



IGNATIANT CARBON CHALLENGE

# GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE PRAYER SERVICE

#IGGYCARBON

**WELCOME:** Thank you for coming to the climate strike and prayer service. Please take a moment to greet someone near you who you may not know and briefly share what brought you to the strike today.

## OPENING PRAYER

**LEADER:** Loving Creator, we come together today to pray in awe and gratitude for the gifts of creation. We pray that our lawmakers experience a conversion of heart on the issue of climate change and that they implement policies to preserve our common home and to care for the most vulnerable. Give us the courage to use our prophetic voices to demand change in the face of inaction and the strength to remain hopeful in these uncertain times.

**READER 1:** A reading from the Gospel of Luke

Jesus said to his disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.'"

**LEADER:** A steward manages money or property, and like the steward in the story, humans are being called to prepare a full account of our stewardship of the earth and one another. Like the steward in the story, we have also squandered God's creation.

Today we acknowledge our individual and collective roles in this story. We commit to changing our personal habits of consumption and demand that local and global leaders take action on climate change.

## READER 2:

Jesus said to his disciples: "The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

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“May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.”

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si'*

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**LEADER:** In the gospel, Jesus asks people of faith an important question: Do we serve God or things of this world? Recognizing that in the United States we use a disproportionate amount of Earth's resources, we know that our government must become a leader in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We must also find ways to serve and support the most vulnerable people, countries, and ecosystems who are not responsible for excessive emissions but who experience the consequences of our mismanagement. The gifts of creation are bountiful because of God's love for us but, as the gospel says, they "belong to another." They are meant to be shared equitably with all people and current and future generations so that all of creation can move forward in unity toward a hope-filled future.

**READER 3:** A reading from Pope Francis

"The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover **God in all things.**" (*Laudato Si'*, 159-160).

**REFLECTION:**

**LEADER:** Ignatian spirituality invites us to recognize God in all things, and we believe that all of creation has intrinsic value. As Senegalese poet and naturalist Baba Dioum said, 'In the end, we will protect only what we love.' Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we are called to fall in love with all of creation.

Near the end of St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises

is the Contemplation to Attain Love. During this prayer we savor the gracious, unconditional, and abundant love of God and pray that we may respond in kind with gratitude and love. We will do a brief adaptation of the contemplation with a special focus on God's love for us through the gifts of creation. We begin by asking for the grace that we desire.

**ALL: We ask for the grace to experience a deep sense of gratitude for the many blessings we have received from God, especially through creation, and the desire to love and serve God in return.**

**LEADER:**

1. God creates out of love, and everything in our lives is sustained through God's laboring. I bring to mind all of the gifts that God has given me. I think of people, places, opportunities, and the miracle of my own being. For who and what am I most grateful? I think of specific examples and let them play in my mind like a movie. (Pause)

2. I now ponder how God dwells in creatures, plants, and the elements of the earth. How do I notice God laboring in creation? To beings, large and small, God gives life, preserves them, and meets their needs through the integral ecology of the earth. I give thanks for these and all of the gifts of creation that have sustained my life up to this moment. (Pause)

3. Our natural response to being loved is to love in return. As gratitude grows in me, I ponder how I can respond in love to the gifts that God has generously provided me. Do I feel called to respond by caring for creation in a particular way?



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## INTERCESSIONS

**LEADER:** Coming from a place of love and gratitude, we will now lift up our prayers to God and remember that authentic prayer leads to action.

The response will be: **“Loving Creator, give us the courage to act.”**

**LEADER:** For the many times we have displayed a lack of concern for the environment, forgotten that nature has intrinsic value, or used more than our share of resources, we pray:

**ALL: Loving Creator, give us the courage to act.**

**LEADER:** For the people and communities most vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation, that we find ways to collaborate for an equitable future, we pray:

**ALL: Loving Creator, give us the courage to act.**

**LEADER:** For the lack of vision and imagination that has prevented our national and global leaders from working together for the common environmental good, that they create pathways forward, we pray:

**ALL: Loving Creator, give us the courage to act.**

**LEADER:** That we always remain mindful of and grateful for the many gifts in our lives, especially the gifts of creation.

**ALL: Loving Creator, give us the courage to act.**

**LEADER:** As Pope Francis says in *Laudato Si’*, “that our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope,” we pray:

**ALL: Loving Creator, give us the courage to act.**

**LEADER:** May the Lord guide us to become responsible stewards of Creation, aware of what is happening to our common home, and ready to act and advocate for the earth and all of humanity, especially the most vulnerable individuals and communities.

## CLOSING PRAYER:

We know that “love shows itself in deeds more than in words” and we pray that God can guide us and our leaders into immediate action on the climate. We end our prayer service with the words of the “Take, Lord Recieve” prayer, which remind us that in a world addicted to consumption and growth, ultimately, all we need are God’s love and grace to sustain us, as we in turn pour out God’s love through our lives.

## ALL:

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,  
my memory, my understanding,  
and my entire will,  
All I have and call my own.  
You have given all to me.  
To you, Lord, I return it.  
Everything is yours; do with it what you will.  
Give me only your love and your grace,  
that is enough for me. Amen.



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