



**renew
our
world**
CAMPAIGN

Worship Toolkit

HOW TO ORGANISE A WORSHIP SERVICE

Renew Our World is a global campaign, harnessing the spirit and power of worship, prayer and faithful advocacy to protect our planet and poorest neighbours. Our vision is to inspire Christians to worship, pray and act for a safe climate and the renewal of our world.

Here you'll find tips and ideas to organise a worship moment in your church or community, including singing the Renew Our World worship song! Together, we can lead a global movement of people to worship, pray and take action for global justice and restoration.

Who are we?

Renew Our World is a global community of people seeking to do justice as we follow Jesus. We care about justice, we care for creation, and we feel called to protect God's precious earth and the poorest people who depend on it to survive. Jesus leads us to love our neighbours.

As Christians, we care about climate change because we care about people. The poorest people do the least to cause pollution, but they are the most affected by increasingly frequent and fatal floods, famines, heatwaves and hurricanes. We understand that climate change is a justice issue, and we are joining together to prayerfully put our faith into action.

Renew Our World is a growing movement of Christians taking action in local churches and communities in Zambia, Australia, India, Peru, Brazil, UK, Nigeria, USA, Europe and beyond. The campaign is led by Tearfund, the World Evangelical Alliance, Anglican Alliance, Micah Global, Paz y Esperanza, TEAR Australia, and other Christian groups and churches around the world.



Why worship?

Worship is powerful. Worshipping God transforms our hearts and minds to be more like Christ and inspires us to deepen our love and concern for our neighbours, especially those suffering poverty and environmental disasters in the changing climate. As we worship our Creator, we join in God's mission to renew all of creation. God calls us to put justice at the heart of our worship.

Where?

Get involved right where you are, in your local community! Use this toolkit to organise worship activities in your local church, Bible study group, university, community, or home.

When?

You can organise a Renew Our World worship moment at any time. We particularly encourage people to take part from **September to November 2018**, to pray and act ahead of the UN COP24 conference in December where every country will gather to agree on how to fulfil the [Paris Agreement](#) to address climate change.

September is also the [Season of Creation](#), a time where the 2.2 billion Christians around the world are invited to pray and care for creation. Last year, more than 300 prayer services took place in September. We are part of it.

God is working to bring unity and common purpose to protect our shared planet and all the precious people living in it. Join the movement!

How?

1. Find a date and place to worship.

You can plan to slot this into an upcoming service in your church, or a home group gathering, or even create a new event.

2. Plan your worship programme.

Organise a musician or band to lead worship and sing the Renew Our World song. You can also add your own creative or worship activities: other songs, prayers, videos, art, actions, liturgy. Below are some creative ideas!

3. Sing it!

Share a video or photo of your group singing the Renew Our World worship song on social media – see more details below.

'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free...?'

Isaiah 58:6

'Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!'

Amos 5:23-24



At Your Event

(1)

Sing the worship anthem:

- Get a worship leader or musician to lead your group in singing the worship song.
- [See link to the song and lyrics here](#)

(2)

Share with the world:

- **Take a video or photo of your group (as long as they agree) singing the worship song and share it on social media, say who and where you are, with hashtag #RenewOurWorld** – and we will re-share it!
- We'll collate a montage music video showing diverse worshippers singing around the world and raising our voices as one global chorus. We'll personally present this inspiring video to government decision-makers at the UN climate talks in December, to show them that the global church is calling for justice on climate and for leaders to keep their climate promises.

(3)

Get people signed up:

- Your worship event should be the start of something, not the end! Think of how you'll engage people after the event is over.
- Invite everyone at your event to sign up at renewourworld.net to add their voice to the global movement. You could pass around a laptop or tablet, or take a moment in the event where you invite people to get out their phones and sign up.
- Beyond your worship event, how can interested people get together again? You could host a Bible study series to do the Live Justly study guide, the global edition in [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#), and the [US edition](#).



What if you can't organise an event? No problem!

Just take the action at renewourworld.net and share a video or picture of yourself singing along to the worship song on social media with hashtag **#RenewOurWorld** and your voice will join the global chorus for change.

More Ideas For Your Event

Sing more worship songs.

As well as the Renew Our World anthem, you can put together a programme of other worship songs and hymns to sing. Here are some suggestions:

- [Contemporary style songs](#)
- [Traditional style hymns](#)

Lead a powerful time of prayer.

Here are some guides:

- [24-7 Prayer Guide](#)
- Consider having prayers led by someone from an affected community, such as a small island nation, or read out these [prayers from around the world](#)

Promote sustainable lifestyle actions.

Such as:

- [Carbon Fast](#)
- Lifestyle actions at the end of the [24-7 Prayer Guide](#)
- The [Living the Change website](#) from the World Evangelical Alliance

Create a symbolic action.

Such as:

- Plant a tree or community garden.
- Bless a solar panel powering your church.
- Pray at a symbolic location, like a beach at risk due to sea-level rise. We are aiming to have symbolic actions in key locations such as the Amazon rainforest; vulnerable island nations such as the Philippines; near the Great Barrier Reef in Australia; etc.
- These are only examples; we are sure you can come up with many more. Feel free to

get creative and go somewhere that has meaning for you.

Screen a short film to educate and inspire.

- [Renew Our World intro film](#)
- [For The Love Of](#) tells the story of worship artist John Mark McMillan and other Christian musicians learning about climate justice as they journey together and witness the making of the historic Paris climate agreement.

Share creative spoken word poetry.

- Inspire your group with spoken word poems about faith, justice, and sustainability. Here are some videos from Australian performance poet Joel McKerrow:
 - [ONE PLANET](#)
 - [ForTomorrow](#)
- Hip hop artists from Nigeria produced 40 poems for the Renew Our World campaign:
 - [Sick Air](#)
 - [Wondering](#)
 - [40 poems](#)

Season of Creation.

- Our friends at [Season of Creation](#) have a long list of resources for many different denominations and traditions.



Planning Worksheet



Here is a worksheet to help you think through the different steps to plan your event.

1. Put together a planning team. Invite one or two people from your church or community to plan and pray together. List the members of your planning team:

2. Talk to your pastor or church leader. Let your pastor know you'd like to involve the church community. Make notes from the conversation with your pastor:

3. Identify the time and location of your event.

Questions to consider:

- Time and date:
- Location:
- Will this be inside or outside?
 - If outside, do you need permission to hold an event there?
 - If inside, how you will create a sense of connection with nature and global neighbours affected by poverty and climate change? (With pictures and videos? Inviting prayer or stories spoken by people from affected communities? Bringing plants or symbols of nature inside?)

Planning Worksheet



4. Let us know about your event!

Get in touch on social media or email action@renewourworld.net if you'd like advice, or you'd like people to pray for your event.

5. Promote your event with personal invitations to people, and through the church bulletin, pulpit announcements, social media, emails, text messages, etc. Make a list of where you're advertising and when.

- Outreach:

- Dates running:

6. Develop the worship programme. Be sure to include who will be leading worship, prayers, and any speakers you want to include. Reach out to affected communities wherever possible.

- Worship leader(s) and musicians:

- Speaker(s) and/or prayer leader(s):

Planning Worksheet



7. Develop a practical list of materials you need for your event and who is responsible for bringing them. These can include music equipment, postcards and pens for advocacy, sign-up sheets, liturgical symbols, food and drink, reusable cups, or anything else you might need. Don't forget to create a big sign that says 'Renew Our World' for your picture.

- Materials:

- Person responsible:

8. Send personal follow-up invitations to your network.

9. Right before your event:

1. Call your speakers and anyone assisting with the event to confirm when you'll be there. Confirm any rentals or reservations if needed.
2. Arrive early to set up – give you and your team plenty of time to set up tables and chairs, make sure AV equipment works, decorate, etc.
3. Gather your team to have a special prayer for the event.

10. Worship!

11. Share videos and photos online. Be sure to use the hashtag [#RenewOurWorld](#) so we can see your beautiful community worshipping together!

- Take a picture or video as your community sings the worship song, ideally with a sign like 'Renew Our World' and your name and location, so your group is seen in the global movement.
- Include how many people attended, and who and where you are, so we can track how many people participate around the world and encourage each other.
- Post it on social media at **#RenewOurWorld**

Planning Worksheet



12. Immediately after your event:

1. Thank everyone involved.
2. Share more videos or pictures of your worship event to social media
#RenewOurWorld
3. Remind attendees when the follow-up meeting will be held, such as the Live Justly Bible study in [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Spanish](#), and the [US edition](#). You could also meet up with interested individuals one-to-one, to build relationships and brainstorm ideas for more activities.