

# CREATION CARE

## *prayers*

### PRAYERS OF LAMENT

#### Prayer of Lament in the Face of Climate Catastrophe (Psalm 80)

-Shay O'Reilly

Leader 1: Having confessed our sins and failures, we pray in our weakness, our helplessness, our sorrow and grief. In accordance with the testimony of the Bible, we lament on behalf of our communities, our countries, and our world leaders.

Congregation: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Leader 2: From a Persian Gulf on the cusp of a permanent deadly heat, to oceans verging on a cascade of extinction, Your creation groans.

Congregation: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

Leader 1: The troubles before us are overwhelming in their enormity. Everywhere the cry of the poor is matched and echoed by the cry of the earth.

Congregation: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

Leader 2: Our political leaders, in our own countries and in international gatherings, make promises with deceit in their hearts. They follow other gods, golden idols and proud flags.

Congregation: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

Leader 1: Our young people are born into a polluted and rapidly degrading world. Our dreams for future generations are overtaken by fear and terror.

Congregation: You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;

it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.



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Continued

Leader 2: Even technological solutions face only scattered implementation, subjected to the rule of markets and political stubbornness; your gifts of reason and curiosity have gone unappreciated.

Congregation: Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?  
The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

Leader 1: Extractive industry poisons our soil, air and water. The components of all life, the substances you formed in the beginning, are themselves sickened and diminished; they need your reconciling and healing.

Congregation: Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.  
They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

Leader 2: Our fellow creatures, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, every living thing that moves upon the earth, are subjected to new conditions for which they bear no responsibility. The whole world cries out to be drawn forth.

Congregation: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.  
Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

Leader 1: Not by our strength or by our own greatness can we redeem ourselves, but we know that your power and grace are without end. You release the captives; you liberate the oppressed; you bring sight to the blind; you bring good news to the poor. Through you is the salvation, redemption, and reconciliation of the entire creation.

Congregation: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.