



Paris Climate Conference Prayer Kit

Background

The Paris Climate Conference will be held from November 30-December 11, 2015 with the goal of reaching an agreement on global action on climate change from 2020. Coordinated by the United Nations it will bring together leaders from across the world.

In previous conferences world leaders agreed that to avoid the worst impacts of climate change it is necessary to prevent global warming of more than 2° above preindustrial levels. Without any changes to current practice the world is on track for warming above 4°C by the end of the century. Unchecked, this will have severe consequences for humankind.

All nations have asked to develop emissions reduction targets consistent with a fair contribution to reaching the 2° target. The conference will then bring them together into a shared agreement. Targets declared so far are a positive start but not sufficient to reach the 2° target. Australia has announced a commitment to reduce emissions by 26-28% compared to 2005 levels and to achieve this by 2030.

Video

A short video (1 1/2 minutes) explaining the conference can be found at <https://youtu.be/cQ4EYieWsTU>. This would be ideal to play before going to prayer.

Prayer

Loving God,

The Scriptures remind us that you created a good, abundant, and beautiful earth and gave it for the sustenance and flourishing of all creatures.

We thank you for the food that nourishes our bodies; the beauty that delights our imagination; the warmth of the sun upon our faces, the cool of water upon our skin, and the softness of grass beneath our feet.

You call us to be stewards of the earth. We confess that we are failing at this, that species are disappearing, the oceans acidifying, and the earth warming. So we pray for the world leaders gathered in Paris seeking to find a way forward on climate change. Grant them hope, that they may not be resigned to the inevitability of a dangerous climate, but seize this opportunity to craft a safe future for all; grant them love, that they might not be captive to narrow national interests but consider the interests of all peoples; grant them wisdom, that they might not fall short of the action required, but strike a bold agreement sufficient to the need.