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## Praying in Times of Extreme Weather



*Some of the prayers are responses to particular situations. All the materials are, however, easily adapted to other contexts.*

### **For protection from or during the event ...**

#### **Prayers**

- [“In the eye of the hurricane,”](#) meditative reflection from Kwasi Kena at the Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana. Praying for peace as the storm approaches ...
- “Litany and Prayer for Those in the midst of Storms” from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America’s [Worship Resources for Flooding and Ecological Disaster](#).
- [“A Christian Hurricane Prayer,”](#) by James Martin, SJ. “Creator God, we ask you to calm the wind and the waves of the approaching hurricane, and spare those in its path from harm ....”
- This [“Prayer for Deliverance from Calamities,”](#) which asks for protection from storms and forgiveness for our sinful use of nature, was written by the Bishop of Pasig in the Philippines.

### **Resources for a Full Service**

- [Prayer Book for the Hurricane and Tornado Seasons: Litanies, Liturgies and Prayers](#), by The Rev Thomas L. Weitzel of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### **After the event ...**

#### **Prayer Points**

You’ll probably want to bring before God in prayer:

- People who
  - have lost friends, loved ones, or colleagues
  - have lost homes and/or livelihoods
  - have been injured

Pray for healing, comfort, and access to essential resources (medical care, food, water, shelter, etc)now and in the longer term. Pray that they will sense God’s presence with them in their trauma and throughout their recovery.
- People who are coordinating and engaging in relief efforts. Pray for governments, churches, medical staff, people affected, agencies, etc in their responses. If you know of specific groups or individuals, you can mention them by name. It’s always good to pray for a wide range of responders.
- For solidarity locally and globally in providing for the needs of those who have been affected.

Is it a food-producing area? If so, pray for farmers who have been affected, and, if appropriate, for food security in the region.

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Is it the type of event that is potentially likely to be made more frequent by climate change? If so, pray that people will take action to prevent climate change from making such disasters a more common occurrence.

### **Resources for a Full Service**

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### **Prayers**

- Fr Steven Cuyos, MSC, wrote this [“Prayer for People Affected by Typhoon Ondoy \(Ketsana\).”](#) The prayer is generally applicable and encapsulates many of the prayer points above.
- [CAFOD](#) has both a “prayer for those affected by natural disasters” and a “prayer for the long haul,” which “can be adapted for use in any ongoing emergency situation, especially once the media has moved on.”
- The [US Conference of Catholic Bishops put together a prayer page](#) after Katrina. The third prayer, “A Prayer to the Most Blessed Trinity,” is general in nature, very helpful and could be used in many contexts.
- The Church of England has two helpful [“Prayers for those affected by flooding”](#)
- The [“Christian Aid prayer for emergencies”](#) asks for mercy for those who have been affected and strength for those who are rebuilding.
- [“A Prayer for the Victims of Hurricane Sandy,”](#) from Fr George Shalhoub of the Antiochian Orthodox Church. A prayer in the Orthodox tradition, with a shorter form suitable for a litany or responsive intercession. Written for one occasion, but would work for victims of any storm
- “Prayer after Storms,” “Prayer after a Flood.” Prayers from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America’s [Worship Resources for Flooding and Ecological Disaster](#)
- Catholic Relief Service’s [“For Those Impacted by Hurricane Sandy”](#) offer both a prayer and suggestions for short intercessions. Both can easily be adapted to other circumstances.
- [“Great Thanksgiving for Times of Natural Disaster,”](#) adapted by Kristen Richardson-Frick from the Methodist Service of Word and Table II. For Eucharistic services where alternative great thanksgivings are permitted. Beautifully ties together suffering and the hope contained in the Resurrection.
- A responsive [“Prayer for Storm Survivors”](#) by Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia. Published by the General Board of Discipleship, United Methodist Church.
- [“You Alone: A Prayer When Calamity Strikes”](#) by Kwasi Kena (see above). “We are powerless against the throes of calamity/But we are your creation too, made in your image.” Meditative reflection that can be used as a prayer.

*CCOW can help you with liturgical materials for different occasions. Look for seasonal guides on our website, or, if you have a specific request, get in touch: [coordinator@ccow.org](mailto:coordinator@ccow.org) or 01235 850267.*