

## SENDING FORTH

**Leader:** Grant us a spirit of concern for the future of our environment; Bring an end to the exploitation of the earth's scarce resources; Encourage us to be responsible stewards of your Creation.  
**Response:** Creator God, make us prophets of our time

**Leader:** Grant us a spirit of respect, recognizing the value and integrity of all Creation; Encourage us to be accepting of ourselves and of others.  
**Response:** Creator God, make us prophets of our time

**Leader:** Help us become advocates of peace, bringing an end to conflict and division; Renew our commitment to challenging the causes of injustice.  
**Response:** Creator God, make us prophets of our time

**Leader:** Grant us a spirit of openness to see God within and around us; Help us rejoice in the good we have experienced as we move forward to the future; Help us use our senses to celebrate beauty and creativity in the world.  
**Response:** Creator God, make us prophets of our time

**Leader:** Grant us a spirit of truth to recognize failings, which have hurt us, others and the world; Give us the humility to ask forgiveness for our part in any wrongdoing;  
**Response:** Creator God, make us prophets of our time

**Leader:** Grant us a spirit of generosity to reach out in trust to those we encounter; Help us to embody God's love in our relationships with one another and with all of Creation.  
**Response:** Creator God, make us prophets of our time

**For more information on global climate change and how you can help protect God's creation, visit the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program website at [www.ncccojustice.org](http://www.ncccojustice.org), 202-544-2350, [info@ncccojustice.org](mailto:info@ncccojustice.org)**



# The Poverty of Global Climate Change



**Global climate** change is fundamentally altering God's Creation. Bird and fish migration patterns are changing, permafrost is melting, and coastal wetlands are disappearing as a result of sea level rise. Global climate change is predicted to bring increases in flooding, severe storm events, extinction, and drought.

And, the expected toll on human society is staggering. Global climate change reduces access to drinking water, limits access to food, and negatively impacts human health particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Although global climate change affects all human populations across the globe, it hits those living in poverty the hardest because they depend on the surrounding physical environment to supply their needs and have limited ability to cope to climate variability and extremes.

Our call as people of faith to protect the most vulnerable and to be stewards of God's Earth means we must act to stop catastrophic global climate change.



## CALL TO WORSHIP

**Adapted from Acts 17:22-31**

**Leader:** The God who made the world and everything in it, who is Lord of heaven and Earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands.

**All:** For all is of God.

**Leader:** Nor is God served by human hands, as though the Creator needed anything, since the Lord gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

**All:** For all is of God.

**Leader:** Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

**All:** For all is of God. Let us worship God!

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all Creation, we come to you in a moment of personal and corporate confession. We participate in a system which is exploitative and violent and which separates humanity from the rest of Creation. By acts of omission and commission we cause harm to others. At times we are guilty of complicity, passivity and denial, at other times of abuses of power. We hear the cries of both our fellow humans, who are already living in the midst of extreme poverty and hunger; and the cries of all creation. We know we bear responsibility for the pain of both, and we know the impact one has on the other. We confess our complicity in the plight of all of your Creation, and beg your forgiveness and mercy; that we may do better to follow in the way of You who creates. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

Creator God, have mercy on our wayward world, tottering on the brink of self-destruction. Have mercy on the rulers and statesmen who bear the ultimate burden of government. Have mercy on our nation as we face our share of responsibility. We recognize that we have allowed the values of consumerism to override the permanence of your Creation, and cause us to act in ways that damage your creation and wrap your children in the cycle of poverty. Have mercy on us all, and grant us your forgiveness. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Leader:** The Lord says, See, I am making all things new.

**Response:** If anyone is in Christ, there is a new Creation.

**Leader:** In Christ, God reconciled the world. Through Christ your sins are forgiven.

*(Adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 and Revelation 21:5)*

O Lord, how manifold are  
your works! In wisdom  
you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your  
creatures... When you  
send forth your spirit,  
they are created; and  
you renew the face of  
the ground. Psalm 104:24, 30