



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 + Peace, these materials explore the deep connection between faith, creation, and justice—inviting us to consider how God calls us to be peacemakers in a world where environmental stress can lead to conflict and division.

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

God our peacekeeper,

We live in a world where peace is often elusive.
Help us to work hard and strive for peace in all that we do.
Help us to look for you in our interactions with others.
Help us to offer your peace to everyone we encounter
and lead the way into a world that promotes harmony,
where we all love each other
the way you would have us love each other.

Amen.



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PRAYER SUGGESTION

God of Peace,

We lift up communities where the drying earth
has strained the ties that hold neighbours together
and frayed the bonds within families.

Bless those who draw others near—
who make space for every voice and build peace
through trust and listening hearts.

Protect women and girls on long walks for water and wood.

Strengthen voices that welcome dialogue,
leaders who mend broken bridges,
and teachers planting seeds of dignity and respect.

Let justice fall like rain,
bringing healing to the land and to lives.

Guide us in this challenge,
to honour your creation
and carry your peace into the world.

Amen.



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SCRIPTURE SUGGESTIONS

Consider using scriptures that focus on peace, justice, reconciliation, and the healing of communities 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:

- **Esther 9:29-32** – A story of remembering and making peace after conflict, as Esther and Mordecai establish Purim as a time of celebration and rest.
- **Psalms 29** – A psalm of God's power in creation, ending with the promise: "The Lord blesses his people with peace."
- **Ephesians 2:11-17** – Christ is our peace, breaking down dividing walls and bringing unity to those who were once far apart.
- **Matthew 5:1-11** – The Beatitudes, where Jesus names the peacemakers as children of God.
- **John 14:25-31** – Jesus offers his disciples the gift of peace—not as the world gives, but a peace rooted in love and trust.
- **Isaiah 32:15-18** – A vision of justice and peace taking root when the Spirit is poured out, bringing quietness and trust forever.



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SERMON SUGGESTION

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you... Rise, let us be on our way.”

—John 14:27, 31b

In the Lake Chad Basin, peace is deeply connected to land, water, and the climate. As the environment changes, peace becomes harder to find.

Farmers and herders are increasingly in conflict, competing for land that is drying out or no longer usable. With rainfall less predictable and harvests more uncertain, tensions rise. In some places, armed groups have taken advantage of these conditions, using fear and instability to gain control. For families in the region, peace doesn't just mean the absence of violence—it means being able to grow food, draw water, move freely, and live without fear.

The effects of climate stress ripple through communities. When land fails, people are forced to leave. Families are displaced. Schools and health clinics shut down. And those who are most vulnerable—especially women and children—face the greatest risks, from hunger and homelessness to gender-based violence.

And yet, in the face of conflict, Jesus speaks peace.

In today's gospel, Jesus offers his disciples a promise: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." These words come just after he has washed their feet, and just before the world around them begins to unravel. He knows what is coming—betrayal, denial, abandonment—and still he says: peace.

Not a peace that erases hardship. Not a peace that hides from the world's pain. But a peace that endures. A peace that walks with us. A peace that calls us to rise and go.

That same peace is still with us today—passed through water and Word, through Christ and the Spirit. It's the peace we share with one another each Sunday. And it's the peace we are called to carry into the world.

But what does that look like?

We start with prayer—for peace in the Lake Chad Basin and in every place where fear and need are growing. We pray for those working for reconciliation, for justice, and for healing. We pray for those who have lost land, homes, and loved ones.

And then we act.

Through the Friends of Creation project, CLWR is supporting work that builds peace from the ground up—by restoring land, protecting water, and strengthening relationships. This includes nature-based solutions like reforestation and better water management, which reduce resource conflict. It includes peace committees and community dialogue, where farmers, herders, and leaders come together to find ways forward. And it includes supporting local governance, so that decisions are made fairly and communities are heard.

All of this is part of the peace Christ gives. A peace that is active, rooted in justice, and meant to be shared.

We are not called to keep peace for ourselves. We are called to share it—with our neighbours, and with the world.

Amen.



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CHILDREN'S TIME

Have you ever had to share something special—like your favourite toy or snack?

Sometimes sharing is easy. But sometimes it's hard. Especially when there isn't enough to go around.

In some places, like around Lake Chad, people share land, water, and food. But when the land is too dry or the water is too low, people start to worry. Farmers and herders sometimes need the same land. Families need the same water. And when people are scared they won't have enough, it can lead to arguments or even fighting.

But there is hope.

In these places, neighbours are learning new ways to listen to each other and work together. They are planting trees, building gardens, and taking care of the land—together. And in churches like ours, people are helping too.

God made the land, the people, and the peace.

And God wants us to be peacemakers—sharing what we have, and helping others feel safe.

Wondering Questions

- I wonder how it feels when someone shares with you.
- I wonder what happens when people don't get along.
- I wonder what makes a place peaceful.
- I wonder how we can help make peace in the world.
- I wonder what peace looks like in God's eyes.

You may be small, but your heart is big. Your kindness helps the world feel safe. And your peaceful heart makes room for others.

Children's Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for land and sky and sea,
and people living peacefully.

When things feel hard or food is few,
help us to share, like you would do.

Make us peacemakers, kind and fair—
and help us show your love and care.

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.

- *As We Gather at Your Table*
- *Bring Peace to Earth Again*
- *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace*
- *Dona Nobis Pacem*
- *Faith of our Fathers*
- *Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord*
- *O God of Love, O King of Peace*
- *Peace Came to Earth*
- *The Peace of the Lord*
- *Confitemini Domino*
- *Father, Grant Us, Grant Us Peace*
- *In God Alone My Soul Can Find*
- *Let There Be Peace*
- *Peace - We the Kingdom*