



Pilgrimage prayers

These prayers are designed to be used during a short local pilgrimage. Explain that while we walk, we encourage people to use the time to focus on all they see around them. Pilgrimage can be a time of fellowship, of slowing down to appreciate the world around us, of prayer.

Aim to pause for prayer at particular spots, each time focusing on an appropriate issue. You can use the ideas below to help plan a walk that will take in a variety of places where you can stop and pray on specific topics, whether those below or your own. Our ideas are just a starting point – do share your ideas.

If you wish you can post photos and details of your pilgrimage on the [People's Pilgrimage website](#) to inspire others.

This prayer could be used at both the beginning and/or the end if appropriate:

Pilgrimage Prayer

Dear Lord,
You called your disciples
To follow in your way:
You are the Way
The Truth and the Life
And so we come,
Seeking to follow
In your footsteps.

Creator of the earth,
As we journey
Help us to walk lightly,
Treasuring the world
You have given us
And cherishing each other.

And grant, we pray
That our walk
May be part of your plan
To care for creation
Seeking climate justice
And the coming of your Kingdom
On earth as it is in heaven.

Water

Water is such a blessing. We take it for granted that clean, safe water will come out of our taps at any time of night or day. We pray now for those people around the world who may only have water for an hour each day – and for those who have no taps in their home, just a pump or water source that may be far away and dangerous to reach. In many areas, access to water is at risk because of climate change. Climate change will bring increased risk of both droughts, which will dry up water sources, and of flooding, which may pollute existing water supplies. We pray for those whose water supplies may be affected and for all who are working to protect their supplies from such risks.

And we thank you for life giving water. May we never take it for granted.

Farmland

Farmers work very hard to produce the food we eat, coping with unpredictable weather and often battling with supermarkets that pay unfairly low prices. Climate change is already making weather patterns even more unpredictable, affecting people's ability to grow traditional crops. We pray for farmers – both in this country and around the world. Pray for protection against climate disaster.

And we pray for a fairer food system, which will pay farmers appropriate prices and enable them to earn a good living and which will support those on low incomes to access healthy food.

Butterflies and bees

Butterflies and bees are always a joy to see. fluttering around flowers and grassland or gathering pollen to make honey whenever the sun shines. They appear to be carefree, but actually life is quite tough for them. Indeed the [UK's butterflies](#) and bees are in trouble. Over two thirds of British butterflies have decreased in numbers in the past 10 years. A few migrants like Painted Ladies and Red Admirals appreciate the warming climate, but most species are suffering. And according to DEFRA, the UK has suffered the greatest decline in wild bees of anywhere in Europe, losing 20 species since 1900 with a further 35 under threat of extinction.

Lord, we thank you for the joy of watching butterflies and their beauty. We thank you for the busyness of bees, so vital for pollinating our crops. We thank you for the organisations working to preserve special areas and reserves. And we pray that we might do all we can by planting appropriate flowers in our gardens and leaving wildflower areas in our churchyards, verges and gardens.

Allotments or vegetable plots

'Growing your own' can be a very satisfying thing to do- though less satisfactory when slugs, mice, pigeons or caterpillars want to share the produce! It increases awareness of the challenges and the joys of growing food crops and helps connect us with God's gift of the natural world. Lord, we pray for all who work to grow the crops we eat. May they seek to work in harmony with nature, and to adjust to less predictable weather conditions.

Cemetery

Cemeteries remind us that life is short and precious. May we use our time well and be a blessing to others.

Cemeteries are increasingly sanctuaries - not only providing places for people to pause a while and pray for loved ones, but also for wildlife. We give thanks for the Caring for God's Acre charity and the support and inspiration it provides for churches wanting to develop their [churchyards](#) with nature in mind.

Churches and meeting places

It is a blessing to meet together in prayer and worship – and one for which we give thanks, aware that there are many people for whom meeting openly is not a possibility. We pray for them and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

Churches also have a vital role to play in helping people to think how we live in right relationship with God, our neighbour and the planet. We give thanks for recent encouragements. Last year the Quakers led the way in announcing complete divestment from fossil fuels. The Methodist Conference voted overwhelmingly this July to divest from coal and tar sands by 2017. It also asked its ethical investment board to report back on possible further divestment in 2016. The Church of England's General Synod adopted the Ethical Investment Advisory Group's climate change policy, which calls for immediate divestment from coal and tar sands. And we give thanks that Synod also passed a motion saying that the church is "*called to protect the earth now and for the future.*" But we also pray for more 'prophets' to stand up and speak out clearly and decisively within the churches, so that more and more believers are spurred to prayer and action.

A chemist

The World Health Organisation is very concerned about the impact of [climate change on health](#). Older people and young children and babies are particularly vulnerable to times of very high temperatures. We're grateful to live in a country where we have access to cool water and ice creams during hot weather. But we pray for many countries around the world where recent searing high temperatures have resulted in many deaths. Over 2,500 died from heatstroke and related health issues during [the Indian heat wave](#) this summer.

Trees

Lord we give thanks for trees. Trees 'root us' as we reflect on their beauty, their age and the 'homes' they provide for wildlife. Scientists know of the many benefits that living near trees can bring, such as improving air quality and air moisture and providing shade. In the Bible trees are used as a symbol of well-being, faith and healing (Psalm 1:3, Jeremiah 17:8 and Rev 22:1-2). So let's give thanks for, appreciate and enjoy the trees in our area, learning more about their names and qualities and doing all we can to protect them and to plant new trees. And pray for people who are fighting logging that threatens some of the world's oldest and most diverse forests.

Playgroup/nursery

The impacts of climate change will increasingly affect the generations that follow us. Lord we pray for the babies and young children in our community. May we do all we can to preserve this beautiful world for them to inherit.

Viewpoint, park – or any attractive place

Psalm 104: 24, 31 and 33-34 (NIV)

"How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord".

Café or restaurant

Lord, we thank you for the rich variety of foods that we can enjoy from all around the world. Thank you for the people who grow our food and those who prepare it. We pray for farmers who don't make enough money to feed themselves and their families, and ask your blessing on all who seek to help them. And we pray that you will make us conscious of the way our choices in food affect other people. Help us to eat in ways that are friendly to people and the planet.