) and reflected in the powerful prayer and meditation vigil hosted in George Square, Glasgow by Interfaith Scotland and Interfaith Glasgow on the first day of COP26.

### **Our invitation to you**

The UN Climate Change Conference 2022 (COP27) will take place in Sharm el-Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt from 6-18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and we are asking for your prayers to focus on a successful outcome. We believe that silent prayer and meditation around the world helped the outcome of the Glasgow COP26 - this was the feedback received. COP27 will aim to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees and provide climate justice - these are the high aims which your prayers and meditations can support.

### **How can you participate?**

In the build up to and during COP27 could you and your faith community or interfaith group do one or both of the following?

**#1. Send a spiritual wave around our world, every day, at noon in your time zone, alone or with others**

Arrange a short, simple remembrance of your nations' preparations for COP27 in silent prayer and meditation, with the symbolic actions of your faith tradition, whether it be the chime of bells, lighting a candle, silence, bowing, kneeling, standing or sitting in prayer.

**#2. Weekly local/virtual groups**

Arrange a time for meditation and prayer, in shared silence, according to your respective spiritual practice/s.

Experience has shown that these groups shape a quality of friendship that flows readily into service and advocacy. Discernment and imagination are nurtured by each other's company in silent prayer and meditation.

***When?***

Choose a time that suits locally and please let us know what you are doing by emailing [maureen@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:maureen@interfaithscotland.org) and <https://interfaithliaisoncommittee.carrd.co/>

**The Format**

We encourage a gathering of people virtually or in-person, and the act need not take longer than 30 mins.

- ❖ Organise for a participant to introduce the event and the focus for the session. This can be for a couple of minutes.
- ❖ A bell (for example) is chimed or, the moment is introduced, silence then follows for 20 mins, allowing all to meditate &/pray/reflect silently according to their spiritual practice.
- ❖ The sound of the bell or the individual ends the silence.
- ❖ Those wishing to continue in silence and leave the session may, and those wishing to converse, do so for a few more minutes.

*This model has worked well. When this is done virtually, a variation is for a video depicting our beautiful earth spinning in space.*

*We may be able to share particular themes for prayer from our varied locations. We can also share short quotes for our mutual illumination and inspiration*

**Below is an example of a Prayer from an Interfaith Liaison Committee Member**  
(Lindsey Fielder Cook, Quaker, United Nations Office Representative on Climate Change)

*We, our voices from faith communities across the world, join in prayer and meditation for meaningful decisions and intention for urgent co-action at the climate conference (COP27) in Egypt.*

**We pray** for courage and compassion to transform those human activities destroying nature and altering the climate system on which our lives depend.

**We pray** our hearts reject fear and embrace love, hope and transformation for a more healthy, safe, clean and sustainable world. We pray for strength so that our lives are patterns and examples.

**We pray** for protection of climate activists and environmental defenders, who often risk their health, if not their lives, to break the silence.

**We pray** for protection of climate scientists to work without intimidation and with sufficient funding and support.

**We pray** for protection of the poor and most vulnerable communities, those least responsible yet most affected by our insufficient climate action.

**We pray** that our leaders listen to grasp the urgency expressed, in the latest science, and to guide our economic systems to reject dependence on extraction, exploitation and accumulation through dispossession.

**We pray** for wisdom, courage and compassion in our climate negotiators, to find shared solutions together that honour needs of the poorest, while reflecting meaningful action from the richest and highest emitters.

**We pray** the developed countries will lead in greenhouse gas emissions and climate finance, as they promised in the Paris Agreement.

**We pray** leaders in all countries will do all they can to rapidly reduce extraction and burning of fossil fuels, and promote sustainable economic, social and political systems to stabilize global temperature rise at 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

**We pray** that developed countries meet their promise of 100 billion dollars a year to help developing countries implement climate action, money in the form of grants rather than loans.

**We pray** for sufficient finance for Loss and Damage, supporting those communities already profoundly affected by climate change no matter what we do.

**We pray**, from the Paris Agreement Rulebook, for ambitious, effective and fair compliance in common time frames and transparency in reporting.

**We pray** for human rights and Indigenous People's Rights to be included and better protected, including protection of these rights in carbon trading schemes.

**We pray** for an inclusive conference, in which the voices of the least powerful are heard alongside the most powerful.

**We pray** that delegates attending the COP remain healthy and return home in peace

## Personal notes

### Bishop Philip Huggins

Anglican Church, Diocese of Melbourne Australia;  
Centre for Ecumenical Studies; Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture

*Beholding the love of God for all creation has no boundaries. Everything and everyone are included. With beloved friends, I am drawn to offer prayers for the miraculous transformation of our planetary life at this time. We understand the difference between a holy place with a holy atmosphere and one that needs a transfiguring influence. Our disfigured world needs our loving prayers and meditations to become whole again.*

### Ms Sarwat Tasneem

ILC Faiths Advisor, Advocate for Indigenous Peoples of the Global South COP27

*My many years of working with faith communities and interfaith groups across the UK, in the Middle East and in New Zealand, I always drew on the shared commitment to justice. We must work together, collaborate and be in-synch with the natural world in order to limit the destruction that may well befall our children and their children through climate change. We cannot do this on our own. Now is the time for compassion and prayer.*

*My participation as a COP26 & 27 Faiths Advisor and advocate for indigenous peoples in the Global South, has highlighted the plight of the most vulnerable to disastrous climate change impacts. Where lush marshes once flowed, droughts have ensued; crops fail; and where oceans once provided food for the most humble, now anxiety and poverty increases.*

*Yet, Faith and spirituality remain and prosper and our essential connection to land, rivers, oceans and skies is a constant reminder of our duty to care and protect earth's gifts to us. Prayer is a mechanism in Islam that is deemed a tool to assist in our social responsibilities to all of creation – this includes the natural environments we live in and take from.*

*In providing a safe place of sanctuary and seeking spirituality during UN COP27 virtually and in-person, we can come together and unite in prayer and silence, for the betterment of our world.*

