
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 and Liturgical Resources for Hurricane Sandy](#).
- [“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”

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.

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

- [CAFOD](#) has a "[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 Church of England has a helpful prayer "[For those coping with floods](#)"
- The Diocese of Dallas (Texas) has a "[Prayer for Hurricane Victims](#)"
- 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
- "Prayers after the Storm" Prayers from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's [Worship Resources for Flooding and Ecological Disaster](#)
- "[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.

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.uk or 01235 850267.