

# Intercessions 6 June 2021

**by Andrew Goodman**

*Reading: Psalm 138 ; Gospel: Mark 3. 20-34*

Next weekend (11-13<sup>th</sup> June), the G7 summit of leaders from some of the world's most influential, wealthiest and most polluting countries will come together in Carbis Bay, Cornwall, to discuss how we build back better and fairer from the pandemic.

Then, in November, COP26 will bring together Governments of practically every country in the world in Glasgow to tackle the climate crisis.

Our prayers today will focus on these summits and that we will see leaders commit to bolder action to tackle the crises facing the planet.

Yesterday was World Environment Day and a nation-wide day of prayer called [Prayer in the Park](#) when Christians across the UK headed to local outdoor spaces, alone or with others, to pray for the climate crisis in particular. We are using Prayer in the Park resources this morning.

Prayer of lament for our world and our neighbours bearing the impact of climate change unequally:

Lord God, you made the world and declared it was 'very good'. And yet, we have not treated the earth and our fellow humans with the care and respect they deserve. We are sorry and ask for your forgiveness.

Give us the courage to keep raising our voices about the climate emergency, which affects people living in poverty the worst. And may your Spirit of peace be in

the hearts of all people, so that conflicts end in peace,  
and relationships are restored.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Prayer of thanksgiving for where we live:

Creator God,

We acknowledge that as your handiwork, we stand  
alongside all that you have made.

Trees, rivers and chalk streams, hills and valleys, soaring  
birds and scuttling creatures, all are held within your  
care.

May we grow in our love and appreciation for the  
fabulous variety around us; and may our awe and  
wonder draw us closer to the natural world, and through  
it to you, the God of all things.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

## Prayer for the church

Lord, help us as Christians to put our faith into action for climate justice, and help us to spend time reflecting on how the church should respond to the climate crisis.

Help us to follow the example and leadership shown by young Christians involved in WeAreTearfund who this year have called on the church to bring climate change into the heart of ministry. They have said:

‘We are moved by faith. We hear God’s call to creation care and see a world that’s been neglected, a world that’s on fire, and if we the church don’t care enough to put it out, who will?’

‘We the church must love in action and not just words. We must hear the cries of a world in peril and use our platform to respond with the love of Jesus. A love that disrupts the status quo and inconveniences itself to bring restoration. This is our responsibility. This is our worship.’

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

## Prayer for the G7

A Tearfund report published this week revealed that, domestically, G7 nations have been pumping more money into fossil fuels than clean energy since the start of the pandemic. This doesn’t stack up against the urgency of the climate crisis, or with promises to ‘build back better’. Inconsistencies like this continue to put millions of lives at risk and push people further into poverty as the climate crisis escalates.

Lord, the world leaders cannot stall at this critical moment. We will watch eagerly for:

- Conviction to act in truth from the UK Prime Minister as host, and leaders of the other countries attending this year: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Africa, South Korea and USA.
- An end to investing billions of dollars into coal, oil and gas in their recovery responses and instead the funding of recovery from coronavirus that leads to a steep decline in greenhouse gas emissions - massively scaling up investment in clean energy, and in cleaner transport and public transport infrastructure.

Lord, we thank you for the leadership shown by the USA President which has resulted this week in G7 finance ministers agreeing a deal to fight tax avoidance and make multinational companies pay more tax.

And, Lord, may the G7 summit take seriously the risks of harming progress on climate change unless developing nations are given equitable access to coronavirus vaccines.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

## Prayer for COP26

Forbes said in his sermon just now:

“Jesus says something very profound: He talks about how a divided house cannot stand; a divided kingdom will crumble.”

COP26 is a global gathering and the planet desperately needs it to be undivided.

Lord, help us to continue:

- Looking for justice and climate solutions in the run-up to COP26;
- Praying for world leaders who will be attending:
  - that leaders of countries most impacted by climate change will know how to adapt to a changing world and will hear the cries of most vulnerable;
  - that leaders of large emitting countries will be ambitious in their commitments and actions, and prioritise justice and equality.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

## Prayer for UK Foreign Aid

A letter to the Prime Minister signed by more than 1,700 academics, charities and business leaders says that there is “no justifiable economic need” for cuts in foreign aid of almost £4bn a year.

We thank you for the MPs in the House of Commons who are trying to overturn these drastic cuts to the UK’s foreign aid budget this week. Their amendment needs to be chosen for debate and voted on.

One world leader said recently:

"I really rebel against this idea that politics has to be a place full of ego and where you're constantly focused on scoring hits against each one another. Yes, we need a robust democracy, but you can be strong, and you can be kind" (Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand Prime Minister)

Lord, as the prophet Micah put it, may we do justice and love kindness.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Comfort and heal all those who are unwell, including:

Pat, Douglas, Bernard, Imogen, Dean, Forbes (Snr),  
Barbara, Phil, Tom, Julie, Alma, Claire, Susan, Jo, Lilla,  
Susan, Paul and Suzanne, Tim, Joe.

We join with Mercy in giving thanks to Almighty God for  
the measure of recovery thus far granted to her.

We pray for those who have died, especially those known  
to us:

Brenda Squires

We remember in Year's Mind those whose anniversaries fall  
at this time:

Septimus Hill, Muriel Glover.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

As the psalmist put it:

Lord:

- Teach us to live wisely and well!
- Surprise us with love at daybreak.
- Make up for the bad times with some good times, we've  
seen enough evil to last a lifetime.
- And let your loveliness rest on us, confirming the work  
that we do; yes, affirm the work that we do!

(Based on Psalm 90:12-18; The Message)

Merciful Father.....accept these prayers for the sake of  
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen