

LAMBETH
CONFERENCE
God's Church for God's world



A DAY AT LAMBETH PALACE

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

3 August 2022



Programme

Arrival

Drinks in Lambeth Palace courtyard

Prayer walk in the Lambeth Palace garden

Visit exhibition stands on Creation Care and the Communion Forest

Welcome

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby,
The Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs Caroline Welby

Speeches

Grace

Lunch

Writing prayer leaves

Conversation with

Elizabeth Wathuti, a young, climate activist and others on the environment with The Most Revd Julio Murray Thompson, Primate of the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America.

Presenting the Lambeth Call on Environment and Sustainable Development

Speeches and liturgy on the lawn

Launch of the Communion Forest

Prayers for people and planet

Photos

Depart for boat trip on the Thames and travel on to Canterbury



Welcome

Dear brothers and sisters,

Welcome to Lambeth Palace, home to Archbishops of Canterbury for around 800 years, and our home since 2013.

Lambeth Conferences have visited or been hosted at Lambeth Palace since 1867. We are delighted to welcome you on this important occasion in the fifteenth Lambeth Conference.

Although we are in the centre of London, on a busy road and very close to the Houses of Parliament, we have a garden which is a haven of beauty and peace for all those who live, work and visit here. The garden is full of surprises, and we hope you will enjoy spending time here today.

The focus of today is on prayer, fellowship and reflection on the themes of environment and sustainable development, surrounded by birds, insects, plants, trees and hundreds of other species.

We praise God for the wonders of creation and commit ourselves to stewarding it carefully. We pray for justice and peace for all peoples and the earth itself, our common home. Together, we will today commit to growing an Anglican Communion Forest in the coming years.

Throughout Scripture, we are invited into God's wonderful presence starting, of course, with a garden. The imagery of creation continues throughout the Bible and concludes in Revelation where we look forward to the promise that "the leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of the nations".

As you explore the beautiful grounds of Lambeth Palace, we hope you will have time and space for prayer and contemplation. Amble around the garden. Visit our prayer zones. Take a walk through the provincial olive grove and look for the tree which carries the name of your province.

Together, may we give thanks for the beauty of God's creation; lament the ways in which our world is in crisis and commit ourselves to sustain and renew the life of the earth.

With love in Christ

Handwritten signatures of Justin Welby and Caroline Welby in black ink.

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs Caroline Welby



Prayer locations



Around the Lambeth Palace garden, you will find five prayer stations.

These are the locations:

-  The Scented Garden
-  The Mound
-  The Loop
-  Briars Corner
-  The Lambeth Palace Library Pond

Take time to pray and reflect on the beauty of the environment as you read prayers shared by bishops from around the Anglican Communion.

-  Symbolic Tree
-  Marquee
-  Toilets
-  Accessible Toilets

Welcome

to the Lambeth Palace prayer walk

Follow the path and map,
explore the gardens and
enjoy time in prayer and
contemplation.

Prayer Station 1

Please pray for God's world, our planet

Prayer 1

Creator God, we thank and praise you for giving us the opportunity to be co-creators with you and to ensure the sustainability of Mother Earth," our meeting place with God.

God as a community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit teach us as the Anglican community to work together for mutual respect with one another and your creation. We repent for our negligence leading the earth to be in peril from loss of habitats and species. Help us to be caretakers of your gifts, protecting the land from abuse, and ready to share with all in need.

Amen.

The Late Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya, Swaziland, Southern Africa (RIP)



Prayer 2

Breath of Life, from whom all order was created, the whole of creation bears witness to you. Teach us to respect all creatures, increase our gratitude for your loving providence. Forgive us for our insensitivity and carelessness with the environment. Instigate us to fight for socio-environmental preservation and for the end of the climate crisis, taking care and working for the preservation of species and the maintenance of life on earth, as living proof of our conversion to the way of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(inspired by the Collects for the Environmental Responsibility of the Common Prayer Book of the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil)

Bishop Marinez Rosa dos Santos Bassotto,
Amazon, Brazil

Prayer Station 2

Please pray for God's people

Prayer 1

Eternal God, our world is on the run and there are no peaceful locations for farming and raising animals. Natural disasters are causing food insecurity and your children are hungry and sick. We lack clean water and medicines. Father, give us peace in our nations, fertile lands for farming, good rainy seasons and wisdom to live peacefully and produce enough food for everyone. As Isaiah says: "He will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the land will be rich and plentiful. In that day your cattle will graze in broad meadows." (Isaiah 30:23)

Lord, we ask this promise to happen through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Bishop Bertin Subi, Katanga, DR Congo



Prayer 2

Our Creator God, we praise you for all the creation. Your entire creation is a blessing and a gift of your grace. We are grateful to you as you have given us this holy responsibility of taking care of your creation. We confess that we have not done our duty faithfully; we ask your forgiveness for this. Our negligence and abuse of the creation have impacted very dreadfully in our country and around the world. Many in Bangladesh have been homeless; due to climate-induced disasters people have lost their land, livelihoods and loved ones. We pray for the people who are not responsible for climate change but are the victims of it.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayers. Amen.

Bishop Shourabh Pholia, Barishal, Bangladesh

Prayer Station 3

Please pray for human flourishing, that all may prosper

Prayer 1

Eternal God Almighty,

Today we come to drop at your feet the disparity between rich and poor which has strained the economic fabric of our society leading gradually to the destruction of our world. You, Christ, were never more angry than when You drove the money-changers out from the Temple in Jerusalem. Let us, Dear God, before it is too late, find the ways, the means, and the will to reduce the scandalous inequality between rich and poor.

Let not this world, once created with the purpose of hope for all people, become a vicious land of the misers and the miserable. All this we pray to You, God of Mercy, God of Justice, God of Love, God of All People. Amen.

*Laurance Agathe André, Mauritius,
Indian Ocean*



Prayer 2

Lord Jesus Christ,
when stormy waves of fear
and rising tides of danger distress us,
you shelter us in your strong heart,
and you hold us steady with your wounded hands.
From the unshakeable certainty of your love,
send out a flood of peace and rivers of justice.
Open up a fountain of health
to cleanse, refresh and renew us.
Gather the whole wide world
into the safety of your embrace. Amen

Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy, Perth, Australia

Prayer Station 4

Please pray for peace

Prayer 1

Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of love, joy and peace. We pray for humanity and all those living in conflict and post conflict countries. May they find hope in Christ and safety in these situations. Lord, transform and open the way for the global Church and the Anglican Communion to reach out in love and witness to those affected and displaced by violence and civil unrest. May we know your peace in a divided and conflicted world. Strengthen the ministry of peace and reconciliation in your church and make this world a better place for all. Amen.

*Jane Poggo-Namurye, Archbishop of
Canterbury's Reconciliation Ministry, and
Lambeth Conference Spouses' Planning Group*



Prayer 2

O Lord and Father, we pray for your world – for the healing between both men and women of different races and religions, that the legacy of past division and injustice will be swept away in the tide of your loving grace. We pray that there would be a wearing down of the barriers between the oppressed and their oppressors, leading to justice, forgiveness and reconciliation.

We pray this particularly where your Church has been an instrument of power. May there be humility, openness, repentance and a willingness to empty itself – after the pattern of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that the good news of the gospel may be heard with trust and your Word received with joy and openness and not suspicion. May the Anglican Communion throughout all of its manifestations be like a living coral reef, growing on the bedrock of our Lord, swaying to the currents of the world but fastened thereto, filled with the luminescent and myriad array of fish of every hue and sheltering and protecting in the times of storm.

Bishop Nick Dill, Bermuda



Prayer Station 5

Please pray for partnership in seeking God's Kingdom

Prayer 1

Creator of all, your love embraces the whole world and all peoples of every language, race and nation. In our midst the sin of racism infects our communities with hatred and death and obscures the recognition of your image in every human being.

May our commitment to one another through the transforming love of Christ heal divisions, restore justice and bring reconciliation between races and nations.

May the witness of the Anglican Communion to partnership, mutual respect and interdependence be a beacon of hope to your world as ambassadors of reconciliation, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada



Prayer 2

Lord of all, as we thank you for the family of the Anglican Communion, we pray that in our wonderful diversity we may each know ourselves created in your image and loved by you.

Inspire us to work together to hasten the day when people will come from north and south, east and west, to find their honoured and equal place at your table and their home in your kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chelmsford, UK





Lambeth Palace Garden

Did you know?



Lambeth Palace garden has been here since 1197, covers just over 10 acres and is one of the oldest gardens in England.

It has been occupied by Archbishops of Canterbury [and their households] for all of that time.

The garden has many species native to England, as well as plants from all over the world to reflect the breadth and scope of the Anglican Communion.

The fig tree in the courtyard of Lambeth Palace is 500 years old, and was uprooted and moved to its current position at the tender age of 300.

Lambeth Palace is home to several bees. As traffic whizzes by on the busy road outside the palace, just over the wall, the bees are buzzing, playing a vital role in pollinizing the garden and industriously producing Lambeth Palace honey too.



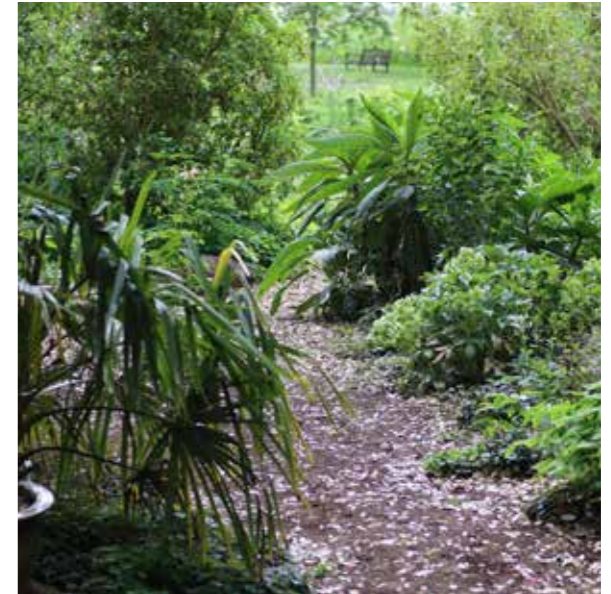
Greener Gardening

The garden is cared for organically without chemical pesticides or weed killers. This helps encourage natural predators.

Lacewings and ladybirds help keep aphid numbers down, while numerous small birds feed on the leaf miners that harm some of the trees. Hundreds of toads have made the garden their home – they are especially partial to slugs.

The garden has different habitats, such as longer grass in some areas, or discreet piles of decaying logs, to encourage more wild creatures.

The aim is to have a natural balance and to provide a haven for all kinds of living things in the middle of the city's hustle and bustle.



Thanks to our gardening and estates team

Today is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the work of our experienced full-time gardeners who work tirelessly to make the garden such a beautiful space. They are supported by a team of volunteers who help with weeding, pruning and planting as well as collecting leaves in the autumn.





Lambeth call

On environment and sustainable development

During the Lambeth Palace day, time will be given to introduce the Lambeth Call on the Environment and Sustainable Development. We invite you to prayerfully reflect on the words and share your experiences of this theme. More time will be available during the conference for discussion, as together we shape this important Lambeth Call.

Lambeth Call on the Environment (6a)

Summary of the Call

The world is now in crisis. Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution threaten both people and planet. Yet, this is still God's world and God calls us to respond as Easter people: bearers of hope. This is a call to the Instruments of Communion, to all bishops and people of our churches, and to world leaders, to take bold and decisive action in spiritual and practical ways including achieving net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 We have been gifted a world of breathtaking beauty, astounding abundance and intricate interconnection. It is a world God declared good and loves.

- 1.2 That world is now in crisis. Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution threaten both people and planet. Poverty, inequality, injustice and conflict damage the lives of millions. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities and undermined the development gains of recent decades.
- 1.3 Yet, this is still God's world and God calls us to respond as Easter people: bearers of hope.
- 1.4 We are called to "have genuine mutual love" (1 Peter 1:22), expressed through hospitality, stewardship and mutual service (diaconia) (1 Peter 4:9-10). These are essential in our care for one another and our common home, the earth.

2. Declaration

- 2.1 Anglicans hold to Scripture and the teachings of the Church, reflected in the Five Marks of Mission. These provide a clear vision and holistic framework for intentional

discipleship and for being God's Church for God's World. They call us to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, nurture disciples, and to express our concern for people and planet, for justice, peace and care for vulnerable people, as well as our duty to safeguard creation (Genesis 2:15).

- 2.2 Anglicans therefore not only take human well-being and creation care seriously, but also see these as missional imperatives and how we share in the 'renewed creation of heaven and earth with justice' (2 Peter 3:13).
- 2.3 The Anglican Communion is building on the legacy of the 2008 Lambeth Conference, which made a strong commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals and gave birth to the Anglican Alliance. It is also building on ACC 17, which reaffirmed this commitment in light of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- 2.4 It continues to respond to local, national and global societal and environmental challenges. With crisis comes opportunity: for the Church to listen to God's voice, to imagine how the world could be different, and to help build towards God's Kingdom.
- 2.5 But the triple environmental crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is an existential threat to millions of people and species of plants and animals across the globe. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that it is "code red for humanity"; "It's now or never, if we want to limit global

warming to 1.5°C".¹ Drastic action is needed in the next three years to bring down greenhouse gas emissions.

- 2.6 As a global, connected body with a shared identity that transcends national borders, the Anglican Communion has a distinctive perspective. Member churches of the Anglican Communion are involved in every part of the environmental emergency. We are the people facing devastation in disaster-stricken communities. We are all the polluters, especially in wealthy countries. We are people living in poverty and on the margins. We wield power and political influence. We are experiencing loss and damage of our land, homes and livelihoods. We are investors with financial capital. We are first-responders to disasters and those who accompany communities on the journey of recovery and resilience.
- 2.7 We contribute to the problem. We contribute to the solution. We are both local and global. We connect with one another, share our experiences and can leverage our networks and Anglican identity to mobilise for action. We do not speak from just one position but from many. We do not only speak to others; we speak also to ourselves. We are all part of the web of God's creation for 'in God all things in heaven and earth were created, things visible and invisible' (Colossians 1:16). And we are called now to act together for the sake of all humanity, for all creation, and our shared home, planet earth.

- 2.8 By the next Lambeth Conference, increasing areas of the Communion will be uninhabitable, because of drought, rising sea levels and other impacts as we reach tipping points in climate change. Meanwhile despite these terrible realities, carbon emissions continue to rise and there are over 50,000 new fossil fuel developments in the pipeline.² Our oceans and rivers are clogged with plastic and people are choking and dying from polluted air. The web of life is becoming so damaged by the loss of biodiversity that the integrity of creation is under threat.
- 2.9 The global response has been wholly inadequate – both in the level of resources dedicated to the response and in the level of urgency with which those with most power to make radical changes are taking action.

3. Affirmation

- 3.1 For ourselves and for future generations we need to act now, urgently and at scale.
- 3.2 However, actions are difficult to sustain unless there is also the transformation of hearts and minds from which such action flows. The climate emergency is not just a physical crisis – it is also a spiritual one.
- 3.3 Humanity needs a spiritual and cultural transformation. We must see the world differently: repenting of and rejecting an extractive world view, which regards the earth and all nature as something to

be exploited, and embracing a relational worldview, espoused especially by indigenous peoples, which sees the profound interdependence of all creation.

4. Specific Requests (The Calls)

- 4.1 We call on the Instruments of Communion to:
 - **Support** commitments to tackle urgently the triple environmental crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
 - **Advocate** with the international community to deliver, as a matter of justice, the required financial commitments for loss and damage due to climate change, and to speak and act prophetically within the Communion on the issue, to demonstrate solidarity.
- 4.2 We call on ourselves as bishops and the people of our provinces, dioceses and parishes to:
 - **Treasure** God's marvellous creation, recognising the profound interdependence of all life on earth and repenting of actions and theologies of domination, which have caused great harm to the earth and injustices to its people.
 - **Recognise** the triple environmental crisis as a crisis of cultural and spiritual values and build on the reach and influence of the Church to challenge ourselves and

¹ 2022 IPCC Report: <https://unfccc.int/news/the-evidence-is-clear-the-time-for-action-is-now-we-can-halve-emissions-by-2030>

² <https://theconversation.com/how-treaties-protecting-fossil-fuel-investors-could-jeopardize-global-efforts-to-save-the-climate-and-cost-countries-billions-182135>



humanity to transform our mindset away from exploitation of the natural world to one of relationship and stewardship, as embodied by the wisdom of the Christian tradition and by Indigenous peoples.

- **Equip** communities to build resilience to help them withstand and recover from disasters, and promote the prophetic voice of young people and the key role of women as earth protectors, recognising that climate change impacts unequally on women and future generations.
- **Join** in the Communion Forest initiative, to protect and restore forests and other ecosystems across our planet and commit to promoting tree planting at the time of confirmation, and other key life and faith moments, as a symbol of spiritual growth.
- **Ensure** we use and invest our assets ethically to be good news for our planet and people and, as a matter of urgency, remove our funds from any new fossil fuel exploration, and seek to invest in renewable energy sources.

4.3 We call on world leaders to:

1. **Enact** bold and urgent policy changes, including:
 - achieving net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

- fulfilling and substantially increasing their commitments to climate finance, including for loss and damage due to climate change.
 - halting new gas and oil exploration.
 - protecting and restoring biodiversity and tackling pollution.
2. **Challenge** wealthier nations and those with greatest responsibility for climate change to take the lead on climate action and just financing for other countries to reduce emissions.
 3. **Support** international cooperation and ambitious targets to transition to clean energy and to sustainable land use practices and food systems.
 4. **Acknowledge** that the scale and urgency of the climate emergency is such that politics must give way to action based on science and rooted in a moral call to recognise our interdependence with each other and the natural world.
 5. **Recognise** the wisdom within faith communities about the value and care of creation and the role that the faithful, and their faith leaders, can bring in influencing change in communities.

Lambeth Call on Sustainable Development (6b)

Summary of the Call

Millions of people today live in extreme poverty and inequalities damage their lives and capacity to flourish. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a vital vision to address this and offer a way of living together in peace, prosperity and in partnership as one humanity. This is a call to the Instruments of Communion, to all bishops and people of our churches, and to world leaders, to enable all nations of the world to support and fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 including its vision to 'leave no one behind'.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Millions of people today live in communities and nations where extreme poverty and inequalities damage their lives and capacity to flourish. Many Anglicans and other Christians are among them. People face both chronic challenges in daily living and sudden disasters, often related to conflict, economic crises, and climate change causing drought, sea level rise, flooding and fires. These disasters take lives, destroy homes, devastate livelihoods, cause food insecurity, interrupt education, impact health, force migration, put people at risk of trafficking, increase gender-based violence, disrupt communities and break up families. They have a vastly disproportionate impact on women,

young people and indigenous peoples. The impacts of these crises are costly, both financially and in terms of the trauma they cause. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation, increasing poverty and inequalities, both within and between countries.

- 1.2 Yet, as already mentioned, we are called to "have genuine mutual love" (1 Peter 1:22), expressed through hospitality, stewardship and mutual service (diaconia) (1 Peter 4:9-10). These are essential in our care for one another locally and globally.

2. Background to the Call

- 2.1 The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a vital vision for the mutual flourishing of people and planet, living together in peace and prosperity and in partnership as one humanity. Humanity is called to justice, compassion and solidarity with those who are poor, marginalised, and facing injustice, including gender injustice. The SDGs provide a vision and a framework through which all of us can play a part in working towards a more just world – a world in which all have the opportunity to flourish and where no one is left behind.
- 2.2 As Christians, our hope is in the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Our hope means that we are called into the adventure of participating in God's eternal story, taking us towards the way the world could be, should be and one day will be as God's Kingdom comes.



3. Affirmation

- 3.1 In this spirit, we are in a season of action: a vital, urgent opportunity to re-imagine our world and address these injustices and threats. 2030 is the crucial target date for the SDGs. As Anglicans, the mission of the Church – that is, the mission of Christ – is expressed in our Five Marks of Mission. These recall Jesus' mission to bring good news to the poor, release for the oppressed, and fullness of life for all (Luke 4:18; John 10:10). It is our call and our desire to follow in Jesus' footsteps. The SDGs are a tool to help inform our understanding and response, our call to action, to be part of a wider global movement for people and planet. We are called to be God's Church for God's World.

4. Specific Requests (The Calls)

- 4.1 **We call on the Instruments of Communion to:**
- **Uphold** the Five Marks of Mission as integral to Anglican identity and our discipleship and holistic mission as God's Church for God's World.
 - **Launch and support** a campaign to re-imagine our world and so encourage and equip the Communion to make a significant contribution to achieving the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - **Collaborate** in partnership with other faith communities and people of good will, for the mutual well-being of people and planet.

- **Challenge** the unjust structures that perpetuate global economic and political systems driving injustice, inequality and instability within and between countries.

4.2 We call on ourselves as bishops and the people of our provinces, dioceses and parishes to:

- **Embed** further the Five Marks of Mission in the life of our churches as we serve as God's Church for God's World.
- **Engage and equip** our churches to work together with their neighbours for transformation, using our gifts and assets to build resilient, sustainable and just communities in line with the vision for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Support and encourage** one another across the Communion to work together towards achieving universal human dignity and flourishing (John 10:10) in a thriving planet.

4.3 We call on world leaders to:

- **Commit** to finance and action to enable all nations of the world to be able to fulfil the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including its vision to 'leave no one behind'.
- **Recognise** the strategic importance of faith actors and include them as key partners in sustainable development and in disaster preparedness, resilience and response.

Follow up

These calls appeal to the Instruments of Communion to provide leadership and for bishops to implement them within their own provinces and dioceses, with support from mission and development agencies. The ACC and its Standing Committee will monitor the specific calls and report on progress up to 2030, including at ACC18 and ACC19. Communion level bodies, including the Anglican Office at the United Nations, the Anglican Alliance, ACO departments such as for Gender Justice, and the relevant Anglican Networks and Commissions will all collaborate to help connect, equip and inspire Members Churches, as well as work with global bodies, towards fulfilling the actions laid out in these Calls for the Environment and Sustainable Development.





Tree planting liturgy

The Communion Forest is a vision for the Anglican Communion to join in protecting and restoring forests and other habitats throughout the world.

The Communion Forest is envisioned as one of the legacies of the Lambeth Conference – something lasting that makes tangible our shared commitment to the Anglican Fifth Mark of Mission: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Full information about the Anglican Communion forest and how to take this forward in your setting is provided in a separate resource pack.

We invite you to join us in a moment of prayer and tree planting, as together, we make a commitment to grow the Anglican Communion forest around the world.

Our tree planting will happen on the main lawn.

Prayers for the launch of the Communion Forest

Prayer of Preparation

O Lord, open our lips.

ALL: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
creator of heaven and earth.
Your Word calls all things into being,
and the light of dawn awakens us to life.
May your wisdom guide us this day
that we may cherish and care for your good creation,
so all may flourish together,
and offer to you the sacrifice of our lips,
praising you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ALL: Blessed be God for ever.

We pause in silence to reflect on the beauty of God's creation around us.

Psalm 104

Verses of the psalm will be read in different languages.

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. ♦
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
- 19 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, ♦
and the sun knows the time for its setting.
- 20 You make darkness that it may be night, ♦
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.
- 21 The lions roar for their prey ♦
and seek their food from God.
- 22 The sun rises and they are gone ♦
to lay themselves down in their dens.
- 23 People go forth to their work ♦
and to their labour until the evening.
- 24 O Lord, how manifold are your works! ♦
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 25 There is the sea, spread far and wide, ♦
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- 26 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan ♦
which you have made to play in the deep.
- 27 All of these look to you ♦
to give them their food in due season.
- 28 When you give it them, they gather it; ♦
you open your hand and they are filled with good things.

**ALL: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus, our deliverer, we harm your good earth
and take your freedom from others.
Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, our hope, we threaten the integrity of
creation and deprive others of hope.
Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Jesus, God's shalom, we distort your peace in all
the earth.
Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Song

Thuma mina; thuma mina; thuma mina,
Somondla.

Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me,
Jesus; send me, Lord.

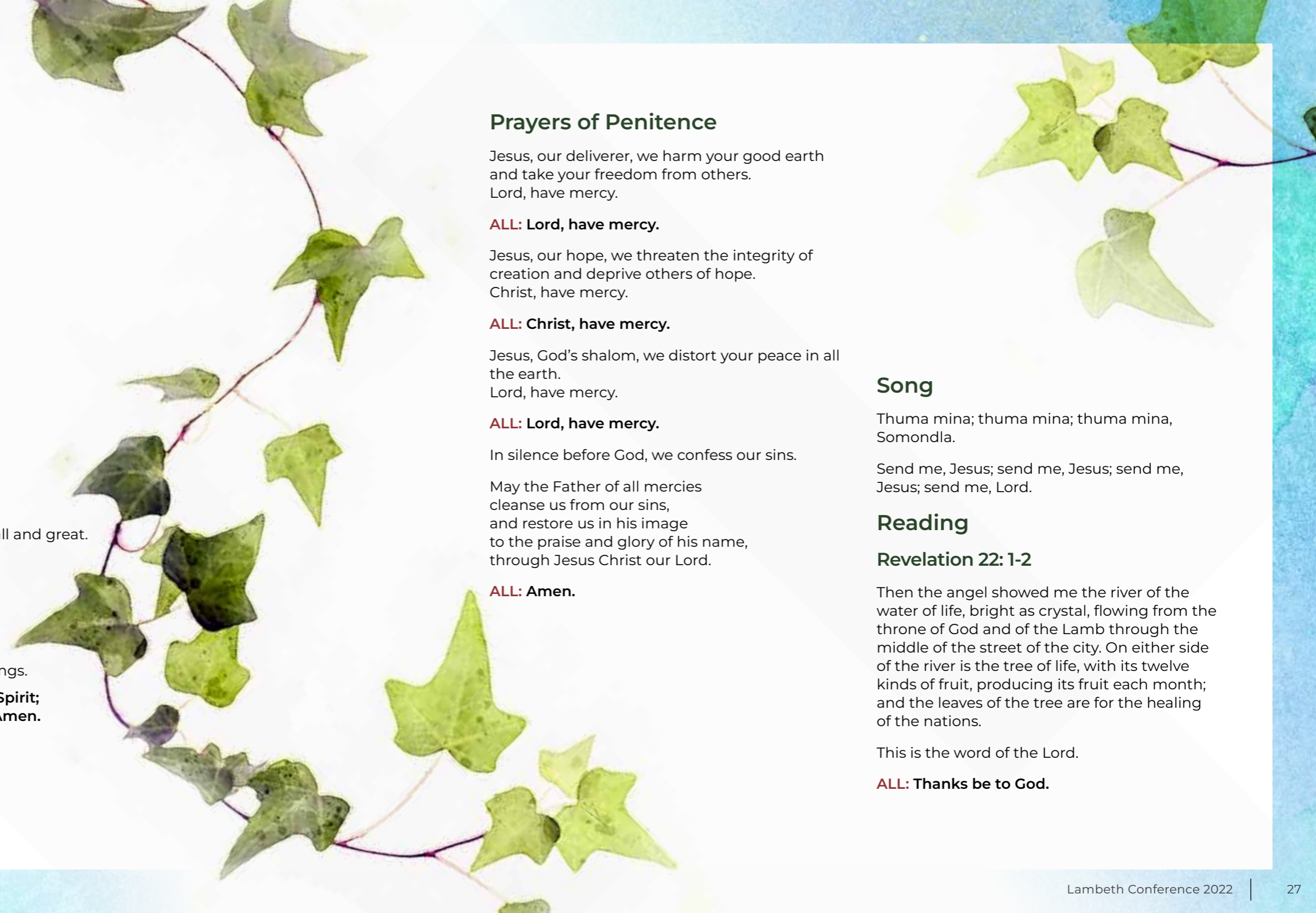
Reading

Revelation 22: 1-2

Then the angel showed me the river of the
water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the
throne of God and of the Lamb through the
middle of the street of the city. On either side
of the river is the tree of life, with its twelve
kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month;
and the leaves of the tree are for the healing
of the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.



Planting of a tree

The Planting of the Tree is explained. Then the Archbishops with young people will plant the symbolic tree to launch the Communion Forest as a sign of commitment and hope. All are invited to add some soil to the planting of the tree after the prayers conclude.

The place in the soil is prepared

And the Lord God planted a garden. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
Genesis 2.8,15

(Each scripture reading is repeated in another language)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

(Please say in your own language)

The tree is placed in the soil

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.
Ecclesiastes 3.1-2

God spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Earthing-in with soil

Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so.
Genesis 1.11

O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Watering

I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.
Leviticus 26.4

Give thanks to him who formed all things,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Growing

And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
Revelation 22.2

God alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image.
Give us grace to wonder at your gift,
to treasure the earth
and to work for its protection and renewal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns
supreme over all things,
now and for ever.
Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

Together, each in our own language, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Commitment

Let us stand to affirm our commitment to care actively for God's creation and all humanity.

**Lord of life and giver of hope,
we pledge ourselves to care for your people
and world:
to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation
and sustain and renew the life of the earth.
May your wisdom guide us,
so that all creation may flourish
and sing your praise.**

May the commitment we have made this day
be matched by our faithful living.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Blessing

May God who made heaven and earth bless us
and keep us
And give us grace to show forth in our lives the
loving care of our Creator;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst us and remain with us now and
through all eternity.

Amen.

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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www.lambethconference.org
info@lambethconference.org

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