

# Recycling Week //

# Praying towards COP26

## A SUGGESTED 60-MIN PRAYER GUIDE

Below you will find a centring prayer, scriptures, poem and suggested prayer activities. Please feel free to use what you want. Permission to dip in and out, follow the suggested timings or go at your own pace.

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You may need a Bible, newspaper or magazine, plain paper, scissors, glue, pen and device with Wi-Fi. Scroll down to find out more before entering prayer.

### INTRO

This year in the UK, Recycling Week runs from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of September, leading us up to the UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, taking place in Glasgow from the 31<sup>st</sup> October - 12<sup>th</sup> November.

This prayer resource will invite us to explore the ways in which God is always renewing us, never letting us go to waste and consistently giving us new life. Our faith gives us hope for change in what can appear to be the darkest of circumstances.

We pray that God will help us to imagine what this change can look like, give us the courage to make that change in our own lives, and to pray for our leaders as they work together to tackle climate change.

### CENTERING AND SILENCE [5 MINS]

Get into a comfortable posture and pray,

*'As we enter prayer now, we pause to be still, slow our breathing, and centre ourselves in the abiding presence of Christ'*

Bring your attention to your breath. Treat each breath as an arrival. Breathe in God's presence. As you breathe out, imagine letting go of future worries and responsibilities to God. Become present.

Breathe deeply. You may like to pray this breath prayer,

[BREATHE IN]: All of creation is a song of praise to God.

[BREATHE OUT]: I am part of that creation.

## OPENING SCRIPTURES [5 MINS]

Read slowly, aloud or in your head. You may like to read several times.

And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.

- *John 6:12-13*

Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that  
We may be restored;  
Renew our days as of old –

- *Lamentations 5:21*

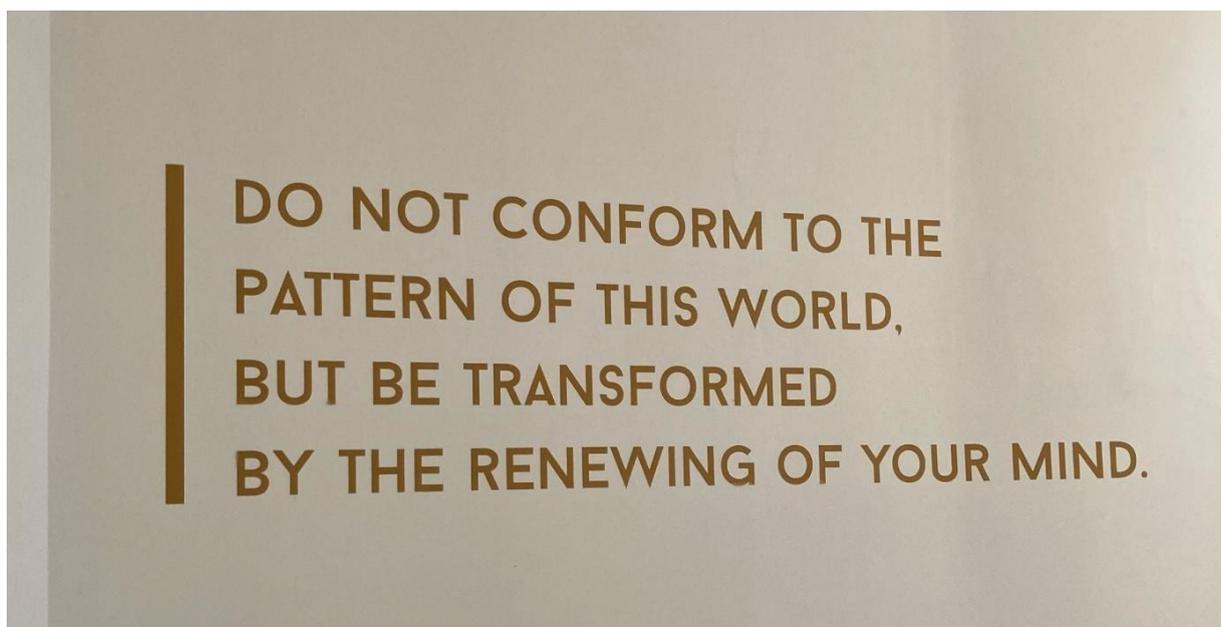
## LECTIO DIVINA [5 MINS]

Drawing on the principles of Lectio Divina, Visio Divina is the slow, thoughtful contemplation of a picture, photo, work of art, or really anything visual that invites God to speak to us in a deeper way.

Spend a few minutes looking deeply at the photo below, taken recently in a coffeeshop in Coventry.

What do you hear God whispering into your heart? What thoughts or questions is this image raising? What emotions do you feel?

While looking upon the image, respond to God in prayer.



## POEM [5 MINS]

Read and/or listen to a poem called '*I see a New City*' by Gerard Kelly.

// Listen on YouTube > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1BZWHKARiA>

// Listen on Spotify >

<https://open.spotify.com/track/7lfwh8zgCQGjX0AEZNycZr?si=a208b047af59413e>

I see a new city, poured out from Heaven  
Dressed for a party; blazing with beauty  
Her rooftops are radiant, trees trembling with laughter  
And joy like a jewel shines in her streets.  
From her walls and windows  
No weeping is heard  
Through her gateways and gutters  
Floods of tears do not flow  
For in her homes and houses no pain dwells  
Bricks once broken down in mourning  
Rise again in song and celebration  
Stones thrown down by enmity and envy  
Dare to dance in swirling swathes of mercy  
She sings: a million voices rising  
The long-lost languages of human hopes  
The secret praise of human hearts, released at last  
Because her God is with her  
Because his home is made  
Within her walls  
Because his voice is heard  
Gentle like the rains of spring  
Declaring: New! New! New!  
This is the city I see  
The future I belong to

This is the blueprint my heart holds on to  
Even now, in streets that sing another story  
Even here, beneath a darker vision's shadow  
This metropolis of mercy  
Promising future realisation  
Active now in Love's imagination  
This is my dream  
And though I wait, and though I long  
And though the sacred city may seem slow:  
Still I will hope  
Still I will pray  
Still I will today  
Rise up and build.

I see a New City, by Gerard Kelly >

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/See-New-City-Possibility-Worship/dp/1091714002>

## CUT- UP POETRY [25 MINS]

*"Behold, I am making all things new"* – Revelation 21:5

Cut-up poetry (sometimes called found poems) is a technique of writing poetry. An existing piece of writing, such as a newspaper or magazine article, is cut up and rearranged into a new text, recycling words to make something new!

### [STEP ONE]

Gather up your materials – old newspaper, magazine, book, scissors, glue, and a sheet of paper. Before you begin, take a minute to quieten yourself, slow your breathing and centre yourself in God's presence.

### [STEP TWO]

Begin to cut up a section of text into individual words. Try not to read what you are cutting but



notice words that jump out at you: that ‘shimmer’ or provoke a response in you. This may be a resonance or dissonance. Put those words to the side.

#### [STEP THREE]

Once you’ve cut out enough words, begin to arrange them on the paper in front of you. Don’t worry about your poem not ‘making sense’. It may be that the words you have chosen don’t make a full sentence, but that they share a meaning, tone, mood, or sound. Once you have arranged them, glue them down, and there you have your poem!

#### [STEP FOUR]

Read your poem over to yourself a few times. Think about how through creating this poem you have reused and recycled words to create new meaning. You might like to reflect on the Bible verse at the beginning of the exercise: “Behold, I am making all things new.”

As you reflect, what meaning is beginning to emerge? Is it sparking memories or emotions in you? Is there an invitation to action? You may want to respond by writing things down, or simply just by holding them in your heart.

### **PRAYER AND ACTION [5 MINS]**

The eyes of the world will be on Glasgow for the climate summit, but the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) is a time for all of us to commit to prayer and action on the climate crisis, wherever we may be.

We can actively choose to listen to the voices of those most affected, we can pray for the decision-makers and we can commit to take personal action.

PRAYER // Take some time to pray aloud, or in your head, for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November and the climate crisis.

Pray for our world leaders. Pray for unity. Pray for action. Pray for policy and legislation.

God of Creation,  
Who formed beauty from the unseen, hover over the COP26 summit.  
Let there be light-bulb moments and policy breakthrough.  
Let there be space to listen, and join, the groans of creation.  
Let the land be free to fulfil its divine potential and feed the world.  
Let the sky be blue with prophetic thinking and direct action.  
Let the waters replenish,  
Let the earth breathe,  
Let us be remade in your image.  
Amen

ACTION // Here are a few options for how to take action during Recycling week and beyond:

## OPTION ONE: RESEARCH

Here is a list of resources and citizen campaigns which aim to help people to recycle responsibly, and gives idea for how to reduce waste in general:

- [Love Your Clothes](#)
- [wrap.org.uk](https://www.wrap.org.uk)
- [Clear on Plastics](#)
- [Love Food Hate Waste](#)

## OPTION TWO: RELAY

The Young Christian Climate Network are organising a Relay to COP26, in which individuals and groups from all over the UK will be walking, cycling and running a relay from St Ives to Glasgow. Find out more are <https://www.yccn.uk/>.

If it isn't for you, there are other ways that you can support the relay, so check it out!

## OPTION THREE: JOIN WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Talk to your neighbours, your church or workplace and see what others are doing to refuse, reuse, reduce and recycle.

## OPTION FOUR: START SOMETHING NEW

Set up a swap shop, where people can bring their old clothes and swap with others.

Get a group to go litter picking in your local park, shared garden, or canal paths.

Think about what single use products in your church, workplace or community centre can be replaced with reusable alternatives. JUST and NADA in Leicester city centre are just two eco shops that can help give you advice on how to do this.

## **BLESSING**

Spirit of God, your desire is to grow in us your fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and sound mind(?).

Forgive us when our roots are so shallow,

and our hearts so restless that we miss opportunities to bear fruit.

Enable us to find our home in you

and look after the home that you have given us.

Amen.