

GIVE CLIMATE HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

**Introduction: Advent and Christmas
worship and teaching resources**



Christian World Service 2024

INTRODUCTION

Warm Pacific greetings,

Give Climate hope this Christmas is the theme for the CWS Christmas appeal in 2024.

The theme emerges from listening to our CWS partners in Oceania. Former Archbishop of Tikanga Pasifika, the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Winston Halapua speaks of a call from the world's largest ocean as "to treasure God's gift of the planet earth."¹ Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi, Advisor to the current Bishop of the Diocese of Polynesia and member of Christian World Service Board, recently described oceans as our hope. "We need to make ocean front and centre of our church, the message, the preaching, the discussions, the intercessions, the prayers."² A focus on climate hope this Christmas also aligns strategically with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Strategic Development Goal 13: Climate action.³

To help resource Give Climate hope this Christmas, CWS has commissioned service outlines and preaching/teaching resources as a gift to you and those who lead worship and preach in your congregations. Over five weeks the Gospel of Luke is brought alive in conversation with restless seas, rain

¹ Archbishop Winston Halapua, 2019, <https://fb.watch/uubtuOy7rl/>, at 1:20.

² <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/3CDMeWJ32xXii7it/>.

³ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

gauges, soil habitats, environmental good news, New Zealand sign action songs, Ocean carols and Oceanic wisdoms of restraint.

RESOURCES

The theme makes the ocean front and centre of “the preaching, the discussions, the intercessions, the prayers.”⁴ The challenge, by Fe’iloakitau Kaho Tevi, Advisor to the Bishop of the Diocese of Polynesia connects with several of the Gospel readings during Advent which mention water and creation. These environmental themes then shape what it means to Give Climate hope this Christmas

- Advent 1 - Climate hope as seas roar
- Advent 2 - Climate peace as earth moves
- Advent 3 - Climate joy and just water
- Advent 4 - Climate action songs
- Christmas - Wrapped in bands of love

The service outlines and preaching/teaching resources include:

- Climate candle lighting – a creation-redemption centred Advent candle lighting
- Climate Collect – a public prayer that could be used during a service or following any announcements you might make about the CWS 2024 appeal
- Creative ideas that engage a range of generations – and can be used as a children’s talk
- CWS announcement – some brief introductions as you share the work of CWS
- Songs – that connect with Give climate hope and the sermon ideas
- Sermon ideas – focused on the Gospel readings for Advent in dialogue with themes of giving, Christmas and climate hope.
- Suggestions of useful short videos
- Prayers for the climate and all things

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/3CDMeWJ32xXii7it/>.

Take what you will. Use what you can. Improve where you want.

Now, a bit about the resource writer. Rev Dr Steve Taylor writes firstly, as the interim moderator of a small and semi-rural congregation. Every now and again children and grandchildren are present. So as Steve prepared these resources, he was thinking about ways to engage across generations and in places with limited resources. Second, during much of June and July, Steve worked at the University of Edinburgh researching climate justice and digital activism. Prior to that, Steve listened with and among leaders in Tikanga Pasefika undertaking research for Te Kotahitanga into the future of theological education and ministry training across the three tikanga of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. Third, Steve was born and raised alongside the waters of the Aramea River, Papua New Guinea. So, Steve writes with warm memories of the gifts of diverse cultures. These experiences and responsibilities shape the service outlines and preaching resources that engage with the theme:

Give Climate Hope this Christmas.

CONNECTING

First, if you have specific questions about these service outlines and preaching resources, feel free to contact Rev Dr Steve Taylor (Attention Steve via cws@cws.org.nz) or the CWS office. For general questions about the appeal, contact CWS office (cws@cws.org.nz).

Second, another way to connect is through online interactive sessions. We plan to offer a 50-minute weekly zoom as an opportunity for Rev Dr Steve Taylor to introduce the resources, respond to questions and create time for sharing with others how the resources are being used. For details contact cws@cws.org.nz.

Third, if you make things, like the Advent wreath or a rain gauge, do feel free to send photographs (cws@cws.org.nz). We could respond by sending you a release form asking if we can place those on social media and checking details re names. This becomes a way of sharing in the giving of climate hope this Christmas.

The CWS Christmas 2024 team