



## Introduction: Angelo Ambo 1

About Eco-Congregation (3mins 10 secs)

At this moment we stand together with billions of our human companions and countless billions of our kin in the wider community of life, embracing the dream of present and future generations as we look with hope – hope tinged with fear as the consequences of climate change reverberates around the planet and renders millions of people and species poor, isolated and homeless or habitat-less.

Our current western economic model based on unlimited consumption of limited resources is madness. This is especially true when wedded especially to profit at any cost and vested interests. How can we say that we are creating a better future when there is such ecological deterioration and human devastation?

In November 2015 in St Teresa's, Clarendon Street, Dublin- around 250 people attended a **National Ecumenical Prayer Service in preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21)**. The aim of the service, **was to pray for climate justice and to pray in particular for a successful outcome to COP21 –that outcome hoped for was, for a sustainable and legally-binding climate agreement.**

It was at that service that the theme 'Shine a light on climate justice' was initiated and the climate justice candle was commissioned to shine as a beacon of hope.

Since then the Climate Justice Candle has journeyed around Ireland from parishes to community groups to schools to congregations. Through the symbol of the Climate Justice candle Christians everywhere to reflect on the beauty of God's world and to consider what practical steps can be taken to prevent further damage to the environment. Also, to pray for our wounded planet, for people in the developing world already affected by climate change and for future generations

We can also play our part – as individuals and as communities by taking action here in our home in SMA Blackrock Road, or in OLA Ardfolye and by joining in global climate initiatives, **we can speak truth to power**. We can only speak that truth if we are trying to live it ourselves.

We have chosen this week in particular to 'Shine a light on climate change' as here in Ireland, the first of February, Lá Fhéile Bríde, marked the beginning of the Celtic Spring. It can be a time for us to sow new seeds and allow the Spring buds to open as we continue to honour God's creation. And so we pray our opening hymn: How great thou art.

**Led by Lee Cahill on organ**

**How great thou art (2 mins)**

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy pow'r throughout the universe display'd.

*Then sings my soul, my saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:  
**(Russian Hymn based on Psalm 8, Romans 5 and 1 Thessalonians 4)**

(Nature sounds are played throughout the prayer service starting at this point)

**OPENING PRAYERS (Led by Aodhan McCrystal from Ambo 1) (1 Min 30 secs)**

Leader: 'Whoever benefits from the world without first blessing God, is as if they robbed God or violated God's property.'

Let us bless God, to acknowledge that nothing in nature is to be taken for granted.

(Pause)

Blessed are you O God, maker of heaven and earth, giver of all good things.

**All: Creation sings your praises**

Leader: Blessed are you O Christ, Son of God eternal, bringer of good news to the poor.

**All: Creation cries out for your justice**

Leader: Blessed are you O Holy Spirit, Giver of life and renewal, uniting us in worship and service.

**All: Creation longs for your wisdom.**

Creating God, your name is written in every leaf, every bird, every river, every living being. Thank you for calling us by name. Thank you for your continued creating power in moisture, rivers and oceans. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation.

**PSALM 104 (led by Frank Geoghan from Ambo 1) (1min)**

Leader: We are the people of God, the Almighty.

**All: Created in the image of God.**

Leader: We are the people of God, the Redeemer.

**All: Loved by Jesus Christ, carriers of reconciliation.**

Leader: We are the people of God, the Giver of Life.

**All: Open to the inspiration of the Spirit in faith, hope and love.**

Leader: Praise to you, Creator of heaven and earth.

**All: You give us the food of the earth and the water of the well.**

Leader: Praise to you Jesus Christ, who walked our ways.

**All: You have revealed the will of God and the holiness of the earth.**

Leader: Praise to you, Holy Spirit, Giver of Life.

**All: You awaken our song of praise in faith and struggle.**

**Angelo reads from Altar (Voice 3),**

**John reads from Ambo 2 (Voice 1)**

**(4mins 30 secs)**

**Christopher from Ambo 1 (Voice 2)**

**Angelo: Our reading is taken from Genesis Ch. 1&2 - Creation story**

Voice 1: In the beginning God created

Voice 2: the heavens and the earth,

Voice 1: day and night,

Voice 2: and there was evening:

Voice 1: that was the first day.

Voice 3: By burning coal, oil and natural gas, we have released billions of tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere, locking **in** warmth, in what is known as the greenhouse effect.

Voice 2: Then God separated the waters

Voice 1: under and above the dome,

Voice 2: God called the dome, sky

Voice 1: and there was evening and morning:

Voice 2: that was the second day.

Voice 3: When sunlight strikes ice and snow, 80 percent is reflected back into space and 20 per cent is absorbed as heat. The opposite holds true for land and open water, further increasing the rise in temperature.

Voice 1: God summoned the waters under the dome.

Voice 2: to form the seas and let dry land appear.

Voice 1: and the earth put forth vegetation.

Voice 2: God saw that it was good.

Voice 1: That was the third day.

Voice 3: Melting glaciers will bring floods to some areas, while changing sea temperature will shut down ocean currents and change rainfall patterns, causing droughts.

Voice 2: God made the sun to rule over the day.

Voice 1: the moon to rule over night.

Voice 2: And God saw that it was good:

Voice 3: Prolonged periods of drought will wreck harvests and destroy lives, human and other species. Communities that depend on fragile agricultural cycles will be devastated.

Voice 1: God created every living thing

Voice 2: that moves and swims and flies.

Voice 1: God blessed them, saying,

Voice 2: ‘Be fruitful and multiply’:

Voice 1: that was the fifth day.

Voice 3: Everything will have to adapt to the effects of climate change, but while rich people and nations can more readily afford to counter rising sea levels, or repair the damage caused by hurricanes, poorer countries cannot.

Voice 2: And God said,

Voice 1: ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind’.

Voice 2: and it was so.

Voice 1: and God saw that it was good.

Voice 3: The pressure that increasing floods, famine and drought will put on vulnerable countries will be devastating – for some developing countries, the effects of climate change are already catastrophic.

Voice 2: Then God said,

Voice 1: ‘Let us make humankind in our image

Voice 2: and let them be carers of all the earth.’

Voice 1: God saw everything and indeed it was very good:

Voice 2: that was the sixth day.

Voice 1: On the seventh day God rested.

Voice 3: It is time to change the climate of apathy that prevails in our privileged communities, and take action to stop global warming devastating the world’s most vulnerable communities and other species.

**Ag Críost an Siol** *led by Lee Cahill (1min 45secs)*

Ag Críost an síol, ag Críost an fómhar;  
in iothlainn Dé go dtugtar sinn.

Ag Críost an mhuir, ag Críost an t-iasc;  
I líonta Dé go gcastar sinn.

Ó fhás go haois, is ó aois go bás,  
do dhá láimh, a Chríost, anall tharainn.

Ó bhás go críoch ní críoch ach athfhás,  
I bParthas na ngrás go rabhaimid.

**Leader: together we pray (1 min 45secs) (Ambo 2) (Aodhan)**

**Leader:** Blessed is the one who shows mercy.

Forgive our lack of compassion and respect for the world:

**All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.**

**Leader:** Blessed is the one whose heart is pure.

Forgive us when we call for others to change  
yet fail to examine the lives we lead.

**All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.**

**Leader:** Blessed is the one who strives for peace.

Forgive our squabbles over the earth's bounty  
which sends God's people to war.

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Forgive our squabbles over the earth's bounty  
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**All: Creator God, forgive us and help us to change our ways.**

**Leader:** Blessed are those who give their lives in the service of others and our planet earth. Forgive us when we forget we live in one world, as one people, neighbours to each other, and to the whole of Creation.

[A short silence is kept for consideration and reflection]

## **WORDS OF RENEWAL**

**Angelo from Ambo 1 (1 min)**

Last week Fr. Jerome received the Climate Justice Candle from Pastor Matt Gould from the Carraig Centre in Ballincollig. I now invite Fr. Jerome to bring the lighted justice candle from the corridor and place it on the pedestal in front of the Altar

*(N.B. Jerome comes in from the corridor and places the candle on the pedestal)*

(Pause)

God of life and God of light may the light of this candle be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God's precious gift of creation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Mary Crowley (AMBO 1) Gerry Forde (AMBO 2) (Alternating the prayers) (1 min 50secs)**

Mary: We pray for the world, our common home: that through God's grace we may hear its cry of the damage done and be moved to protect it for future generations to enjoy.

**Lord hear us.** Lord graciously hear us

Gerry: We pray for those people who are already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate.

**Lord hear us.** Lord graciously hear us

Mary: We pray for our religious communities, our local community and our parish and schools: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this critical time.

**Lord hear us.** Lord graciously hear us

Gerry: We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given.

**Lord hear us.** Lord graciously hear us

Mary: We pray for world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable.

**Lord hear us.** Lord graciously hear us

Gerry: We pray that through God's grace we may be good neighbours to all humanity and all species, making reparation for damage done and restoring and caring for all that God has made.

**Lord hear us.** Lord graciously hear us

**Angelo (AMBO 1)** Invitation to pause quietly as we make my own personal commitment to Care for God's Creation in our own unique ways. (4 mins)

Lights are dimmed and focus is on the climate change candle – short pause followed by following song being played.

I arise today, through the strength of heaven;  
light of sun, radiance of moon,  
splendor of fire, speed of lightning,  
swiftness of wind, depth of the sea,  
stability of earth, firmness of rock.

I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me;  
God's eye to look before me, God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me,  
from all who shall wish me ill, afar and a-near  
alone and in a multitude.

Against every cruel merciless power  
that may oppose my body and soul,

Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise, Christ to shield me.

Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks of me,



I arise today.

Angelo (AMBO 1) (30 secs) Blessing

As the air sings with songs of glory,  
as the water flashes with the silver of creation,  
as the forests bloom with leaves for the healing of nations,  
so may God's light and love,  
fill our hearts and souls and minds.  
Go with the peace of the Creator