



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 + Food, these materials explore the deep connection between faith, creation, and justice—inviting us to consider how God calls us to nourish one another and care for the land that feeds us.

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

Creator God,

You have entrusted us to care
not only for your creation, but for one another.
Help us to do your will, to make sustainable choices
in our caring for this earth you have blessed us with,
and help us to always be mindful of how our choices impact
the health and well-being of others.

Amen.



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PRAYER SUGGESTION

God of Abundance,

We lift up farmers whose seasons are shifting
and whose soil is tired.

Be near to those planting in hope
despite failed rains and shrinking harvests.

Bless the hands learning to care for the earth—
with methods that heal the land,
and knowledge sown in the field and shared with the village.

May each seed planted in hope bear fruit in justice.

Guide us in this challenge,
to honour your creation and feed your people.

Amen.



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SCRIPTURE SUGGESTIONS

Consider using scriptures that highlight creation, food, and the act of nourishing others 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:

- **Genesis 2:4-9** – The continuation of the creation story, as God forms a garden rich with trees and food for life.
- **Ruth 2** – Ruth gleans in the fields of Boaz, a story of food justice, generosity, and care for the vulnerable.
- **Psalms 19:1-10** – A song of praise for God's creation and the life-giving wisdom found in God's word.
- **Psalms 104** – Friends of Creation theme verse. A poetic celebration of creation; verses 14-15 highlight food, harvest, and abundance.
- **Colossians 1:15-18** – A reminder that Christ is present in all of creation—the one through whom and for whom all things were made.
- **Matthew 14:13-21** – Jesus feeds the 5,000, turning scarcity into abundance through compassion and sharing.



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SERMON SUGGESTION

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” — Genesis 2:15

In the beginning, God placed humankind in a garden—not just to eat from it, but to tend it with care. To till it, yes—but also to keep it. The land was given as a gift, and with it, a calling: to be stewards of the earth and of one another. One of the gardens of God’s creation is the Lake Chad region, in Central and West Africa. Once full of fish, farmland, and fruit-bearing trees, this area has long sustained families who rely on farming, fishing, and livestock to survive. But today, the land is struggling.

Since the 1960s, Lake Chad has shrunk by 90%. The climate is changing. Rainfall is harder to predict. Growing seasons are shorter. Soils are degraded. Overgrazing and deforestation are turning fertile ground into desert. Crops are failing. Food is disappearing.

And when food disappears, so much else begins to fall apart. Children leave school. Families lose their income. Malnutrition spreads. People are pushed into desperation. This is more than a food crisis—it’s a crisis of survival.

But the story does not end here.

As followers of Christ, we are called to love our neighbours and care for creation. That includes rethinking how we live, how we eat, and how we share. Even the smallest actions—what we grow, what we consume, what we waste—can ripple outward and make a difference.

Scientists call this the Butterfly Effect: the idea that one small change in one place can lead to big changes somewhere else. A short video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ltmbaVHdRI>) explains the work of Edward Lorenz, who showed how even tiny shifts in climate could reshape the world. The same is true of human action: what we do in our kitchens and communities matters across the globe.

Eating less meat, growing more food locally, and reducing waste are all faithful ways to care for God's creation. They reduce emissions, improve soil and water use, and help balance global food systems—so that families in places like Lake Chad have a better chance to thrive.

And we can do even more when we act together.

Through the Friends of Creation project, CLWR is working with farmers and families in the Lake Chad Basin to rebuild food systems in ways that are sustainable, just, and full of dignity. That includes training farmers in techniques that protect the soil, retain water, and improve harvests—even as the climate changes.

The project also supports assisted natural regeneration—helping native trees and shrubs return to the land. Their deep roots hold soil in place, slow down rainfall, and help the ground absorb and store water. Alongside this, trees like Moringa, Acacia albida, neem, and shea are being planted, offering long-term sources of food, income, and healing for the land.

Better livestock and fishery practices are also being introduced, so that communities can continue producing food in ways that respect both the earth and the generations to come.

God is always re-creating. The land is resilient. And we are invited to take part in the healing.

When we care for creation, we care for each other. When we keep the garden, we reflect the love of the One who planted it. As people of faith, we are called to till and keep the earth—not only so that we may be fed, but so that all may be fed.

Amen.



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CHILDREN'S TIME

Have you ever planted a seed? Maybe it was a bean in a paper cup, or a flower in the garden. You give it water. You wait. And one day, something green pokes out of the soil. That's how food begins.

In some places, like around Lake Chad in Africa, people grow most of the food they eat. They plant corn, millet, and vegetables. They take care of chickens and cows. They fish in rivers and lakes. This is how families feed themselves—just like you eat meals at home.

But something is changing. The rain is different. The heat is stronger. The soil is tired. That makes it harder for food to grow. Sometimes, people don't have enough to eat.

But there is hope.

In the Lake Chad region, people are learning how to plant trees and new crops that help keep the soil healthy. They're growing food in ways that take care of the land. And people in churches like ours are helping too.

God made the earth. God made the seeds and the rain and the sun. And God made us—to help take care of the land, and to make sure everyone has enough to eat.

Wondering Questions

- I wonder what it feels like to grow your own food.
- I wonder what happens when the rain doesn't come.
- I wonder what kinds of food grow near Lake Chad.
- I wonder how we can help people have enough to eat.
- I wonder what kind of garden God dreams about.

Your hands are small, but they can plant seeds. Your heart is kind, and it can share food. And your prayers are strong, even for people far away.

Children's Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for seeds and soft, growing ground,
for gardens and farms and food all around.

Thank you for sun, and rain when it falls,
for cows and for chickens, and grain in the stalls.

Help us to care for the land every day,
and share with our neighbours in every way.

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.

- *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*
- *All Who Hunger*
- *When the Hungry Who Have Nothing*
- *God Bless to Us Our Bread*
- *All Creatures of Our God and King*
- *For the Beauty of the Earth*
- *For the Fruit of All Creation*
- *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
- *All Things Bright and Beautiful*
- *This Is My Father's World*
- *We Plough the Fields and Scatter*
- *The Feast is Ready (Graham Kendrick)*
- *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*
- *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*
- *Morning Has Broken*
- *Cantemos al Señor ("Let's Sing unto the Lord")*
- *Fairest Lord Jesus*
- *Here I Am Lord*