



CREATION CARE PRAYER TOOL

When

You can use this tool anytime, but we recommend Clean Up Australia Day (Sunday March 5, 2017) of the weekend of Earth Hour (Saturday March 25, 2017)

Focus

Earth Hour and Clean Up Australia are both focussed on the environment. Earth Hour focuses on climate change, where Clean Up Australia focuses on ensuring a healthy environment in general.

Participating

Earth Hour and Clean Up Australia are both participatory events.

Earth Hour asks households, businesses and communities to switch off their lights between 8.30pm and 9.30pm on Saturday March 25 as a sign of our need to find new ways to address climate change. You could ask congregation members to participate and ensure your church participates. Resources including posters, fact sheets, and videos are available from earthhour.org.au.

Clean Up Australia Day asks individuals and groups to give time to cleaning up their local area. You could arrange for your church to participate. Hold your morning service then join a local clean-up site or register one of your own. Details can be found at cleanup.org.au

Prayer Activity

This prayer activity invites people to pray with their eyes open, viewing images of creation that are shown on screen. Download the Powerpoint File with images from <http://ajustcause.com.au/pray-for-justice/> (It is a reasonably large file – 19.1 MB - in zip format. The images are sourced from unsplash.com and are available for free use)

SLIDE 1

Creator God,
We praise you for the dazzling variety of life on earth,

SLIDE 2

For the great sea turtles that surf the ocean's currents,
And lumber across beaches to lay their eggs;

SLIDE 3

For the mighty elephants that walk the plains of earth,
Majestic, powerful and awe-inspiring

SLIDE 4

For the tiny ladybird with its bright colours,
So small & vulnerable, yet gifting us with joy.

SLIDE 5

You called us to care for the creatures you have made.
Yet we have destroyed their habitats and caused their numbers to decline.
Forgive us and help us to share the earth with all your creatures.

SLIDE 6

We praise you for mountains,
For the exquisite beauty that lift our hearts,
And the majestic size that shouts of your majesty

SLIDE 7

We praise for forests, with their trees standing tall,
Declaring your glory, absorbing our carbon dioxide,
And delivering us oxygen.

SLIDE 8

We praise you for the oceans, vast, mysterious, and powerful
Yet bursting with life – from the tiny and playful clownfish
to the whales that you created to frolic there.

SLIDE 9

You gave us the gift of the earth and called us to care for it.
Yet we are over-exploiting its resources and compromising its capacity to provide.
Forgive us, free us from destructive self-interest,
And grant our leaders the courage and vision
to mitigate climate change, preserve biodiversity and sustainably use the planet's
resources.