**Inspired by Creation**

Some liturgies, based on ‘Not the End of the World’, by Hannah Ritchie

**A Collect:**

Creator God,

in whose Son Jesus Christ all things were created,

in the heavens and on the earth:

inspire us to play our part in caring for your world:

breathing clean air, cutting carbon,

cherishing our forests, embracing a plant-based diet,

protecting wildlife, reducing plastics,

and fishing sustainably;

through the same Jesus Christ,

the living Word in whom is life. Amen.

**A Form of Intercession 1:**

*“Global temperatures are rising. Sea levels are rising; ice sheets are melting; and other species are struggling to adapt to a changing climate. Humans face an avalanche of problems, from flooding and drought to wildfires and fatal heatwaves. Farmers are at risk of crop failures. Cities are at risk of being submerged*. Let us pray, using the response...” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)

Beautiful creator

**Inspire us to protect your world.**

*“Without a major, unexpected technological breakthrough, we will go past 1.5 degrees warmer than pre-industrial levels. If we stick with the climate policies that countries currently have in place, we’re heading towards a world of 2.5 to 2.9 degrees warming. If each country was to follow through on their climate pledges, we’d come out at 2.1 by 2100.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

We pray for our decision-makers. We ask that you give them courage and vision. Inspire them to make the difficult decisions our grandchildren need. Help us to stop putting off meaningful action, and to turn words into deeds as soon as we can.

Beautiful creator

**Inspire us to protect your world.**

*“A carbon tax would change the decisions that consumers make. The energy-guzzling SUV would be considerably more expensive next to to a clean, electric Nissan Leaf. The beef would be expensive next to the popular plant-based Impossible Burger. It would push everyone towards low-carbon choices.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

God of justice, we pray for the tax system. May it be fair and just. Give imagination, we pray, to those who decide our taxes. May they pull with building a low-carbon economy. Beautiful creator

**Inspire us to protect your world.**

*“What we’re going to have to do is capture the carbon dioxide and do something else with it. We might be able to inject the carbon dioxide into the cement-making process, to become part of the reaction and then the cement itself. There are lots of companies working on promising solutions to this tricky problem.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

God of invention, we thank you for human ingenuity. Thank you for our scientists and inventors. Thank you for every step forward they have enabled us to make. We pray that your light would guide the work of those researching carbon capture. Beautiful creator

**Inspire us to protect your world.**

*“In just a decade, solar and wind energy have gone from the most to the least expensive forms of energy. The price of electricity from solar has declined by 89%, and the price of onshore wind has declined by 70%. They are now cheaper than coal. Leaders no longer have to make the difficult choice between climate action and providing energy for their people. It’s staggering how quickly this change has happened.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

Living God, we thank you that the low-carbon choice is now the best one for the economy. We pray that more and more people would become aware of this. We pray for a Green Revolution of jobs created addressing the climate crisis.

Beautiful creator

**Inspire us to protect your world.**

*“In 2014, Uruguay was getting 5% of its electricity from wind. Now it’s closing in on 50%. At that point, Chile had no solar power. Now it has 13%. Many more countries will follow in their footsteps. The continued plummeting costs of renewable energy technologies and batteries will soon make these choices the default.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

God of the whole world, we thank you for progress in Uruguay and Chile. Help the people of Uruguay to make even more electricity from the wind. Help the people of Chile to harvest even more energy from the power of the sun. May the cost of renewable energies continue to plummet. May many others follow in these footsteps.

Beautiful creator

**Inspire us to protect your world.**

**A Form of Intercession 2:**

*“The option of giving up is only possible from a place of privilege. Let’s say we stop trying and temperatures climb by another degree or two, taking us well past our climate targets. If you live in a wealithy country, you’ll probably by okay. It won’t be plain sailing, but you can buy your way out of serious danger. That’s not true for many less fortunate people, though. Those in poorer countries cannot afford to protect themselves. Accepting defeat on climate change is an indefensibly selfish position to take. Let us pray, using the response...” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

God of justice

**Hear the cry of the poor**

*“In 2020, 75% had access to a water source that was clean and safe – up from just 60% in the year 2000. Progress is slower when it comes to sanitation and access to clean cooking fuels: just 54% have a safe toilet, and just 60% have clean fuels. “ (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

God of justice

**Hear the cry of the poor**

*“In the 1970s, around 35% of people in developing countries did not get enough calories to eat. By 2015, this had fallen by almost two-thirds to just 13%. Many still face huge problems. In 2021, around 770 million people in the world – almost one in ten – did not get enough food. But it doesn’t have to be this way. The world now produces far, far more food than it needs. Many countries have come close to eradicating hunger. We need to make sure that every country can do the same.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

God of justice

**Hear the cry of the poor**

*“I’ve heard people argue that the total number of people living in extreme poverty has been increasing. This isn’t true. In 1990 2 billion people lived on less than $2.15 a day. By 2019, this had more than halved to 648 million. To put this development in perspective, every day for the last 25 years there could have been a newspaper headline reading ‘The number of people in extreme poverty has fallen by 128,000 since yesterday’.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

God of justice

**Hear the cry of the poor**

*“Crop yields across the world since 1960 are increasing, but sub-Sarahan Africa is lagging behind. Measured in cereal tonnes per hectare, yields in the USA have increased from two to eight; in East Asia from under 1 to 6; South America from under 2 to 5; India from 1 to 3. This is almost double the cereal yield in sub-Saharan Africa, which is at 1.6 tonnes per hectare.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

God of justice

**Hear the cry of the poor**

*“Air pollution is the silent killer that doesn’t get enough headlines. It doesn’t shock us like images of a flood or a hurricane, but it kills around 500 times more people a year than all ‘natural’ disasters combined, in most years. In India, the cost of air pollution in 2019 was estimated at $350 billion: that 10% of its GDP.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

God of justice

**We pray for those left behind.**

**Help us to see the face of Christ in the face of those still trapped in poverty.**

**Help us to work for justice. Amen.**

**A Litany of the Electric Vehicle**

*“Electric cars and car-free living are making their breakthrough. We should ditch the old technologies soon, and make that switch as quickly as possible. It will save many thousands of lives every year.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

**Praise God! Cheer us on into a low-carbon future.**

*“We could create networks of driverless, low-carbon Ubers that serve the city. When you do need a ride, press a button on an app, and a clean, autonomous vehicle will swing by and pick you up. If governments and planners think about this carefully, this could even be a form of public transport.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

**Praise God! Cheer us on into a low-carbon future.**

*“In the last three decades, the price of lithium-ion batteries has fallen by more than 98%... In other words, new low-carbon technologies will get cheaper and cheaper.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

**Praise God! Cheer us on into a low-carbon future.**

*“The battery you’d find in a Tesla car today costs around $12,000. A Nissan leaf battery is around $6,000. But go back to the 1990s, and these batteries would have cost between $500,000 and a million dollars.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

**Praise God! Cheer us on into a low-carbon future.**

*“We will have enough lithium, nickel, and other minerals for batteries. We won’t run out. This is especially true when we consider the potential of recycling: many of the minerals we’ll use in batteries can be refurbished into new products. In this way we could set up a circular economy where we continually reuse these materials without increasing demand for more.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

**Praise God! Cheer us on into a low-carbon future.**

*“The lower emissions of driving an EV means that an electric car quickly pays back its debt. In the UK, this payback time is less than two years. So, within two years your EV is already better for the environment. Within ten years it has emitted just one-third of the carbon dioxide of a petrol car.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)* **Praise God! Cheer us on into a low-carbon future.**

*“In Norway, 88% of car sales in 2022 were electric. In Sweden, 54%. In the UK, it was 23%. In China in 2022 29% of new sales were electric. This is a massive leap from 2020, when it was just 6%.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

**Praise God! Cheer us on into a low-carbon future.**

All together now:

**We just need to get off fossil fuels, in any way we can!**

**A Commissioning (of the food we eat)**

*“Researchers have looked at how much greenhouse gas emissions our food systems will emit over the next few decades if we keep eating as we are. The news is not good. We would blow right past our 1.5 and 2 degree targets. If we want to reduce our carbon footprint, we should eat a more plant-based diet. This doesn’t mean we have to go vegan.*

*“We would cut emissions, land use and water use if half the population went meat-free two days a week.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

Are you prepared to consider reducing the amount of meat you eat?

**I am, the Lord being my helper.**

*“Cow’s milk is the worst kind – for land-use, greenhouse gas emissions, freshwater use and water pollution; oat milk is better on each count.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

Are you prepared to think about the kind of milk you drink, and to consider moving away from cow’s milk?

**I am, the Lord being my helper.**

*“Traditional agriculturalists draw on the miracle of peas and beans. Most crops can’t use nitrogen in its atmospheric form. Legumes are special because they can pull it out of the air and create usable nitrogen on their own. When you plant legumes you are adding nitrogen into the soil. Nitrogen is the building block of life. It’s the basis of proteins and is essential for the successful growth of all plants.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

Are you willing to give the humble pea and bean a richer place in your diet?

**I am, the Lord being my helper.**

*“Pulses such as peas, beans and soy have a very good amino acid profile. If someone has a mix of cereals and pulses in their diet, they can easily meet their protein requirements. The exception is Vitamin B12, which is only found in animal products.*

*“Emissions from Quorn products are 35 to 50 times lower than beef. Switch your beefburger for a Beyond Meat Burger and you’ll cut emissions by 96%. Every time you buy a new substitute product, you’re not just lowering your own carbon footprint, you’re helping to pull the price down for the rest of the world too.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

Are you willing to research plant-based alternatives to meat, and to use your purchasing power to help get these more established?

**I am, the Lord being my helper.**

*“If both McDonald’s and Burger King made all their burgers a 50:50 blend of beef and soy, it would save 50 million tonnes of greenhouse gases each year. That’s equal to the emissions of Portugal. It would also free up an area of land bigger than Ireland and save 3 million cows from being slaughtered for meat each year.*

*“Tomatoes produced in greenhouses in Sweden use ten times as much energy as importing tomatoes from Southern Europe when they are in season. Eat foods that are grown where the conditions are optimal.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024).*

Are you willing to research which foods are in season when, and to buy your food accordingly?

**I am, the Lord being my helper.**

Then I commission you as planet-saving food adventurers,

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**A Proper Preface**

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right,

it is our duty and our joy,

at all times and in all places

to give you thanks and praise,

Beautiful Creator, ever-living God.

And now we give you thanks

for the rise of clean water and proper sanitary conditions,

We thank you for a steep decline in the rate of child mortality.

*Contd*

We give you thanks that more people

now have access to a clean, safe water supply.

We give you thanks that in sub-Saharan Africa,

maternal mortality rates have falled by 40% since 2000.

We thank you that people are living longer

in India, Ethiopia and South Africa.

We thank you that we can work together,

and have done so, to cut Sulphur dioxide emissions

and repair the ozone layer.

We thank you that sales of new petrol cars peaked in 2017;

and that in Norway in 2022, 88% of new car sales were electric.

We give you thanks

that the steep decline of many tuna populations has reversed.

We thank you that we are witnessing the great tuna turnaround.

We thank you that when the African elephant, the Asian elephant

and the blue whale were on course for extinction

populations have started to recover.

With these, and with all creation,

we join the great unending hymn of your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Grieving and Lamenting**

God of all compassion,

we lament.

In our grief

we come before you.

Silence

Lord have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

**Lord have mercy**

We grieve in your presence over lost time:

*“On many environmental issues, we’ve been sleepwalking for a long time. We’ve pushed action further and further into the future – happy to do so because it can take decades or more for environmental impacts to hit us. Except the decades have passed and now we are here. The impacts have arrived: it’s already happening.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

Silence

Lord have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

**Lord have mercy**

We grieve in your presence over the terrible injustice of climate change:

*“The average person in Chad emits just 0.06 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. In an entire year they emit the same amount as the average American does in just a day and a half.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

Silence

Lord have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

**Lord have mercy**

We grieve in your presence over misplaced energies:

*“Every day I come across motivated and thoughtful people trying to do their best for the environment. They think about the environmental impact of almost every decision they make. Or they home in on some things that they think will make a huge difference. What’s heart-breaking is that this energy and stress is often wasted: what they’re doing makes almost no difference, and... occasionally makes things worse.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

Silence

Lord have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

**Lord have mercy**

We grieve in your presence over every extinction.

*“Overhunting and agriculture have been responsible for 75% of all plant, amphibian, reptile, bird and mammal extinctions since 1500. There has been an 85% decline in wild mammal biomass on land since the rise of humans. We’re destroying biodiversity at record rates. We can also compare the recent extinction rates to the background rate. Vertebrates have been going extinct 100 to 1,000 times faster than we would expect. A study in Germany reported that flying insect biomass had declined by more than 75% in just 27 years.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024).*

Silence

Lord have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

**Lord have mercy**

We grieve in your presence over the impact of the warming oceans.

*“Coral bleaching happens when corals expel the algae they rely on to harvest sunlight. The percentage of global reefs impacted by bleaching tripled between 1985 and 2012. We are pushing some of the world’s most diverse, complex and beautiful ecosystems to their limits. The biggest threat to the world’s coral reefs is a warming ocean.” (Hannah Ritchie 2024)*

God of all compassion,

we lament.

In our grief

we come before you.

Silence

Lord have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

**Lord have mercy.**

**Amen.**

**A Benedicite (of wildlife bouncing back)**

*For two voices*

Brown bears, praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 44% between 1960 and 2016”*

Loggerhead turtles praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 68% between 1984 and 2016”*

Eurasian badgers, praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 110% between 1960 and 2016”*

*Contd*

Eurasian otters, praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 294% between 1977 and 2016”*

Red deer, praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 331% between 1960 and 2016”*

Wild boar, praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 390% between 1967 and 2016”*

Golden jackals, praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 886% between 2001 and 2015”*

Grey wolves, praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 1,871% between 1965 and 2016”*

Iberian wild goats, praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 3,502% between 1966 and 2012”*

Grey seals, praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 6,273% between 1978 and 2016”*

European bison, praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 16,626% between 1960 and 2016”*

Eurasian beavers, praise ye the Lord!

*“Up 16,705% between 1960 and 2016”*

Quotes: Hannah Ritchie 2024)

All quotes in this document are taken from Hannah Ritchies ‘Not the End of the World: How We Can Be the First Generation to Build a Sustainable Planet’, 2024.