Intercessions

Operation Noah
Use this pdf with 77 ideas for a Day of Prayer, ranging from Bible quotes to case studies of action:
http://www.operationnoah.org/sites/default/files/Day%20of%20Prayer%20Final%20content%20v2.pdf

All-age Rainbow Intercessions
A useful idea for an all-age context:

Materials:
- Display board with a big world map, nature or climate-themed poster or a plain blue sheet, multicoloured post-it packs available from stationers

The post-its are distributed throughout the congregation and following a talk or presentation people are asked to write their own prayers for the world, and then to bring them forward to be stuck on the poster / map / blue sheet to form a rainbow symbolic of God’s covenant with Noah. Tell them in advance that some prayers will be read out, but that they are free to write any prayer that comes to mind, as short or as long as they like.

If you want to try to develop the idea further, you could theme the rainbow colours in one of two ways: eg, each colour could represent a continent, and the prayers would be for that part of the world – blue could be for the oceans. However, this extra detail may be a little too prescriptive and you may just want to suggest it as an idea which may or may not help. The important thing is that people get to write their own prayers and express themselves.

After the prayers have been brought forward you can read out perhaps half a dozen (using a response if you want). A mix of shorter and longer prayers from young and old will help create a sense of ‘all in it together’; of course you may want to act as moderator and edit out ones that are likely to be a distraction from the theme.

Perhaps finish off with a more formal prayer or one from the pages that follow.

Leave the post-it prayer rainbow in a prominent place as a visual symbol for all to see.

Penitential Prayer
Forgive us, Lord, for the damage we have done to the earth.
Forgive us that rivers and seas have been polluted by waste.
Forgive us that air has been turned foul by burning.
Forgive us that flowers and animals have become extinct when the places where they live have been destroyed.
Forgive us that we have too often valued making money over the things that you have made so well. Help us to work towards a Kingdom where your creation is honoured in both earth and heaven.
We ask in Jesus’ name, through whom all things were made, and we are remade.
Amen

Adapted from The Lion Prayer Collection / Further Everyday Prayers (Lion, 1994)
Sample Intercession (can be adapted)

Father, we thank you that you are the Creator of the world, and you sustain it by your power. We thank you for its fruitfulness, beauty and the wonder and love it inspires.

We recognise that changes in the climate are already damaging the ecosystems which sustain life.

We remember how in the days of Noah and the flood you gave the rainbow as a sign of your care for the earth and those who live in it, and ask that you would help us as we grapple with the problem.

We pray for scientists seeking to understand the complexity of what is happening; for the politicians faced with big decisions; and for your wisdom for all who are seeking to reduce the threat of climate change to this and future generations.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, we remember that you gave your life for everyone to be reconciled to you and find life in all its fullness. We pray that as we enjoy reconciliation and new life in you, so your Spirit would open our hearts and transform our attitudes both to other people and to your creation. Please make our lives more truly fruitful so that in our actions we may work for the good of all. Help us to pursue the wellbeing of all your children, both in this generation and in times to come.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

Father, we bring before you in our prayers areas of the world that suffer great environmental problems, including flooding, storms, drought and uncertain weather patterns. We pray for the people in those parts of the world which are already feeling the impacts of climate change – such as [Bangladesh, island nations everywhere, many parts of Africa facing climatic instability].

[We remember especially...]

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

We pray for your blessing on those who work to alleviate the impacts of climate change, wherever they are found, and to provide for those made destitute in poor countries.

We pray for the work of all those charities and campaigning organisations which seek to educate people and to bring pressure to bear on governments so that problems will be addressed. Help them to operate effectively and with integrity, and we ask that their voices may be heeded.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

Father, we thank you for your promise that one day there will be a renewed heaven and earth in which your Son will reign in righteousness, and where sorrow and suffering will be no more, and your people will be one in him. We bring these prayers to you in Jesus’ name,

Amen

(Adapted. Unknown source)