

# Daily reflections and prayers during the Paris Climate Talks — November 30-December 11, 2015



## **Introduction**

*You are invited to tap into a deep spiritual energy (whether you call this energy God or the healing energy of the cosmos) as negotiations take place with over 190 countries represented in Paris, November 30-December 11, 2015*

*What are the Paris Climate Talks*

*November 30 through December 11, France will host the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework convention on climate Change (COP21/CMP11), otherwise known as “Paris 2015.” Around 40,000 participants in total — delegates representing each country, observers, and civil society members. COP21 will be a crucial conference, as it needs to achieve a new binding international agreement on the climate, applicable to all countries, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Centigrade.*

*The stakes are high: the aim is to reach, for the first time, a universal, legally binding agreement that will enable us to combat climate change effectively and boost the transition towards resilient, low-carbon societies and economies.*

*To achieve this, the future agreement must focus equally on mitigation— that is, efforts to reduce green house gas emissions in order to limit global warming to below 2 degrees C — and societies’ adaptation to existing climate changes. These efforts must take into account the needs and capacities of each country. The agreement will enter into force in 2020 and will need to be sustainable to enable long-term change.*

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***This meditation guide is provided by the Eco-Team of First UMC, Omaha, NE***



*To accompany your prayers  
and meditations, learn more  
about what is happening  
regarding our changing climate  
and daily happenings at the  
talks. Go to:*

[www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/](http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/)

*Learn — Act — Follow*

***Gracious God of this sacred earth, today leaders from around the world begin talks about how the global community can reduce carbon emissions in significant ways. Through these words, I/we send the following intent into the universe and pray that leaders may join this resolve:***

***Monday, November 30, 2015***

***We join with the earth and  
with each other***

***To bring new life to the land***

***To restore the water***

***To refresh the air***

***We join with the earth and  
with each other***

***To renew the forests***

***To care for the plants***

***To protect the creatures***

***We join with the earth and  
with each other***

***To celebrate the seas***

***To rejoice in the sunlight***

***To sing the song of the stars***

***We join with the earth and  
with each other.***

***To recreate the human community***

***To promote justice and peace***

***To remember our children***

***We join with the earth and  
with each other.***

***We join together as many and  
diverse expressions***

***Of one loving mystery: for the healing  
of the earth and the renewal of all life.***

***U.N. Environmental Sabbath Program***

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**Tuesday, December 1, 2015**



***Bless Thee, O Lord, for the living arc of the sky  
over this morning.***

***Bless Thee, O Lord, for the companionship of night mist  
far above the skyscraper peaks I saw when I woke  
once during the night.***

***Bless Thee, O Lord, for the miracle of light to my eyes  
and the mystery of it ever changing.***

***Bless Thee, O Lord, for the laws Thou hast ordained  
holding fast these tall oblongs of stone and steel,  
holding fast the planet Earth in its course and  
farther beyond the cycle of the Sun.***

**Carl Sandburg**

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**Wednesday, December 2, 2015**

***Awakening***

***in a moment of peace***

***I give thanks***

***to the source of all peace***

***as I set forth***

***into the day***

***the birds sing***

***with new voices***

***and I listen with new ears***

***and give thanks***

***nearby***

***the flower called Angel's Trumpet***

***blows***

***in the breeze***

***and I give thanks***

***my feet touch the grass***

***still wet with dew***

***and I give thanks***

***both to my mother earth***

***for sustaining my steps***

***and to the seas***

***cycling once again***

***to bring forth new life***

***the dewdrops***

***become jewelled***

***with the morning's sun-fire***

***and I give thanks***

***you can see forever***

***when the vision is clear***

***In this moment***

***Each moment***

***I give thanks***

***Harriet Kofalk***



**Thursday, December 3, 2015**



***Hail Mother, who are the earth,  
hallowed be thy soil, rocks and flora  
that nourish and support all life.***

***Blessed be thy wind that gives us breath  
and thy waters that quench, bathe and refresh  
All living things.***

***Holy Earth — as one — we praise your majesty,  
grace and wonder. Bill Faherty***

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***Friday, December 4, 2015***

***Let us be united;***

***Let us speak in harmony;***

***Let our minds apprehend alike.***

***Common be our prayer;***

***Common be the end of our assembly;***

***Common be our resolution;***

***Common be our deliberations.***

***Alike be our feelings;***

***Unified by our hearts;***

***Common be our intentions;***

***Perfect be our unity.***

***From the Rig Veda***



***Saturday, December 5, 2015***

***Imagine a place without a pipeline,  
Without an oil well,  
Without a rig.***

***Imagine a place without a coal pit,  
Without a smoke stack,  
Acid rain free.***

***Imagine a land of long white vistas,  
Ice cold saviours,  
Gleaming glaciers  
Breaking into the sea.***

***Imagine the Earth without an oil slick,  
Free of pollution,  
No radioactivity.***

***Imagine a place on Earth so awesome  
So vast so pure,  
We can hardly breathe its air.***

***Imagine the Earth alive with morning  
Shimmering white nights,  
No end of sky,  
No end of sea.     Carole Forman, "Antarctica"***



***Sunday, December 6, 2015***



Great Spirit, whose dry lands thirst, help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

We pray for your power to refresh your lands.

Great Spirit, whose waters are choked with debris and pollution, help us to find a way to cleanse your waters.

We pray for your knowledge to find the way to cleanse your waters.

Great Spirit, whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse, help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

We pray for your strength to restore the beauty of your handiwork.

Great Spirit, whose creatures are being destroyed, help us to find a way to replenish them.

We pray for your power to replenish the earth.

Great Spirit, whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption, help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

We pray for your wisdom to find the way to restore our humanity.

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***Monday, December 7, 2015***



***The earth dries up and withers,  
The world languishes and withers,  
The heavens languish together  
with the earth  
The earth lies polluted under  
its inhabitants;  
For they have transgressed laws,  
violated the statutes,  
Broken the everlasting covenant.***

***Isaiah 24:4-5***

**[www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/](http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/)**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2015**

***Here we are, God — a planet at prayer. Attune our spirits that we may hear your harmonies and bow before your creative power that we may face our violent discords and join with your Energy to make heard in every heart your hymn of peace.***

***Here we are God — a militarized planet. Transform our fears that we may transform our war fields into wheat fields, arms into handshakes, missiles into messengers of peace.***

***Here we are, God — a polluted planet. Purify our vision that we may perceive ways to purify our beloved lands, cleanse our precious waters, de-smog our life-giving air.***

***Here we are, God — an exploited planet. Heal our heart, that we may respect our resources, hold priceless our people, and provide for our starving children an abundance of daily bread. Joan Metzner***



***Wednesday, December 9, 2015***



***When the animals come to us,  
asking for our help,  
Will we know what they are saying?***

***When the plants speak to us in their delicate,  
beautiful language,  
Will we be able to answer them?***

***When the planet herself sings to us  
in our dreams,  
Will we be able to wake ourselves, and act?***

***Gary Lawless***

***[www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/](http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/)***

***Thursday, December 10, 2015***

**A prayer for our earth**

**All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.**

**You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.**

**Pour out upon us the power of your love,**

**that we may protect life and beauty.**

**Fill us with peace, that we may live**

**as brothers and sisters, harming no one.**

**O God of the poor,**

**help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.**

**Bring healing to our lives,**

**that we may protect the world and not prey on it,**

**that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts**

**of those who look only for gain**

**at the expense of the poor and the earth.**

**Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,**

**to be filled with awe and contemplation,**

**to recognize that we are profoundly united**

**with every creature**

**as we journey towards your infinite light.**

**We thank you for being with us each day.**

**Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle**

**for justice, love and peace. Pope Francis**



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