



# Noah and Creation Care: **Prayer Stations**

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## Laudato Si'

Pope Francis wrote the world a letter called *Laudato Si'* to remind us that God loves us all and so we are called to take care of one another, to love one another, no matter where in the world we are. We are also called to protect and care for the earth, so that everyone can share in the good things that God has given us.

He says:

“Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political, and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.”

“Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.”

“Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices.”

## Reflection

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis says “young people demand change”. You are leading the way to changes in the world, encouraging others to follow in your footsteps.

On a piece of paper draw around your foot then write/draw on your footprint two or three pieces of information about what you have learnt/reflected on today:

- The steps you are going to take to help to tackle climate change.
- The steps others could take on this issue.
- How climate change can impact people worldwide.



## Noah: A new world and a new covenant

In the story of Noah, the world was submerged beneath water while Noah and his family and the animals were floating safely in the ark. When the waters went down and the ark reached dry land, Noah came out of from the ark and released the animals. The world was able to start again . . .

‘God said to Noah, “Go out of the boat with your wife, your sons, and their wives. Take all the birds and animals out with you, so that they may reproduce and spread over all the earth.” Genesis 8:15-17 (GNB)

‘God said to Noah and his sons, “I am now making my covenant with you and with your descendants, and with all living beings - all birds and animals - everything that came out of the boat with you. With these words I make my covenant with you: I promise that never again will all living beings be destroyed by a flood; never again will a flood destroy the earth. As a sign of this everlasting covenant which I am making with you and with all living beings, I am putting by bow in the clouds. It will be a sign of my covenant with the world. Whenever I cover the sky with clouds and the rainbow appears . . . That is the sign of the promise which I am making to all living beings.” Genesis 9:8-14 and 17 (GNB)

### Reflection

How could the world be made a better place, if humanity today had the chance to start again?

What do you think the world should be like?

What would you keep the same?

What would you change?

What rules would you have?



## Noah: Care for creation

The story of Noah and the great flood, in which only Noah and his family in the ark survive flooding which covers the whole earth, reminds us about how dependant humans are on our planet. The health and wellbeing of humanity is directly connected to the health and wellbeing of planet earth. Christians believe that God has given humans stewardship over his creation, which means that we are supposed to look after it wisely.

However, we humans sometimes fail to carry out our duties of stewardship as well as we should, and we sometimes harm the planet rather than care for it.

## What is climate change?

Climate change (or global warming), is the process of our planet heating up. Scientists estimate that since the Industrial Revolution, human activity has caused the Earth to warm by approximately 1°C. While that might not sound like much, it has serious consequences for people and wildlife around the globe.

The weather is becoming more extreme and unpredictable, with higher rainfall in some places, more heat and drought in others, and more frequent storms and floods. Lots of animals (and humans) could find they're not able to adapt to their changing climate.

As ice caps at the north and south poles and glaciers on mountainsides melt, sea levels will rise and low-lying land will flood and become uninhabitable.

## What causes climate change?

Burning fossil fuels - over the past 150 years, industrialised countries have been burning large amounts of fossil fuels such as oil and gas. The gases released into the atmosphere during this process act like an invisible 'blanket', trapping heat from the sun and warming the Earth.

Farming practices - Believe it or not, cows' eating habits contribute towards climate change. The greenhouse gas methane builds up in their digestive system of the 1.5 billion cows in the world, and is then released into the atmosphere.

Deforestation - Forests absorb huge amounts of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from the air, and release oxygen back into it. However, many rainforests are being cut down to make wood, palm oil for our use and consumption, and to clear the way for farmland, roads, oil mines, and dams.

## How will climate change affect wildlife?

Climate change is already affecting wildlife all over the world, but certain species are suffering more than others.

Polar animals, whose icy natural habitat is melting in the warmer temperatures, are particularly at risk. In fact, experts believe that the Arctic sea ice is melting at a rate of 9% per decade. Polar bears need sea ice to be able to hunt, raise their young and as places to rest after long periods of swimming. Certain seal species, like ringed seals make caves in the snow and ice to raise their pups, feed and mate.

In the rainforests of Indonesia, orang-utans are under threat as their habitat is cut down, and more droughts cause more bushfires.

Sea turtles rely on nesting beaches to lay their eggs, many of which are threatened by rising sea levels.

### Reflection

How does all this make you feel?

What are your hopes for our amazing world?

What could we do to restore it?

Write or draw your thoughts or prayers on a square piece of paper, then use it to create a windmill. As you create your windmill, think about what you could do to make your prayers or hopes a reality.

### Windmill Instructions

Take your square piece of paper and cut along the lines shown in image 1.

Fold the corners into the centre of the square as shown in image 2, use glue or a paper fastener to hold the corners in place to form a pin wheel.

Attach the pin wheel to a stick.

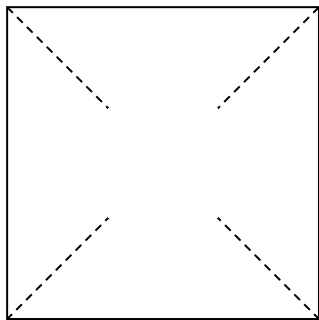


Image 1

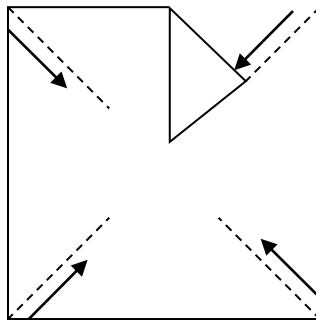


Image 2

