

An Environmental Prayer Walk

Distance: Your Choice — Time: Your Choice

During the month of February, we're joining in with the *Show the Love*¹ campaign, run by the Climate Coalition. In November 2021 the UK will be the co-hosts of COP26 — the annual UN Climate conference for world leaders, who will meet to discuss how to address the climate crisis by limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

During the *Show the Love* campaign we want to show that as Christians we take the climate crisis seriously. We'll be praying through, and talking about, the climate crisis and sending postcards to our MPs about the actions we are taking to tackle climate change.

A Prayer for the Environment

Gracious God, we confess that we have been slow to recognise how carelessly we have treated your precious gift of Creation.

Our addictive lifestyles have encouraged us to take, use and cast aside.

We have plundered finite resources with little thought for poorer communities and future generations.

We acknowledge our guilt and ask you to change our hearts. May we glimpse the possibilities of a new, shared and more just way of living.

May we know your forgiveness and act upon it so that we may receive your fullness of life and know lasting contentment.

In the name of Christ, we ask to hear your words of forgiveness and may the gift of your Spirit blow through us.

Amen

¹ <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>

God created the world, and is involved in the world, sustaining and caring for it.

It is full of beauty and wonder... *if only we take the time to notice it!*

So this month we're inviting you to **grab your camera** — or your phone's camera — go out into your local area and **take some photos!**

Challenge 1

As you're walking, **be attentive** to your surroundings.

Look out for, and **take photos** of, things which speak to you of the **beauty** and **wonder** of God's creation.

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How many are your works, Lord!

In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures.

All creatures look to you to give food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works. — Psalm 104: 24–25, 27–28, 31

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As Christians, God gave us a special task: to look after what God has made. We have a responsibility to care for Creation.

We are called to care for the Earth and for one another, including the poorest of the Earth who are most vulnerable to climate change.

We are called to care for the beauty and diversity of species created by our loving God, and for future generations.

Challenge 2

Take some photos of things that you notice that **inspire you to take care** of the world around us.

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Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God, he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." — Genesis 1:26–28

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We'd like to make a gallery on our church website to show the beauty of **God's creation** in our local area. Would you send us:

- Your one favourite photo, showing the **beauty** and **wonder** of something you've seen whilst walking?
- A second photo, of something that **inspires you** to take more care of the world: to **take action** and to **look after** our planet?

Please make sure there are no people in the photos you send in.

Send your photos to us at photos@hwmc.org.uk by the end of the *Show the Love* campaign — **21st February 2021**.

We'll select photos and create the gallery on our website soon afterwards — www.hwmc.org.uk