



— CHRISTIAN RESOURCE FOR —

SHOW THE LOVE

2020

[SHOWTHELOVE.ORG.UK](https://showthelove.org.uk)



#SHOWTHELOVE



Climate change is an urgent concern for Christians. From the book of Genesis to Revelation, a thread runs through the Bible binding creation and humanity together in a relationship of love, respect and protection.

We are called to care for the Earth and for one another, including for the poorest of the Earth most vulnerable to climate change, for the beauty and diversity of species created by our loving God, and for future generations.

Throughout scripture, countless voices praise the beauty and wonder of God's creation, and encourage us to reflect on our responsibility to be good stewards of creation. See for example: Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2:15; Psalm 104; Job 38-41

“How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures. All creatures look to you to give food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.”

– *Psalm 104: 24-25, 27-28, 31*

Jesus' own life offers us a model. He lived simply, not accumulating possessions, but sharing in fellowship in the gifts of creation. His teaching was woven through with images of nature, as God teaches us, through nature, about his Kingdom. Jesus' Ministry was shaped by relationships of restoration, a preferential care for the poor and for children, and by the promise of a renewed creation in the Kingdom of God.





“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

– Matthew 6 v 19-21

HOW DOES THIS TEACHING FROM JESUS SPEAK TO US ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE TODAY?

As we wonder at and give thanks for the beauty of creation, we are called to act for its preservation, for justice, and for all the people of the Earth, including future generations.

Climate change is already impacting the poorest communities on Earth, through rising sea levels, drought, extreme weather events, and wildfires, in which the poorest people in all societies are always the most vulnerable. And our natural world is affected too as species across the planet are threatened by climate change with up to 50% of species headed for extinction by the middle of this century.

In the UK we are also seeing the impacts - from record-breaking temperatures in February and a heatwave in July, to torrential downpours causing flash flooding, and iconic landscapes like Saddleworth Moor burning.

Because creation is the gift of our loving God, as Christians we are called to act on climate change, to change our own lifestyles and through prayer and action, to ensure that the UK, along with other nations, ends its contribution to climate change.

This February during our Church Services, let's give thanks for creation, and pray together for urgent action on climate change, at individual, Church, community, national and international levels, and encourage one another to grasp the solutions to climate change - both in our own lives, and through encouraging our leaders to take climate action.





A prayer based on Psalm 102:25

'In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.'

Loving God,
thank you for the gift of creation.

As we experience each day, may we take time to wonder and give you thanks. From each sunrise to every sunset, in every season, and with every breath, may we celebrate our home in creation, and the glorious gift of life.

As the climate changes through our lifestyles, give us compassion to care deeply that people are suffering now, from drought, flood, wildfires and terrible storms. Give us the imagination to see

that many species, and future generations are in peril and may never know the beauty and diversity of creation that we enjoy.

Give us passion to act now, to pray for the changes needed within our communities, our churches, our nation, and among the nations, for climate change to be brought under control.

Guide us Lord, and guide our leaders, to act as you would have us act. May our prayers and our actions flow from our love for your creation, in all its beauty and diversity, a longing for justice for the poor, and our commitment to all future generations of your children on this Earth.

Amen.





The Climate Coalition is the national umbrella body working on climate change, bringing together over 140 organisations, representing 22 million people across the UK.

They invite us all this February to Show the Love for God's creation by talking about climate change, praying for the Earth, making changes in our own lives, and calling upon our political leaders to act.

By taking action today we can protect the things we love from climate change. The solutions to the climate crisis are at our fingertips, and we need to grasp them. This year let's show the love by creating a voice for change that is impossible to ignore.

**DURING THE SERVICE, OR AFTER CHURCH, OVER COFFEE,
INVITE EVERYONE IN THE CONGREGATION TO SHOW THEIR
LOVE FOR GOD'S CREATION THIS FEBRUARY BY:**

1

Committing to pray for our world and all those whose lives are currently impacted by climate change, and for guidance for our leaders as they make decisions to end the country's contribution to climate change.

2

Making and wearing a green heart, or wearing a green heart sticker, as a way to start conversations about climate change. Two-thirds of people care about climate change - but don't know where to begin. Wearing a green heart is a great way to start a conversation in your Church or local community about climate action.

3

Taking personal action with a green heart pledge. Our actions start from our prayers and faithful conversations. From this we can take action in our own lives to reduce our climate impact - from driving less to planting more trees. For ideas, and a pledge activity, see the back of this pack.

4

Share your green heart pledge with your MP - and ask them to join you in taking climate action. This year, we want to encourage our newly elected MPs to #ShowTheLove for solutions to the climate crisis. If you craft a green heart, save one for your MP, and send it along with the postcard included at the end of this guide.



If you use social media, please take a photo of yourself with a green heart, and share it online with the hashtags #ShowTheLove and #GodsCreation. This way Christians of all denominations come together as part of the national campaign online, alongside people of other faiths and none, showing our love God's creation.



Notes to organisers and Priests, Ministers and Church Leaders:

You can order as many green heart stickers and postcards as you need by visiting www.theclimatecoalition.org/order. Please get your order in by 17th January so they can be posted out to you in good time!

If your Church would like to take Show the Love a step further, for example with craft activities or by handing out pledge postcards to send to your local MP, additional resources are available from www.theclimatecoalition.org/resource



Here are some things you can do to reduce your contribution to climate change. Choose one (or more) and write it on your postcard:



THINK ABOUT WHAT POWERS YOUR HOME

You could switch to a renewable energy provider, buy energy-efficient appliances when older ones need replacing, or insulate your home so it loses less heat.

THINK ABOUT HOW YOU GET AROUND

You could commit to walking or cycling more instead of driving, making your next car electric, or using public transport more.



THINK ABOUT WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE

You could commit to cooking at least one more plant-based meal every week, buying more seasonal, local fruit and veg or reducing the food you waste.

THINK ABOUT HOW YOU LOOK AFTER NATURE

You could commit to planting a tree or wildflower area in your garden to capture carbon, or buying only peat-free compost.



STEP 1

Pick a challenge above or take a Show the Love challenge on our website



STEP 2

Fill in the left side of the heart on the postcard on next page



STEP 3

Cut along the cut line, attach a crafted green heart if you've made one - don't forget to add the name of your community group!



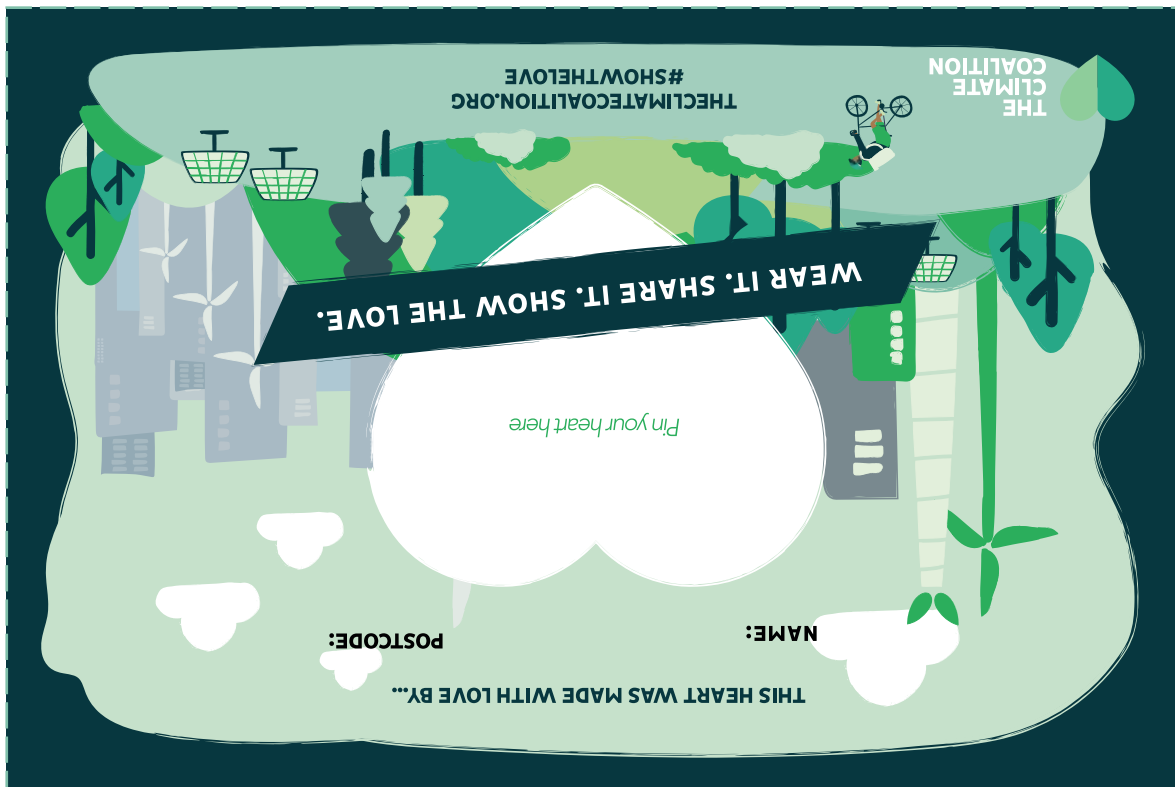
STEP 4

Send the card to your MP. Either pop it in an envelope and post it to House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, addressed to your MP or why not deliver your crafted heart in person at their constituency surgery?



STEP 4

Keep an eye out for their response



Dear MP,

I'm joining The Climate Coalition's campaign to #ShowTheLove for everything I want to protect from climate change.

Make this heart whole by writing how you will champion climate solutions.

#ShowTheLove by wearing this heart and sharing a photo of this completed postcard on social media. Don't forget to use the hashtag!

I'm doing my bit by committing to:

.....

.....

.....

.....

I MP pledge to champion the solutions to climate change by:

.....

.....

.....

.....

