COP31 TÜRKİYE ANTALYA

eco congregation Scotland

100 words today

-Prayers & starters for reflection, based on themes for each day of COP31, and building on our experience of the outcomes of previous UN Climate Conferences.

EcoCongregation Scotland: Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) regulated by Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), Scottish Charity number: SC041287

Day 1:9th November:
Food, Agriculture & Health



Consider : Matthew 13 1-23: **Parable of the Sower,** in which abundant harvest comes about when the needs of nature are acknowledged.

Sustaining God
who by grace has supplied the most basic needs of every nation: our 'Daily Bread' .
Today grant courage and determination, wisdom and insight to those who meet, to face and act on the facts of a global crisis without precedent in human history.

May we too be mindful that our choices of lifestyle and diet are never without consequences for people and wildlife with whom we share this Common Home; for those on whom we also depend, as they on us.

Plant in our hearts a well-founded hope, even as we recognise your face in the faces of lives around us. And hear your voice in theirs. AMEN.

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Day 2:10th November:
Energy and Transport



Consider : **The Good Samaritan** (Luke 10:25–37) in which a traveller, who has fallen victim to violence, benefits from the means of transport offered by a stranger. **OR** Matthew 5:45: "He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good…"

**God of all power, journeying with those in need;
your heart is grieved when the energy of Creation, locked away in ages past is abused to fuel violence, injustice and harm to the balance of the Earth's climate.**

Blow, Wild Wind (Spirit) where you will, that all nations may grasp the need for just and urgent change, and the responsibility of all for the Common Good, as well as the fruitlessness of imagining that isolation and denial can bring security.

Kindle in our hearts a well-founded hope, liberated by truth, urgently to power our choices towards a Just Transition, in obedience to your New Commandment, that we love one another as you have loved us. AMEN.

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Day 3:11th November:
Zero Waste



Consider : **The Prodigal Son** (Luke 15:11–32) - Wasteful and reckless living leads to crisis. **OR** (Luke 16:1–13) - **The Manager of Unjust Wealth:** -a manager called to account for wasting their master's possessions.

**God of all fullness, providing sufficient, with justice, for all.
Your living Earth is neither disposable, nor single-use;**

So even as the Prophet Isaiah[1] spoke of your Word in the same breath as of those cycles of the Earth; in which your goodness is given, shared and returned, so speak powerfully

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[1] ***Isaiah 55:10-11***

to us today of the limits to excessive consumption, that our choices and change of mind may heal that haemorrhage of goodness, which a wasteful culture inflicts upon all their neighbours, of every species.

Remake our hearts so to cherish all that is given into our hands, that we do not steal, by wastage, from the poor, nor cling on, in miserly greed, to what should enrich others. AMEN.

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Day 4:12th November:
Resilient Cities, Built Environment



Consider : **The Repurposed City of God** (Revelation 21:9-27) where health-giving biodiversity and abundant water supplies are built into a city, reshaped from what has been, to what surely yet can be. **OR Jesus wept** (John 11:35) -Christ's anguished love for the city that ignores God's signs and warnings.

God with Us, God with Earth, bless with the justice of shade, the healing of trees and the refreshment of waters, all those great communities where people find both home and work in our day; that even as this crisis of nature and climate continues, which our species has knowingly perpetuated, our cities may unite to turn a corner of hope and resilience. In them may security and sanctuary join hands.

May our deepest needs both for beauty and nourishment be given highest priority, alongside shelter and prosperity for all who work that our cities may flourish[2] by the preaching and living of your Gospel! AMEN

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[2] A reference to the city motto of Glasgow, location of COP26, where today a Mass is held for COP31

Day 5:13th November:
Finance and Trade



Consider : **Much of Luke's Gospel,** but also **Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:13:** You cannot serve both God and mammon**. OR Parable of the Unforgiving Servant** (Matthew 18:21–35) with implications for "Loss and Damage".

God who, in the Cross of Christ, pays the price of sin; Christ who overturned the tables of those who traded unjustly: and called to account the idolatry of money, which should serve, not dictate, the welfare of the Earth's diverse communities;

Bless all who engage in trade, mindful of justice for the Earth and all your beloved creatures. Challenge and remake our sense of what is valuable, that resources may be directed to those most in need, who have profited least from the injustice.

Challenge those who obstruct the flow of funds to respond to the crisis of nature and climate, and give us courage to speak out. AMEN

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Day 6:14th November:
Children, Youth, Education & Skills



Consider : **The child Jesus at the Temple** Luke 2:41-52 - the questions of the young deserve good answers, that they may be 'about our Father's business'. **OR 'Let the little children come to me,** …the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' Matthew 19:14. What is our responsibility to future generations?

Christ who, as a child learned both the skills of a trade and the love of your Word; who defended and respected the insights of the young.

Through our lives and by our prayers, may our senior generations encourage and empower our children; provoking them neither to anger nor despair, but rather to hope and committed action.

Christ who as an infant knew the terror and insecurity of a refugee family, we pray too for those displaced by war and climate crisis from their homelands and heritage.

God, our child, cry out and disturb every complacency of the adult world, which blunders on as if there were no other way. AMEN

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Day 7:15th November:
social and cultural programmes



Consider : **Peter's vision of an affirmed diversity** Acts 10: 9ff. Faced with the terrifying threats of the crisis of nature and climate, are we called to a fresh consideration of how God may be at work, for the good of all, in cultures and societies we may not have noticed or respected until now? **OR** Isaiah 51:2 "**Look to the rock from which you were cut…**" Cultural history can give a challenging perspective on who we are now.

Note: Antalya is an ancient settlement, with a cultural history stretching back millennia.

God our Source, Guide and Goal,
We praise you with pretty things - you surround us with beauty;

**We praise you with words - and your Word is made flesh;
We praise you with music, poetry, with all the arts - through which you raise deep questions.
You are not content to be a passive audience; indeed, from the Beginning, you dance, audaciously, with Creation in their entirety.**

**God beyond all cultures and traditions; cherish and foster in our nations whatever deepens communion with the Earth and fellow creatures.
May we always 'test the spirits'; and delight, particularly, in the green wisdom discerned within indigenous cultures; in holy cultural gifts for resilience and healing. AMEN**

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Day 8:16th November:
Science, Industry & Technology



Consider : 1 Corinthians 6:12: "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but **I will not be dominated by anything.**

**God who has placed into human hands the means to observe with clarity the life, cycles and vulnerability of Creation…
May we work and pray for the practical wisdom, ever more fully to be 'earth for the Earth'. [3]**

Lead us into collaboration, and negotiation with the rest of Creation; Save us from the temptation to eradicate life and beauty for which we see no purpose, that with the gifts of science,

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[3] **Reference to Genesis 2:5 in Hebrew.**

industry and technology, we seek first your Kingdom and their ecological justice.

May we urgently grasp the courage to maintain dominion over artificial intelligence;
Save us from the deadly worship of what we ourselves have made, at the cost of the Creation you love. AMEN.

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Day 9:17th November:
Ocean, Seas, Nature & Land Use



Consider : **Jesus calming the storm:** Matthew 8:23–27, Mark 4:35–41, and Luke 8:22–25. Jesus speaks personally to Creation in order to save lives. **Houses on rock and sand:** Matthew 7:24–27, Luke 6:47–49 survival depends on taking note of climate.

God of Oceans and Land, who, with love and wisdom, shaped the personalities of Creation;

You gave voice to Wind and Waves; you called upon Mountains to hold your people to account for justice, without which prayer and sacrifice are empty;

Through your prophets you have shown how our Common Home is injured by injustice;

Today, through scientific insights, their voice and anguished cries are as inescapably clear as they continue to be, to poets and visionaries of many cultures.

God, who in Christ taught with trees, birds and skies; Give us grace to listen, to change, and to heal what we have trampled. AMEN

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Day 10:18th November:
Human & Social Development



Consider : **Blessed are the meek , they shall inherit the Earth** (Matthew 5:5) **OR The Rainbow Covenant** (Genesis 9) Humanity as party to God's Covenant with all life on Earth. **OR Equality before God** (Galatians 3:28) of all genders, races, social roles.

God: Holy Trinity, who lives and gives and shares;
Make us ever mindful of how gender justice; social equity, and peace between nations, go far beyond mere '*worthy aims'.*

For we have seen with clarity how such visions are a matter of the survival and flourishing of the life of your whole beloved Earth. Show us too, how care for Creation is inseparable from love for people, and save us from the satanic trap of setting these in false opposition.

Dear God, challenge, with your full authority, all amongst us who blame the poor for this crisis, even as we continue to burn and waste with profligacy what makes for a healthy planet. AMEN

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Day 11:19th November:
Imece: Enhancing Implementation



Consider : **Those who claim to guide, yet refuse to see** (Matthew 15:14) - community decisions need to be well-informed, without pandering to particular personalities- or nations**. NOTE** Take care to evade 'ableist' interpretations of this parable, which is the more valuable where we recognise the "not seeing/grasping" as a choice.

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"Imece" is a traditional Turkish word for communal, cooperative work where community members voluntarily pool their labour to help one another finish heavy tasks (such as harvesting or building)

God our Friend and Guide
hear our prayer for all those who will engage in negotiations today: give them courage, faith, hope, and love for fellow creatures.

We pray for honesty about the need to end fossil fuels.

And for those who look on, or merely hear the news, help us truly value whatever progress will be made within this forum of science, cultures, and nations, even as some will certainly have laboured, with power and influence, to hold things back.
AMEN

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Day 12:20th November:
Final Negotiation



Consider : **The last Judgement**: Matthew 25:31ff
The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

The final day of COP is when the value of this great circus becomes apparent: delegations board their planes to return home; others hold on to the bitter end to ensure progress or the lack of it. Prayer is in order, both to support the ambition of nations, and to support our own hope and determination to make the most of what does come out of this unique, frustrating, and yet vital gathering of peoples. Accordingly, we conclude with words from the Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration for COP (26)

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[Dear God, we lift our hearts to you, mindful that….]
…across our doctrinal and political differences, we know that we must change *our* ways to ensure a quality of life which all can share, and we need to provide hope for people of all ages, everywhere, including future generations. AMEN.

Prepared shortly in advance of COP31, and with the experience of COP26 as well as some years of following the annual COP conferences, by Rev David Coleman, Environmental Chaplain, working with EcoCongregation Scotland, the ecumenical and independent movement of churches and Christian communities in Scotland, concerned with care of Creation.

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