

## Prayers to live more lightly on the earth

### **Litany of Penitence (especially for Ash Wednesday)**

*This is the Common Worship text with some additional petitions. The additions are marked with an asterisk.*

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,

*All* **have mercy on us.**

God the Son,

*All* **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

*All* **have mercy on us.**

Trinity of love,

*All* **have mercy on us.**

*All* **Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

We have not tended the earth with care,  
we have failed to steward wisely the riches of creation,  
we have smeared the soil with the waste of society,  
and dirtied the oceans with the dross of industry.\*

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord ...

all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our carelessness with the world's forests and fields, seas and rivers,  
and our polluting of the lungs of our planet.\*

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our selfish exaltation of human desire over the needs of creation,  
and our carelessness for the species we steward.\*

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Accept our repentance, Lord ...  
  
for the wrongs we have done,  
for our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements,  
for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours  
and for our prejudice and contempt towards those who differ from us.

*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For embracing our helplessness as an excuse,  
for refusing to change because it's too hard.\*

*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

*All* **Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*All* **that we may show your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

*All* **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Silence is kept.*

*All* **We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers for our response to the climate crisis**

*You will find some prayers of intercession in New Patterns for Worship, especially F47 and F48 which can also be found online here (you will need to scroll down) [F Prayers | The Church of England](#)*

*The following meditative intercession is based on verses from Psalm 104*

You laid the foundations of the earth,  
but we have built on sand of our own making.

You send the springs into the brooks,  
but we have polluted the streams and rivers.

The earth is filled with the fruit of your works,  
but we have emptied it to meet our wants.

You make grass to grow for the cattle  
and plants to meet our need,  
but we have taken what meets our greed.

You bring forth food from the earth  
and wine to gladden our hearts,  
but we have become drunk on our power  
and sick from overconsumption.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

Look in mercy on all you have made,  
turn us back to your beauty and bounty,  
make us again gardeners for your glory,  
tenders and keepers of your creation,  
and stewards of the world's abundant treasure,  
for the praise and glory of your name,  
and the good of all the earth.