



Prayer to the Creator God

(Greg and Linda Crowhurst, [Holy Way](#))

Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Heal and save the earth, the seas, the water, the sky, the trees, the clouds, the deserts, the soil, the continents, the planets, every species you have ever loved.

Tragically our beautiful planet is facing a future of mass extinction, declining health and unimaginable climate-disaster. Between 2030 and 2050, according to the [World Health Organisation](#), climate change is expected to cause approximately 250, 000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress alone.

More frequent and intense extreme weather events are having an increasingly dangerous impact in every region of the world, the time we have left to reverse climate change is very little.

[The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) warns (2023) that humanity is on the brink. The Secretary General of the United Nations, the UN Security Council and the World Economic Forum have identified climate change as the [number one threat facing human security](#), overshadowing other economic, geopolitical, technological or social factors.

[Record temperatures](#) have been recorded in many countries, including Australia, Canada, India, Italy, Oman, Türkiye, Pakistan and the UK. It is [virtually certain](#) that the year 2023 will rank among the 10-warmest years on record.

Wildfires, storms and droughts are leading to forced migration and civil conflicts. By 2050 the number of climate migrants may reach 200 million people, mainly children and the poor. [Multiple European governments](#) are already warning of critical water shortages after Europe's driest summer for 500 years, followed by a severe winter drought. Today half the global population faces [water insecurity](#) at least once a year.

Humanity's "lifeblood" -- water -- is increasingly at risk around the world due to "vampiric overconsumption and overdevelopment," the [United Nations \(2023\)](#) warns.

[Adverse health effects](#) of climate change include respiratory and allergic diseases; vector-borne, food-borne, and waterborne diseases; undernutrition and mental disorders.

Oh Lord, our Earth is in the greatest of danger. There is so much pollution of the air, the water, so much destruction of your beautiful creation, the trees and forests that hold so many gifts, the incredible species of bird and animal, insect and fish, lost or near extinction. Please Lord, open up our hearts and minds to love our planet and all creation, to tenderly care for every living and inanimate thing the way you tenderly care for us all.

Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Surround each one of us and every family, community, society, whether human, animal or mineral, with your love and peace and power to heal.

Never before has humanity had to face such a calling to alter its path. Many of the disasters brought about by Climate Change have no precedent in living memory. Christian bodies, as a whole, unfortunately, despite their worldwide presence, [have done little](#) to acknowledge or tackle deforestation, species extinction, water contamination or climate change.

It is going to take enormous wisdom, compassion, empathy, understanding, respect, kindness as well as technological breakthrough to preserve our planet's precious natural resources and to maintain life.

Pope Francis's document [Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home](#), released in 2015 is a comprehensive overview of the connection between ecology, peace, justice, education and governance and the mechanisms behind ecological ruin; the "violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin". This is a wake-up call, particularly for Christian communities to get involved in a life-affirming way.

Efforts to seek concrete solutions to the environmental crisis have proved ineffective, writes the Holy Father, because of powerful opposition and a general lack of interest, even on the part of believers, who can have an obstructionist attitude ranging from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technical solutions. (Laudata Si 14)

There is also the temptation to trust that God will sort it out, without your involvement.

Oh Lord, there are so many broken relationships in the world; relationships between family members, between friends, colleagues, strangers, within and between communities, countries, nature itself. Help us to stop taking situations, people, things for granted, to stop judging wrongly, expecting to own or take or damage what does not belong to us, especially the earth itself, and mend our relationships in all ways. It feels on so many levels that everything is fracturing at the moment. Help us to have confidence in your grace to strengthen us in our resolve to love, to be compassionate, to understand, to heal and to mend the hurts of the past and the present and to take action with integrity, lest the broken bonds remain, worsen or harm the future .

Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Pour out your grace upon the whole world. May it touch every single thing in your creation, big and small, whether it is a neutrino, an ephemeral electron, a new born child, a single-celled organism, a giraffe, a volcano, a mountain, an iceberg, no matter its shape, size and apparent significance, may everything feel your grace upon it.

As the dreadful impact of soaring global inequality, unemployment and climate change unfold, roughly in parallel, we face the prospect of a [perfect storm](#) of disasters, inflicting a terrible toll upon civilisation over the [next century](#). No matter how hopeless things seem to be however, it is more important than ever to remember that God's love and mercy are always available to us. God pours out His Grace upon us, so that we can make a difference, so that we can find hope and purpose, so that we can start afresh.

We can always renew our commitment at any moment, even if we have become complacent or forgotten our own power to act caringly.

Oh Lord, help us to see and know our own connection to all living and organic things. Help us to value the smallest creature and understand its part in your creation. Help us to grow in awareness in the interconnectedness of the whole world, the atmosphere, the seas, the oceans, the land, every rock and environment, every living thing; all that is visible and invisible. May we live a life that honours all.

Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Fill us with mercy for the smallest creature to the largest mountain and every part of this wondrous planet that we might see the world afresh.

The looming threat of extinction of the world's insects is threatening a [catastrophic collapse](#) of nature's ecosystems. Terrifyingly, extinction of insects is happening eight times faster than that of mammals, birds and reptiles, they could even vanish within a century, if we do not take action. There are many seemingly small things we can individually do right now, such as not mowing the lawn, planting native plants, avoiding pesticides, leaving old tree stumps and dead leaves alone, reducing our carbon footprint and becoming much more aware of how wondrous and how vital these tiny creatures are to us all.

To look with wonder is the first step to appreciate life and to discover our potential to bring healing to the planet that lies within us. We can then discover that the capacity to save the Earth lies within ourselves. In the power of wonder, we are inspired to open our minds, to explore new ideas, to find hope, to connect with others, to build better relationships, to lead a much more fulfilling and meaningful life.

Oh Lord, help us look with new eyes at all that surrounds us. Let us see beauty wherever we go, in whatever circumstance we find ourselves. Let us appreciate and rejoice in the life you have given us. May we immerse ourselves in love for our environment and all beings.



Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Bless the universe, the stars, the galaxies, the comets, the moons and the suns, the energy and the gravity that holds it all together. May all give honour and praise to God and fill us with the deepest awe.

The Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples' Declaration at the United Nations in 2014, states that there is no more time for discussion on preventing ' Climate Change; that opportunity has passed, climate change is here. Economic orthodoxy, it suggests, has ravaged Sacred Earth and its families, has brought about climate change has violated sacred ways of life.

As [Pope Francis](#) stresses, the Earth is protesting for the wrong that we are doing to her. We have grown up thinking that we are her owners and dominators, authorised to loot her. This is absolutely without justification.

Oh Lord, let us never stop looking up with awe at the nature of the universe. Help us appreciate the stunning scale of your creation and live a life that honourably reflects our place within it. May we never stop looking at the planets and the stars or gasp in wonder at the beauty of the moon in a crisp night sky. May we appreciate the magnificence of black holes, the science of gravity, the invisible dark matter that holds everything together. May we always look out for the wonder of the solar system, the incredible movement of the night sky and love everything that you have created.

Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Teach us the true meaning of the Word of God and help us live more deeply in Your Word and come to understand all living beings and how to live in harmony with them.

It has been estimated that extreme weather increases by more than five times the risk of violent armed conflict within [countries](#), contributing even more to climate change, in multiple ways harming the biosphere.

War causes a widespread loss of life, extensively harms the natural environment, devastates biodiversity and directly contributes to the climate crisis. War impacts wildlife and damages important eco systems.

An estimated 6% of all greenhouse gas emissions are caused by the world's militaries.

Oh Lord, may we never stop learning to love your creation. May we keep growing throughout our lives, reflecting on the meaning of the Word of God in our own lives. Help us to respect others, known and unknown. Let us develop a deep respect for life itself and learn to develop new policies and approaches that do not do harm.

Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Comfort all of nature in its great need, protect it, heal it, save it, help us to honour it and take care of it, as is Your Will.

According to [NASA](#), Antarctica is losing ice mass (melting) at an average rate of about 150 billion tons per year, and Greenland is losing about 270 billion tons per year, massively adding to sea level rises around the world.

[Thwaites Glacier](#), the so called “end-of-the-world glacier” in Antarctica is crumbling faster than we can act to prevent it. Its collapse would cause the world’s waters to rise about 65 centimeters, which would be a catastrophic scenario for coastal cities, wildlife and marine life.

In recent years the ice sheet of the Arctic has become about 40 percent thinner and its area has shrunk by 14 percent. The world’s major mountain ranges are also losing ice and snow.

It has been [calculated](#) that more than 170 trillion plastic particles pollute the oceans and even the glaciers. That quantity is set to more than double from 2016 to 2040. Marine plastic pollution directly contributes to climate change through greenhouse gas emissions, as it breaks down into [micro plastics](#). It also negatively affects sea life such as plankton. Shockingly only 9% of global plastics are currently recycled, the rest is simply dumped. Meantime [4% of the world's](#) annual petroleum production is diverted to making plastic, and another 4% gets burned in the refining process.

It has been [reported](#) that in 2022, 1000 “super emitter sites” released gas methane into the global atmosphere at a rate equivalent to 67m running cars. In addition, apparently there are 55 “methane bombs” around the world with the potential to release methane equivalent to 30 years of all US greenhouse gas emissions.

Lord, the earth and its creatures are hurting. The ice caps are melting. The species are dying. The butterflies and birds and insects are diminishing, we are poisoning our waterways and the very air we breathe. How can this be? Lord guide us to a better future. Take away all fear. Open our hearts and minds to take right action now to restore all that we have lost before it is too late. We beg for Your Love and Mercy in our lives and those of future generations. We trust in your wisdom and guidance.

Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Help us bear witness to the harm being done to the planet so that we can aim to love and restore it once again, right now.

Vast areas of the world's forests have been destroyed. Six thousand years ago the Sahara was a tropical jungle, however overgrazing by humans and the use of fire for land clearance most likely contributed to the loss of vegetation that led to [desertification](#). We do not seem to have learned the lessons of history. Forests create their own weather systems. Destroying them can result in deserts. In the UK there are at least 800 woods that are currently under threat, placing the UK potentially in a [state of deforestation](#). At COP 26 in 2021 more than 100 world leaders promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030, however a previous deal in 2014

failed to [slow deforestation](#) . There needs to be a replanting plan that includes taking care of and ensuring growth of the much needed newly planted trees.

Shockingly least 70% of the clearing of forested areas for agriculture globally, between 2013 and 2019 was done in violation of national laws.

In recent times the world has lost an area of forest twice the size of the United States. Deforestation, according to [Scientific American](#), is adding more carbon dioxide to the atmosphere than the sum total of all the cars and trucks on the world's roads.

Surprisingly, Britain is now one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. One in every five plant species in the UK is currently listed as [threatened](#). 41% of all Britain's species have declined [since the 1970s](#), more than a quarter of Britain's mammals are at risk of extinction and the number of farmland birds has declined by half. Concerning loss of biodiversity, Britain is in the [bottoms 10% of all countries worldwide](#).

Oh Lord, the needs of the planet our mighty. The forests have been destroyed, the climate is changing, wreaking havoc. Meanwhile we seem to move toward a terrifying future with our eyes closed or feeling helpless and too overwhelmed by the vastness of the reality to know how to act and what to do. Help us to see how we can each make a small difference in creating healing in our environments and communities.



Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Fill us with confidence that we might dare to hope for a better, more balanced, cleaner, fresh environment, teeming with life as you made it to be, free from fear and destruction.

Climate change is currently the most serious threat to life on our planet. However there are plenty of well understood solutions , as outlined in the In 2015 Paris agreement. Core to that agreement is reducing greenhouse gas emissions to zero as soon as possible. If we stopped emitting greenhouse gases today, the rise in global temperatures would begin to flatten within a few years, but would still [remain well-elevated](#) for many, many centuries.

Despite the urgency, however, oil and gas corporations continue to carry on drilling for and burning fossil fuels, [while banks, car and energy companies](#) particularly, continue to make vast profits from fossil fuel, endangering the future of our planet.

Oh Lord, help us to see what needs doing in our lives, environments, countries, continents and how this might peacefully be achieved. Give us the strength to face the future and change its outcome to a more peaceful, harmonious, protected, balanced world where we honour nature and recognise our part in its demise and destruction. Give us hope and eyes to see. Gives us wisdom to know what we can do. Help us to be honest about the changes we must all make. Guide us ever in the way of healing and love. Help us be true to your way which is always Love and Mercy.



Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Open our hearts with compassion to all your creatures, lead us to care in a better, honest way, for all of them. Save their habitats, restore their numbers, love them for what they are and protect them from harm and extinction.

Climate change poses a serious threat to natural habitats around the world. The world's wildlife populations have plummeted by more than two-thirds since 1970 and there are no signs that this [downward trend is slowing](#). As temperatures rapidly rise, many species are unable to adapt to their changing environment and face extinction.

It is [estimated](#) that climate change and global food demand could drive a devastating loss of up to 23 percent of all natural habitat ranges in the next 80 years.

Lord, you know all the harm that has been and continues to be done to nature. You know the future, for your view is far reaching. You know how we can change. Open our eyes to see. Open our ears to hear. Open our hearts to love. Lord, help us to help all your beloved creatures. Let us rejoice in all of Your creation, not selfishly, greedily or dispassionately kill them or destroy their habitats. Guide us in new ways. Affirm all that is good and hopeful. Help us change, Lord, before it is too late.

Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Bring us to life, save the planet and all You have created, from human greed, destruction, ignorance, arrogance and careless mismanagement.

Just 1% of farms control 70% of the world's agricultural land, 40% of which has been devalued in terms of the health of the soil. If nothing changes, then an additional area of land, the size of South America, will be damaged by [2050](#).

[Corporate power](#) is a major contributor to climate change, despoiling the environment and strongly influencing the global discussion on climate change.

It [has been shown](#) that the ultra wealthy have contributed far more to planetary decline than the majority of the world's population. According to a [recent report](#), 1% of the world's wealthiest produce double the combined carbon emissions than the poorest 50%.

Surely it is time to redress the imbalance and inequality.

We hope it is not too late to change the terrifying destruction that we will witness in our lifetimes, if we do not all take action to respect life and creation. We have already wrought so much destruction that is truly shocking and sad beyond words. Bless every creature, every stone, every rock, every structure, every home, every person. May all our ways be made straight. Lord save us now, guide us now, help us act now, to save the Earth and all our communities.

Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Heal us now, so that we can be better people, make our ways straight, so that we can live in harmony and balance with all of the earth.

Our first priority must be the preservation of the planet and the well being and sacredness of creation, rather prioritising human need over everything else, which ultimately is self destructive. We must change our focus from profit oriented systems to compassionate, caring , balanced, restorative ways of living with each other and alongside nature.

The way to do this is by looking at how we care for ourselves , each other and the environment. [Pope Francis](#) reminds us that the alternative is social and environmental unrest.

Lord we carry such woundedness in our lives. So many devastations are impacting people. There are wars, deadly diseases, destructive natural phenomena. The sea level is rising. The water and air is polluted. Nature is overwhelming us leaving destruction in its path, from tsunamis, tornadoes, earthquakes, huge storms, flooding on a grand scale. People are being made homeless. Help us see how to work together to make a better, safer world, where we honour nature and respect every living creature as well as the earth, the sky, the sea.

Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Let there be miracles of healing and restoration, of wisdom and a new vision for all of us to live peacefully together.

God has created a marvellous, wonderful, life -giving world, whilst we, who are bringing about a death making world, have become a threat to creation. At the same time those least responsible for the degradation of the planet, the world's poorest, are the ones suffering most from it. One of the world's most pressing health and environmental problems, for example is air pollution, which is destroying plants, profoundly damaging habitats, water and food sources everywhere.

According to the [World Health Organization](#), an estimated seven million people die each year from air pollution.

This takes our discussion into the realms of "environmental -justice". Environmental justice affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, the interdependence of all species and their right to be free from ecological destruction. It acknowledges how climate change is brought about by privilege, power, and oppression.

There is some hope that humanity is entering an [Ecozoic Age](#); a time in which we will rediscover our sacred connection with the earth and enter upon a mutual relationship of awe and wonder, reverence and respect, instead of domination and destruction.

Surely we can raise our gaze higher and look for a new direction, new wisdom, for how to love and cherish the earth and all who live in it, from the plants, insects, trees, animals, to the awesome mountains, rivers, seas, skies, the weather. All are alive with energy and deserve to be honoured. Let us ask for miracles, a change of vision, a commitment to

healing, to compassion, to understanding, to peace, a humility when we look at all of nature and a commitment to tread carefully and walk gently into a better future in all our environments, respecting all the universe.



Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Be with us as we pray for all the lost species, all the damaged waterways, all the overcrowded cities, all the polluted air, the melting ice caps, the impact of climate change, the broken lives, may all be made new.

Climate change is affecting people's physical and mental health. It is dangerous for pregnant women, it exacerbates respiratory and cardiovascular disease, it can cause long-term mental health problems. Every environmental disaster has a human cost, worryingly they are becoming more frequent and devastating each year.

We need to address the issue of good health care and social support and radically change our focus, to care for everyone.

We must consider the risk of global societal collapse or even human extinction, if we do not deal with the issues posed by climate change.

Let our hearts break and our tears be unleashed to recognise and grieve the lost lives, the beautiful creatures now gone or at risk of forever being extinct, due to our careless management of the bounty and resources You have given us freely. Let our tears wash the world clean of all hatred and greed. Let a new path of cooperation open up to save our planet and future generations of every living creature. Let us honour and respect nature. Help us us bring harmony to the world in all we do. May tomorrow carry more hope and less fear for the whole of creation.



Oh Heart of Love, oh Mighty Creator

Surround us all and the whole world to the end of time and back to the beginning, with Your Love. Amen

How do we sustain hope in the face of the biggest disaster ever facing humanity or in the face of fear and denial? How do we avoid falling into despair or "doomerism"?

God sees a bigger picture and has a wider perspective. He helps us not fall into despair. There is always the possibility of change in any moment and we can all make a difference in the way we live and in the way we relate to nature.

In his book, [The New Climate Wars](#), Michael Mann asserts "The solution is already here. We just need to deploy it rapidly and at a massive scale." As the [ICC warn](#) (2023), if temperatures

are to be kept to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, greenhouse gas emissions **need to go down now**, and be cut by almost half by 2030.

The first step, surely, is to recognise that we all have a responsibility to change, to tend to and to nurture the environment in whatever way we can. Even the tiniest changes have an impact.

Seventy five percent of young people surveyed in ten countries, have said that the [future was frightening](#). However, to counteract fear, we must look to love. No matter how small and insignificant you may feel you can choose hope not despair, you can choose kindness over selfishness, you can choose to open your ears, your eyes, your heart to the world in which you live and to listen to the Holy Spirit guiding you, you can make all the difference in the world.

This is the time to hold on to any seed of goodness within or without you, that might bless the current dismal, bleak and crushing picture.

This is where we need God's aid, for when we can find no hope of our own volition and despair looms too large to block it out, here then the Lord can save us, by filling us with His Hope ; hope that brings light, truth, strength, wisdom, comfort, hope that is all powerful, a saving grace from all three, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bringing not only hope but proactive hope, carried on the wings of the Spirit, to bring about change, for what is hope but Love in action, come to unite us with all that is good.

Help us not to feel that all is hopeless or that we are individually or collectively too small, insignificant and helpless to make the needed changes. Help us to see the urgency to respond and always act with integrity and a compassionate heart, in the best interests of all. Amen

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