

# Praying apart, together



Florence Muthiani says a prayer outside of her home in the village of Kyenge, Kenya.

## Pray without ceasing

Love never fails. Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Love compels us to stand together in solidarity with our neighbours near and far.

During this time of pandemic and great anxiety for many, we pray for all those who are unwell or fearful, for all those taking on extra caring duties and for all those who are now worried about what the future holds.

We give thanks for those who have come to the aid of others, and for communities that are supporting each other in ways that are building new friendships.

As with any crisis, we know that the poorest and already vulnerable will be hardest hit. The current pandemic reminds us of the vulnerability of human life, and the ways in which we depend on each other.

It also gives us some insight into the reality experienced by millions of people around the world, who live daily with the uncertainty brought on by the impacts of the climate crisis.

We pray for people who are unsure whether crops will grow and whether there will be enough food.

We pray for people who don't know whether there will be enough money to send their children to school or to pay for healthcare.

And we pray for people who don't know if they can survive another disaster.

Because this year is so crucial in the struggle for climate justice, while praying for all those who need our prayers during the coronavirus pandemic, we're also filling every day with prayer to help make climate justice a reality.

Prayer that will amplify prophetic voices and transform us and the actions that we take.

Prayer that will help us to understand God's care for those who are most affected by the climate crisis, acknowledge our role in causing it and start anew.

Prayer that will act as a deep source of energy for the struggle ahead.

## Praying in a pandemic

As we rapidly adapt our lives in the UK and Ireland to staying more separate physically, feeling part of a community is more important than ever.

Coronavirus is changing how we will live and work, how we will worship and maintain community in the coming months. So while we remain physically more apart, we ask that you continue to stand in solidarity with people around the world who are facing the daily reality of the climate crisis.

Here are some suggestions for ways to join the prayer chain at this time, and we'd love to hear from you how about you are praying and worshipping.

- Choose a time with some friends and set it aside to pray simultaneously. Before the allocated time, share some thoughts by email or in a Whatsapp group about what you will be praying for, and share afterwards how you got on.

- Choose a day with your church congregation and set up a simple rota. At the end of each person's slot, 'pass the prayer baton' by calling or texting the next person on the rota – giving you a good opportunity to check in with them too.

- If your church is livestreaming services at this time of closure, ask your church leader if you can set a time in the next few weeks to broadcast some prayers for climate justice in which others can join remotely.

- If you are able to do so in way that keeps you and others safe, then spending some time outside can be very restorative. As you do so, pray for creation and give thanks for its abundance.

Remember to add your activities to our calendar, so that we can show how the chain of prayer is continuing.  
Go to [caid.org.uk/prayerchain](https://caid.org.uk/prayerchain)

## Pray for our global family

During the coronavirus crisis, many people here in the UK and Ireland are experiencing some of the vulnerability that the people with whom we work experience every day. They're also showing similar qualities of resilience.

The communities with which Christian Aid works face an even bigger shock than the one through which we're going. They're already confronted with the injustice of a climate crisis that wasn't of their making. Now they face the threat of this

pandemic – but lack the health services to protect them.

Their economies will be crippled by the economic problems we and they face and this will lead to more hunger and poverty.

Pray for communities, which are already struggling, that the coronavirus does not destroy their resilience to cope.

Pray that our global family comes together to help each other, as neighbours are currently doing in the UK and Ireland.

## Pray for climate justice

As many meetings and gatherings are cancelled, pray for those facing isolation and loneliness. There are now doubts as to whether the UN climate talks, COP26, will be able to go ahead.

Pray that whether the meeting happens as expected or not, governments make the right decisions to increase their urgent actions to stop the climate crisis.

## Pray for vulnerable communities

Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique on 14 March 2019 before sweeping through neighbouring Malawi and Zimbabwe. Approximately three million people were affected, at least 900 killed and more than 2.5 million left in need of humanitarian assistance and protection.

A year later, Zimbabwe is now facing its worst drought in four decades, with communities experiencing repeated crop failures and millions of people left hungry as the country's vital grain reserves have been wiped out. Nearly one in three children under five are suffering from malnutrition.

Pray for communities that are no longer in the news but are living daily with the impacts of the climate crisis.

## Order resources

Go to [caid.org.uk/climate-justice-resources](https://caid.org.uk/climate-justice-resources)

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