



Pray together this Harvest

A Harvest Prayer

Creator God, you give life and light to the world.

We rejoice together in the wonder and the fullness of your creation.

We give thanks for small seeds that flourish into great trees and bear fruit in abundance.

We delight in the gifts of nature and the hope that a good harvest can bring.

Loving God, you know our sorrows and our failings.

We have cut down what was flourishing.

We have consumed and destroyed what was given to us to nurture.

We repent our wrongdoing and ask you to guide us in the ways of righteousness.

Living God, you call upon us to sow peace, grow faith, and tend to one another in love.

Plant in us a commitment to pursue that call.

Strengthen our hope as we seek together the coming of your kingdom on earth.

Amen.

Prayer before a Meal

Lord God, the Earth is yours and all that is in it.

We give thanks for the food we share

and ask your blessing on those who grow, harvest and prepare it.

Forgive us when we fail to care for your world.

Inspire us to act for the good of our neighbours, especially those who do not have plentiful food.

Nourish us with your Spirit,

That we may be filled with energy to do your will.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Prayer for Hope

God of hope,

With you nothing is impossible.

Your promises endure,

Your Spirit sustains us.

Establish in us hope for your world;

Hope that moves us,

Like fire in our bones,

Like a shoot springing up from the soil,

Like an ever-flowing stream.

Nurture in us a vision for change.

Stir in us a desire for justice,

That our hope may become action,

That your will may be done.

Amen.



Prayer of Penitence & Lament

Let us pray to the Lord, confessing our fears and failings.

The wild beasts wait with you in the desert.
The trees clap their hands in praise of you.
The creatures of the sea fulfil your word.
But we turn away from you.

Gracious Lord, have mercy on us.

The earth is yours and all that is in it.
You declared it good.
In your hand is the life of every living thing.
But we treat the earth as our own possession.

Gracious Lord, have mercy on us.

The land mourns.
The stones cry out.
Creation groans and suffers.
But we listen only to our own interests.

Gracious Lord, have mercy on us.

Silence may be kept as those present call to mind our need for forgiveness and our grief over the climate crisis.

**Gracious Lord, Creator of all,
Hear us and help us.
Amen.**

Prayer Points

Offer your own prayers in response to the following:

- Pray for farmers undertaking training to ensure their farms are resilient in the face of the climate crisis.
- Pray for people who are undernourished that the world will act to stop this injustice.
- Pray for communities in countries like Zimbabwe who are coming together to empower one another and improve their agricultural methods.
- Pray for places where crops and livelihoods are under threat from extreme weather.
- Pray for the growth of hope this harvest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Sending

God we thank you for the gifts that spring forth all around us,
Flowing from our fellowship,
Growing from our actions in your name.
Inspire us with your Spirit,
Encourage us to seek new ways to stand up to injustice,
And speak up for those in need.
Send us out replenished,
That we may do the work of your kingdom.
We ask this in your name, Lord.
Amen.





Creative Prayer Ideas

Field to Fork Prayer Chain

This simple prayer activity helps you trace the journey of your food from field to fork. You will need strips of paper, pens or pencils and glue sticks.

In advance of your gathering or service, choose some common food items and identify where they are grown. You could ask your community to do this by collecting labels showing countries of origin from their weekly shop.

Invite people to write on strips of paper a sentence expressing their hopes for those who grow our food in each country. Take a moment to hold that hope before God, praying aloud or in silence. Each person should now loop and glue together their strip to make the first link of a paper chain.

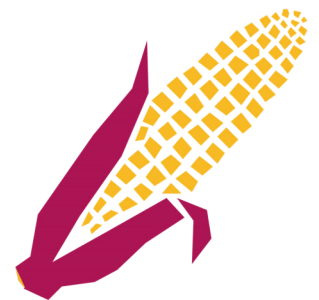
Continue this with more strips of paper, inviting those present to write down their hopes for:

- Those who transport food.
- Those who deliver food to warehouses and supermarkets.
- Staff at your local supermarket and food shops, as well as those who deliver food to our doors.
- Those who cook for us and share meals with us.

On the final strip of paper ask those gathered to express their hopes in the face of the problems affecting global food supplies. These include poverty, conflict, and the climate crisis. Pray together for action to end poverty, bring peace and tackle the climate emergency.

A Harvest Meditation

The earth is fruitful; may we see God's generosity in nature.
The earth is fragile; may we hear God's call to be good shepherds.
The earth is fractured; may we cry out for justice and in the Lord's name.



Visit caid.ie/pray for more ways to pray for climate justice.





HOPE prayers

Mark your Harvest of Hope by praying for:



Home

Pray for causes close to home, such as your local foodbank and people experiencing poverty in your community. Pray for yourself, your family and friends, that God may guide you as you take action for a more just world.



Our Neighbours

Remembering our calling to love our neighbours as ourselves, pray for our global neighbours in places like Zimbabwe. Pray for those who are enduring the greatest impacts of the climate crisis.

Power



Pray for those who hold political and economic power that they would act to tackle food insecurity and the causes of the climate crisis. Pray for those excluded from power, that they will no longer be marginalised.

Environment



Pray for those working to repair and heal the harm we have done to the natural world. Pray for projects sharing environmentally sustainable farming techniques. Pray for environmental causes close to your heart.

Everything is Yours

Listen to Christian Aid's worship song 'Everything is Yours', created in partnership with Jake Isaac. You can listen on all major music apps and you can pray using lyrics from the song:

The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof
The sea and the stars all display who you are
The air that I breathe and the ground I stand on
With all that you give, I will honour you Lord
Everything is yours.
Everything is yours.
With this life I live, I will honour you Lord.





Washed Away, New Growth

For this activity you will need pencils, a large wide bowl filled with water, a seed, a pot, some compost, and some sheets of water soluble paper (available to purchase online; note that water soluble paper is different from rice paper).



Whilst many farmers in countries such as Zimbabwe are struggling with drought, elsewhere the climate crisis makes floods more likely and leads to greater areas of land becoming flood-prone. This prayer activity offers a representation of the losses that the climate crisis leads to, as well as a sign of hope for change.

Cut your water soluble paper into small rectangles and ask those gathered to write on it a word or phrase of lament with their pencils. This could be a personal expression of sorrow or repentance or an expression of how they feel when they see extreme weather and environmental disasters happening around the world.

Invite each person to place their paper into the bowl of water. As the paper dissolves pray for all those whose homes, crops, livelihoods and hopes have been washed away or otherwise destroyed. Keep a moment of silence.

Now take your pot, fill it with compost and plant your seed. Water the pot from the bowl in which your paper has dissolved. Any remaining paper will biodegrade into the soil.

As you water the soil, pray for the restoration of what can be restored and for the healing of the earth. You may want to use one of the following passages:

Sow for yourselves righteousness;
reap steadfast love;
break up your fallow ground,
for it is time to seek the Lord,
that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.
(Hosea 10.12)

May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
(Psalm 126.5)

