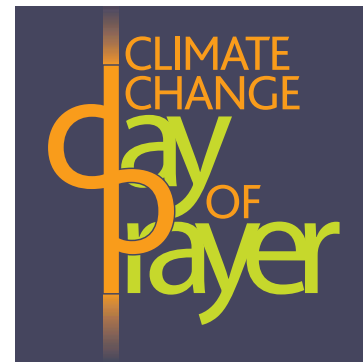


Running a Day of Prayer



Why?

The purpose of this Day of Prayer is to give people time to stop and reflect at a really crucial time in our history. With the prospect of catastrophic climate change causing irreversible change, the talks in Copenhagen this December are a key opportunity for the nations of the world to agree on workable, comprehensive and imaginative responses to combating runaway climate change.

Now is a time to pause, to learn, to reflect and to take action to make our feelings known. Now is a time of crisis for our country and for our fragile world.

Who?

The Day of Prayer is designed to meet the needs of anyone who cares about the future wellbeing of the earth's creatures and the injustice of the changing climate impacting most severely on the poorest people in the world – who have virtually no effect themselves on carbon emissions. The Day of Prayer for Copenhagen is suitable for all people of faith (or none).

Two or three people, ideally from different denominations, should be responsible for running the Day of Prayer.

Where?

To hold a Day of Prayer all that is needed is a central location protected from the weather with seating. Ideally it should be relatively quiet, but there is also much to recommend holding the Day of Prayer somewhere very visible so others will see and join in. You can hold it in a sitting room, community hall, market hall, café with a separate room, church or school. There should be no charge and the seating arrangements should enable people to come and go easily. It would be really helpful to have an area in the entrance or at the back with explanations, information, petitions, and a jug of water and glasses.

When?

Sunday October 4th is the suggested date but you can be flexible to fit local needs. You can choose a different day; you may also want to repeat the Day of Prayer before or during the Copenhagen talks. Prayer material is available for 6 to 8 hours. For example you could begin at 12 noon and finish at 6 pm.

People may come in and stay for just 30 minutes or so, or they may want to stay for the whole time. We suggest that people may want to fast during the Day of Prayer. Ending with a shared meal may be a very positive experience, giving people an opportunity to share their responses. It may also encourage community response and action.

Publicise

An A4 poster with attractive design is available to download. Fill in the details of your venue, date and time and run off copies to publicise the event. Pass this on to all relevant organisations and groups and ask them to circulate. Stick up posters wherever possible a few weeks before the event.

A press release is available to adapt and send to the local press. Add in a quote or two from local people if possible. Ring the local radio station asking them to announce the Day of Prayer and telling them why it's being held. A short article for a church magazine is available. Adapt in and update the venue information and circulate this to all local churches.

Once your details are confirmed, please send an email giving date, times and venue to: dayofprayer@operationnoah.org. Your contact details will not be made public. This will simply enable us to refer local queries to you.

Prepare

Preparation is designed to be as simple as possible. Run off copies of the Welcome Leaflet using coloured paper if possible. People will take this away with them so make sure there will be enough copies. Run off copies of the Petition and the Response forms to provide on the information table. You may want to obtain supplies of information from relevant organisations for people to take away.

The Day of Prayer content provides 80 inputs assuming 4 to 6 minutes of reflection time between each input. You may choose to miss out particular sections, add in additional sections relating to local situations or have some periods of open prayer. Content is deliberately very varied and assumes people will come and go. It contains a mix of Bible readings, quotes, facts, poems, positive stories of change and prayers.

The content is available as a document to print out for participants to read, allowing time for prayer and reflection between each input. You will need to make arrangements for people to be available to do this – maybe asking different people to take responsibility for one hour. In a large or noisy setting you may need to provide amplification. Alternatively the content will be available as audio files that can be downloaded free of charge and played on a CD player or computer. Again you may need to provide amplification. Arrange for people to be available to operate this. Practise setting this up in advance.

Ready to go

On the morning of the Day of Prayer, arrange chairs and provide a jug of water and glasses. You may want to light some candles and have quiet background music playing – this will depend on the venue. One person at a time should be in charge of keeping an eye on timing. During the day of prayer, most of the time should focus on meditation, but occasionally you may want to encourage open prayer.

Follow up

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) are hosting the Day of Prayer materials on their website. Operation Noah are coordinating the events and responses. Please send all petitions and responses to: Day of Prayer, Operation Noah, The Grayston Centre, 28 Charles Square, London, N1 6HT – or email: dayofprayer@operationnoah.org.

It would be useful to write up a brief description of the event including people's comments and quotes and send it to the local press and radio – with a copy to the address above.