



YECA

YOUNG EVANGELICALS
FOR CLIMATE ACTION

ORDER OF EVENTS.

1. Each person participating in the cross formation has their signs + candles on them. Handout people are ready on the side. Media is ready for livestream/photo.
2. Each participant takes their place standing in the shape of the cross.
3. The liturgy leaders will perform the introduction and begin the liturgy.
4. Everyone sings *This is Our Father's World* (3 stanzas, below)
5. The liturgy leaders recite instances of climate disruption. After each instance, the person carrying the corresponding sign lies down where they are.
6. This repeats until everyone except the liturgy leaders are lying down in the shape of a cross. The liturgy leaders then recite our final paragraph in section 4, then join those on the ground.
7. After the determined amount of time, the liturgy leaders stand and recite the final commitments and call to action.

Bolded lines are to be spoken by the group.

Part 1. Introduction.

Good morning everyone. My name is ____ and this is _____ and we are here on a joint action as young Christians who deeply care about the climate crisis because of our faith. We represent Young Evangelicals for Climate Action (this is the steering committee here) and Sojourners. We came from all over the country to DC to put our faith in action because we believe climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We believe our faith calls us to respond boldly and compassionately to those who are suffering from the crisis. We will begin with a short liturgy on our relationship with God and the earth, do some singing, and finish with a climate die-in and call to action. Thank you!

Part 2. Liturgy. (5min)

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.¹ Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your kindness and love, you have given humanity rule and stewardship over your creation, to live as your image-bearers in a world you created for your delight. But we have turned from your will, often abusing Creation for greedy and selfish purposes. Now we are facing global climate disruption as a result of our rebellion. Forgive us of our sins, and the sins of our society, which have increasingly degraded what you created for good. In your kindness, lead us to repentance. Create in us a clean heart. For the glory of your name and for the benefit of all humanity and Creation.² Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Redeemer God, you sent your only Son to die and rise again, that all creation might be set free from its bondage to decay and all things might be made new in Christ. We confess that we have kept your good news to ourselves and failed to speak and live its truth for all your creatures. You delight in creation, its colour and diversity; Yet we have misused the earth and plundered its resources for our own selfish ends. Lord have mercy.³ Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and

¹ Pope Francis' "[Prayer for the Earth](#)" from Laudato Si'

² YECA [Repentance Prayer](#)

³ The Call-and-response from A Rocha's [Good Seed Sunday](#)

contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.⁴ Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Amen.

Part 3. Singing (3min) (ALL)

*--This is my father's world
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres*

*--This is my father's world
The birds their carols raise
The morning light, the lily white
Declare their maker's praise*

*--This is my father's world
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas
His hand the wonders wrought*

Part 4. Recitation of climate disruptions; Climate Die-In (~10min+)

- For the millions of animals dead, the 25 people killed, and millions of acres of land burned from the Australian bushfires, we grieve. **Lord have mercy.**
- For the 97 people and 6 firefighters killed last year fighting the deadliest wildfires ever recorded in California, we grieve. **Lord have mercy.**
- For the 65 million displaced people who have fled their homelands and become climate migrants because of violence, human rights abuse, and environmental disasters intensified by climate crisis, we pray. **Lord have mercy.**
- For our brothers and sisters in Uganda and Kenya and other parts of sub-Saharan Africa whose livelihoods are in danger due to extended drought and flooding on their farms from climate change, we repent. **Lord have mercy.**

⁴ Pope Francis' "[Prayer for the Earth](#)" from Laudato Si'

- For the people and habitats affected by typhoons in the Philippines, which have intensified by 50% in the last 40 years, we pray for your protection. **Lord have mercy.**
- For black neighborhoods in US cities who suffer much higher rates of pollution due to racism in infrastructure planning, like in Detroit, St. Gabriel, and Chicago, and as a result suffer alarming rates of cancer and asthma, we grieve and repent for our indifference towards their health and well-being. **Lord have mercy.**
- For island countries like Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, and other small island developing states who are at risk of going completely underwater in the next 50 years due to sea level rise, we grieve and repent for our shortsightedness. **Lord have mercy.**
- For those who suffered from the bomb cyclone in the midwest and extensive flooding in Nebraska last year, we pray. **Lord have mercy.**
- For our brothers and sisters who live in Syria and Yemen, where unprecedented crippling drought periods are destabilizing their sense of security and peace, we pray. **Lord have mercy.**
- For communities in India who are slipping into food insecurity and malnutrition because of unstable planting and harvesting seasons from flash floods, we pray. **Lord have mercy.**
- For the black and brown communities who were most adversely affected and are still recovering from the devastating Hurricane Katrina and similar intensified hurricanes all across the US, we pray. **Lord have mercy.**
- For the countless species of marine life which are under threat from warming oceans, we pray. **Lord have mercy.**

We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have abused our freedom, through what we have done and what we have left undone. We bring our lament and our longing for a renewed earth to you now. We ask that you would make our grief holy in your eyes.

Part 5. Commitments and Call to Action (3min)

So in your strength now, God, we declare:

Enough climate change: help us to take responsibility. Give us the wisdom to live appropriately, the urgency to act, and the courage to make changes. Give us the voice to call for change from our leaders, and the perseverance to keep asking.

Enough consumerism: give us what we need, God our provider. Then help us to find satisfaction and contentment. Help us to be grateful and generous.

Enough inequality: nobody should be left behind. You care for the poor, and we want to follow your example. Make your church a living example of equity and inclusion, and a powerful advocate for justice and sharing. We thank you for your kindness and your mercy.^{5 6}

For the fierce love with which you hold us and the rest of your creation, we declare **Our world belongs to God.**

For the manifold ways that Creation reveals your glory and draws us closer to you, we declare **Our world belongs to God.**

Amidst its present groaning, we declare **Our world belongs to God.**

To our leaders, working to seek answers to the climate crisis, we declare **Our world belongs to God.**

May our leaders be motivated by compassion, and not by fear. May their goal be justice and equity, not political posturing.

For the sake of the people and the ministries of your Church across the globe already being affected by climate disruption, may we seek consensus over controversy; action over apathy.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, we confess our complicity in creation's degradation, recommit ourselves to our earthkeeping task, and gratefully declare **Our world belongs to God.**⁷

Closing

Thanks everyone for being part of this prayer! Again, we are representing Sojourners and Young Evangelicals for Climate Action. Sojourners is a Christian magazine and advocacy organization which seeks to articulate and build a movement for the biblical call to social justice and YECA is a group of young evangelicals in the US who are taking action to overcome the climate crisis as part of our Christian discipleship and witness.

⁵ [Joy in Enough](#) Confession

⁶ YECA [Prayer for Political Leaders](#)

⁷ YECA [Liturgy for Climate Action \(Praise, Repentance, Committal\)](#)

Notes

Young Evangelicals for Climate Action first compiled and performed this liturgy with *Sojourners* on January 25, 2020, in Lafayette Square outside the White House. This was recorded and can be seen here:

- Entirety: <https://www.facebook.com/YECAAction/videos/603287400465006/>
- Highlights: <https://twitter.com/SojoAction/status/1222267965493649412>

We have found that the die-in portion of the liturgy attracts the most attention from passerby. If conditions allow, this time can be extended significantly. We highly recommend a dress rehearsal in private.

Recommended attendees

- 1 Signal person: to keep time, keep watch for hecklers, and engage with authorities if needed.
- 2-3 engagers: to speak with passerby and inform them about the liturgy and its purpose. If possible, they should have small flyers to hand out to those interested.
- 1-2 Liturgy leaders: to stand in the middle of the cross, reading the liturgy. They can sit down and join the cross at the end of section 4.
- 8+ participants: to lay down as the climate disruptions are listed, one at a time. Ideally they will be dressed in matching shirts and holding signs with the updated examples. If more than ~6 are participating, it may be better visually to make the cross two people “wide,” to keep the dimensions correct. In theory, there isn’t an upper limit to the number of participants, as long as everyone is clear on the spacing beforehand.
- 1+ media: to record and photograph the event.

To-do

- Ensure that you have a permit or don’t need one.
- Update the list of climate disruptions for your own context, if needed.
- Update the Introduction and Conclusion sections for your own context.
- Dress for the weather; the ground is colder than you think if you’re lying down for a while!
- Make sure everyone goes to the bathroom before you start
- Make sure there’s a sign from the signal person for when the die-in portion will end.
- Decide what you will do if approached by law enforcement. Our approach was: If we are confronted by the police, we will explain who we are and what we are

representing. We will leave if asked to. We will not be blocking pedestrian/car traffic or risking arrest. If you would like to adapt this liturgy to be used for an action that risks arrest, please seek legal counsel beforehand.

- Consider altering the gendered language for God in the hymn; we alternated verses, but kept the first stanza in its original form to ensure recognizability.

Recommended Supplies

- Small flyers describing the event to give to passerby (engagers)
- Prayer Vigil script (1 for each liturgy leader, the signal person, and media person)
- Phone/watch alarm to keep track of time (signal person)
- Fake candles for prayer vigil (one per participant)
- Poster/signs to hold (one per participant)
 - Ex: “Australian bushfires: 25 dead, millions of animals killed”



***Young Evangelicals for Climate Action** is a national group of young evangelical Christians who are coming together and taking action to overcome the climate crisis as an expression of their Christian witness and discipleship.*

This liturgy was compiled by YECA's Civic Engagement Sub-Committee (Melody Zhang, Matthew Groves, Corina Newsome, Zoe Davis, and Lindsay Mouw) in January 2020.