



*"The Garden of Eden is no more, we are fundamentally changing nature,  
and people need to fundamentally understand what is at stake.."*

Sir David Attenborough

This is the day that the Lord has made

**All Let us rejoice and be glad in it**

### **Opening Responses**

Come among us God

You, who cast the planets into space  
and cradle the sparrow in her nest

**All Come God and meet us here**

Come among us God

You, who bless the poor and the broken  
and stand by the sad and the strong

**All Come God and meet us here**

Come among us God

You, who dance in the silence  
and shine in the darkness

**All Come God and meet us here**

### **Music: Think of a World without any flowers**

Think of a world without any flowers,  
Think of a world without any trees,  
Think of a sky without any sunshine,  
Think of the air without any breeze.  
We thank You, Lord,  
for flowers and trees and sunshine,  
We thank You, Lord,  
and praise Your holy name.

Think of a world without any animals,  
Think of a field without any herd,  
Think of a stream without any fishes,  
Think of a dawn without any bird.  
We thank You, Lord,  
For all Your living creatures,  
We thank You, Lord  
and praise Your holy name.

## Rainbow Covenant

We gather now to declare  
with the repentant God of Genesis  
(the colours of the first rainbow still dripping from Her brush),  
“Never again.”

We gather under this prism of penitence,  
cosmic reminder of all that must elicit from us  
this sacred mantra “Never again.”

Never again, to the xenophobic fear that issues in a holocaust.

*Never again, to the colonising arrogance that causes another species to disappear forever.*

Never again,  
to the pursuit of private gain while Lazarus and his children sit hungry  
outside our gates.

*Never again, to the world’s way of transforming suffering into violence.*

All **May we be a rainbow people,  
joining with God in keeping this ancient covenant,  
living the promise of a new creation being born through us. Amen**

## Collect

Spirit of the Living God  
At the beginning you moved over the face of the waters.  
You brought life into being, the teeming life  
that finds its way through earth and sea and air,  
that makes its home around us, everywhere.  
You know how living things flourish and grow  
How they co-exist; how they feed and breed and change  
Help us to understand those delicate relationships,  
value them, and keep them from destruction.

All **Amen**

## READING

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.



**Operation Noah is a Christian charity working with the Church  
to inspire action on the climate crisis**

<https://operationnoah.org/>



**CHRISTIAN CLIMATE ACTION  
DIRECT ACTION,  
PUBLIC WITNESS FOR THE CLIMATE**

<https://christianclimateaction.org/>



**United  
Nations**

**Peace, dignity and equality  
on a healthy planet**

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/>

## Websites and Further Information



Our vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

## LETTERS TO THE EARTH

Letters to the Earth , writing to a planet in crisis

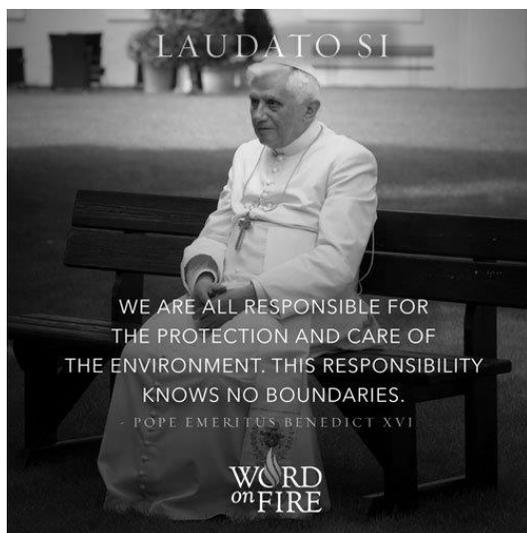
<https://www.letterstotheearth.com/>



### Climate change

This is the biggest challenge we face.  
But together we can restore God's Earth

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change-campaign>



<https://laudatosi.com/watch>

## READING continued

I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

## Reflection – Rainbows and Resurrection

### Beauty for Brokenness

1. Beauty for brokenness  
Hope for despair  
Lord, in the suffering  
This is our prayer  
Bread for the children  
Justice, joy, peace  
Sunrise to sunset  
Your kingdom increase!
2. Shelter for fragile lives  
Cures for their ills  
Work for the craftsman  
Trade for their skills  
Land for the dispossessed  
Rights for the weak  
Voices to plead the cause  
Of those who can't speak
3. Rest for the ravaged earth  
Oceans and streams  
Plundered and poisoned  
Our future, our dreams  
Lord, end our madness  
Carelessness, greed  
Make us content with  
The things that we need

### Chorus:

*God of the poor Friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray Melt our cold hearts  
Let tears fall like rain Come, change our love  
From a spark to a flame*

## Intercessions for the Planet

Response for intercessions

Lord wake us from our slumber

All **To become a resurrection people**

Our exploration of creation can begin with prayer. Does this mean forcing our prayers into an 'environmentally friendly' mould? In the Jewish tradition, prayer is like that already. The ladder Jacob saw in his dream – with angels of God 'going up and coming down on it' – is a symbol of prayer, connecting earth and heaven. The Hebrew word for prayer is not 'levakesh – to request', but '**tefilla – to connect**'. So in the Jewish mindset, the essence of prayer is about linking creator and creation. The early church of Britain and Ireland would be puzzled with our modern- day quest to become 'eco-friendly' in our prayers. In their minds, considering creation was not a separate issue. To talk of 'the environment' as an isolated concept would have been strange. Everything was connected in Christ.

## Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the one who waits.  
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.*

*Let the fires of your justice burn.*

*Wipe away all tears,*

*For the dawn draws near,*

*And the world is about to turn.*

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. **(Refrain)**

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. **(Refrain)**

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forbears heard is the promise that holds us bound,  
'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. **(Refrain)**

## Closing Responses

Please join with me and say

All **Holy One, Creator  
earthed in Jesus  
and in all creation  
through your Holy Spirit,  
we commit ourselves  
to work in harmony with your holy will,  
so full of humility and selfless love.  
As you are willing to earth yourself in Christ,  
so give us the humility and courage  
to 'heaven' ourselves in you.  
Amen**

Go now

Go and revel in God's world

Go and be creative

Go and work for justice

Go and love your neighbours

Go and live simply so others may simply live

Go and walk with God

All **Amen**