

WORSHIP RESOURCES

These worship resources were created as part of CLWR's Friends of Creation challenge, to help congregations reflect on how climate change and environmental injustice are affecting people and ecosystems around the world.

This is one of four themes in the series: Climate + Water, Climate + Food, Climate + Economy, and Climate + Peace.

Rooted in the theme of Climate + Economy, these materials explore the deep connection between faith, creation, and justice—inviting us to consider how God calls us to support just and sustainable livelihoods that care for both people and the planet.

Each resource is free to use and can be adapted for your congregation's worship and learning context:

- Prayer suggestions
- Scripture suggestions
- Sermon suggestion
- Children's time
- Music suggestions



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PRAYER SUGGESTION

Heavenly Father,

You call us to love one another,
and care for one another as though we are caring for you.

Help us to always see you in the faces of others.

Help us to reach out to those we encounter
that need hope, encouragement, love, peace
and the gifts you have given us to share.

All these things we pray
in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



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PRAYER SUGGESTION

God of Hope,

We lift up those whose harvests have thinned,
whose nets return empty—
where one unravelling basket leaves many hands empty.
Bless those restoring work that feeds and sustains many,
growing crops that endure uncertain climes,
sharing skills and trades that leave the land whole.
Strengthen women shaping new futures with their own hands.
Let these efforts spark renewal
that is steady against the storms to come.
Guide us in this challenge,
to honour your creation
and help rebuild what the shifting seasons have undone.

Amen.



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SCRIPTURE SUGGESTIONS

Consider using scriptures that highlight justice, generosity, labour, and the right use of resources for this particular Sunday. Below are a few suggestions to get you started, but feel free to substitute any of these with a passage of your choice or refer to the lectionary to see if the Sunday's readings would be appropriate:

- **Micah 6:6-8** – What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.
- **Psalms 19** – A song praising God's creation and commandments, with imagery of light, gold, and honest work.
- **Ecclesiastes 11:1-6** – Encouragement to work faithfully and generously, even when outcomes are uncertain.
- **Matthew 25:31-40** – Jesus' call to care for the hungry, the stranger, and the poor—as if caring for him directly.
- **Deuteronomy 24:19-22** – Instructions for leaving part of the harvest for the poor, the stranger, and the widow.
- **Luke 3:10-14** – John the Baptist teaches that generosity, fairness, and contentment are marks of a just life.



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SERMON SUGGESTION

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me.” —Matthew 25:40

When we hear the word “economy,” we might think of big companies and global markets. But in the Lake Chad region, the economy looks very different. It’s made up of small farms, family businesses, and local trades that keep communities going. People fish, farm, and raise livestock—activities passed down for generations. These aren’t just jobs—they’re lifelines.

But as the climate changes, these livelihoods are being lost. Rain no longer falls when it’s expected. The lake is shrinking. The soil is drying out. Floods come without warning. Crops fail. Fish stocks decline. When the land suffers, so does the economy—and so do the people.

Farmers in Lake Chad grow millet, sorghum, and plantains. Fishermen catch what they can from increasingly shallow waters. Herders move their cattle in search of grass. But as the land becomes more fragile, each of these ways of life is at risk. Harvests shrink. Markets become emptier. Families have less to sell, less to trade, and less to eat.

And when income disappears, hard choices follow. Children are pulled from school to help at home. People migrate in search of work, leaving behind family and community. Some resort to risky or unsustainable methods—like overfishing or overgrazing—just to get by.

What begins as an environmental crisis becomes a human one.

Women, in particular, carry a heavy burden. Many run small businesses, sell produce, or make goods for income. But they face extra barriers: less access to land, less access to credit, fewer chances to recover. As the local economy suffers, it's often women who are pushed even further to the margins.

Migration, too, plays a major role. As livelihoods collapse, people move. And when they do, they carry the pain of displacement with them—while also straining the resources of the communities that receive them. This creates even more economic and social pressure, often leading to tension and unrest.

And yet, into all of this, Christ speaks.

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.”

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus tells his followers that acts of love—feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, caring for the poor—are not just good deeds. They are acts of faith. They are offerings to Christ himself. They are how we live out our call to love God and love our neighbour.

That calling may feel overwhelming at times. The world is large, and the challenges are real. But we are not expected to solve everything on our own. God invites us into this work as a community—each person doing what they can, each small action multiplied when we work together.

We begin with prayer—asking God to show us how our time, our resources, and our choices can be part of the healing. And when we hear the Spirit's call, we respond.

Through the Friends of Creation project, CLWR is working in the Lake Chad Basin to strengthen local economies by helping communities adapt to the changing climate.

The project supports conservation agriculture, which helps farmers grow more food while protecting the soil. It promotes sustainable fishing and livestock practices to ensure long-term stability. It creates new economic opportunities, especially for women. And it helps people rebuild what was lost—so they don't just survive, but thrive.

When we support this work—through prayer, through giving, through learning and sharing—we are taking part in Christ's vision of a more just and loving world. We are offering food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, dignity to the poor. We are responding to grace with gratitude.

We are loving our neighbour.
We are building the kingdom.

Amen.



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CHILDREN'S TIME

Have you ever helped with a chore—like setting the table, washing dishes, or feeding a pet?

When you help out, you're doing something important. You're taking care of your home and the people in it. That's kind of like a job.

In some parts of the world, kids and grown-ups work hard every day to earn a living. They grow food, sew clothes, sell things in the market, or make things with their hands. But when the weather changes too much—when there's too much rain, or not enough—it can make their work really hard. Crops don't grow. Shops close. Families lose their income.

But there is hope.

In places like Lake Chad, people are learning new ways to work that help care for the land, too. They are planting trees, fixing wells, and starting small businesses that help their whole community. And churches like ours are helping too.

God gave us hands to work and hearts to care.

And God wants all people to have enough—for food, for shelter, and for joy.

Wondering Questions

- I wonder what kind of work people do around the world.
- I wonder what makes a job hard or easy.
- I wonder how we can help others do their work.
- I wonder what God thinks good work looks like.
- I wonder how we can share what we earn.

Your work may be small, but it can help a lot. You can build, create, and care. And when you help others, you are doing God's work too.

Children's Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for hands that work and play,
for work we do and games each day.

Help those who work to grow and sell,
to feed their homes and live life well.

May all we do—both great and small—
be done with love, and shared with all.

Amen.



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MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Here are some song ideas to match this Sunday's theme. A new hymn, *God, Who This World Created*, has also been written for the challenge, with one verse for each week. If you prefer a shorter version, try singing Verse 1, the theme verse, and Verse 6. You'll find the full hymn and sheet music in the General Resources section.

- *Come Join the Dance of the Trinity*
- *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*
- *Lord Whose Love in Humble Service*
- *Will You Come and Follow Me*
- *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*
- *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*
- *When the Pain of the World Surrounds Us*
- *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*
- *When Peace Like a River*
- *Build Us Up, Lord*
- *Gather Us In*
- *We Are Called*
- *Christ Be Our Light*
- *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*
- *Our Cities Cry to You, O God*
- *You Call Us Out to Praise You*