



Creation-Justice-Peace

*'Hear the cry of the earth,
Hear the cry of the poor'*

December 2025 Newsflash



Prayer for the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan

Dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, dear brothers and sisters of many different faiths,

We note with bitterness, disappointment, and suffering that, since the end of the Second World War, there have never been so many armed conflicts in the world as at this time. To speak of wars means to think of the victims, both in terms of deaths and lives marked by forced displacement, the destruction of homes, wounds to body and mind, as well as by hatred that multiplies and is destined to continue over time. Among the conflicts that do not receive much media attention, and which, for this reason too, deserve our attention, are the wars underway in the **Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan**. Unfortunately, there are neither reporters nor correspondents capable of providing us with updated information and images of the massacres and violence inflicted on the populations of the areas affected by these "hidden conflicts."

This is yet another reason to pray for the inhabitants of those places, subjected to every kind of cruelty and barbarity and living in terror. Recently, we have received terrifying news from missionaries, NGO staff, and some of the people living in those areas themselves. I ask you to join their tears in your prayers on November 27th, our monthly meeting that sees the invocation for peace rise to heaven from believers of many different religions, who know how to unite the voices of their souls in a single plea for peace, as we learned from the historic meeting in Assisi on October 27, 1986.

Let us therefore pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan. May the one God hear the pain of his children and the prayers rising to him from so many parts of the world.

May the Lord give you peace Assisi, November 2025 + Domenico Sorrentino, Bishop

If you are signed up to the new website for the Francis 800 anniversary - <https://www.spiritoffrancis.com/> - you should have received the latest *Spirit of Francis* newsletter from which you'll see information about the **Online Advent Course (linked to the Advent books which all Tertiaries should have received)**

If you haven't already received the information and wish to sign up do contact your local group convenor or area secretary.

Or you may choose to follow the course yourself.
<https://www.spiritoffrancis.com/creating-space/>



Many Christian groups have expressed disappointment with COP30's outcomes, highlighting a lack of progress on crucial issues like climate finance and the fossil fuel phase-out. While acknowledging some positive moments, they called for stronger political will to ensure future commitments are grounded in justice and human rights.

A key demand was for richer nations to fulfill their financial obligations to support developing countries in adapting to the climate crisis and transitioning to clean energy. With many criticising the lack of

financial pledges from developed countries to help vulnerable nations adapt to climate impacts and fund a transition away from fossil fuels.

Christian Aid's Global Advocacy Lead, Mariana Paoli, said: *"Brazil said this would be the 'COP of truth' – but the truth is, this was a disappointing outcome with only mild gains made in tackling the climate crisis."* *"Overall it feels like this year's summit was a missed opportunity for a COP taking place in the Amazon to step up meet the climate challenge head on. Without a better vision for what is required, poor and vulnerable people will continue to suffer from a problem they didn't create."*

If you'd like to explore further, Faith for the Climate is hosting a special interfaith post-COP30 webinar. Was COP30 a failure or a success? What did people of faith contribute at COP30 this year, and how or why does this matter?

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/xrdL7ozRTm-JevFkjIzIQ#/registration>

And, on the question of Just Transition, Franciscans International and the Lutheran World Federation

have released a new study proposing that the question of a Just Transition should be approached as a broader systemic and societal transformation.



This is a rather long video of the National Emergency Briefing given after COP for any interested in diving deeper.

As well as the Advent courses available through TSSF (detailed overleaf) some other resources you may like to explore as we move through Advent. This year Green Christian is calling on us to Reclaim Christmas, and offer a range of activities to help you do so.



Eco Congregation Scotland offer an assortment of resources – 3 Full-length & short reflections (Lectionary Yr A) downloadable (via Vimeo) from their page & other stuff, free to use for worship, group study or personal devotion.

And an Advent Calendar – *Road for Fools*?

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme for 2025 revolves round a single word: Joy! They offer Advent and Christmas resources for churches, individuals and schools designed to help all ages to be drawn into the joy of the first Christmas.

Our next Quarterly Review isn't due until February, but we encourage you to get your thinking caps on and pens (or keyboards) at the ready. We welcome news & articles on any aspect of Creation-Justice-Peace. Please send contributions to cjp@tssf.org.uk or guywhitehouse@outlook.com by mid January.