



# God's world: our home

World Weekend of Prayer | 3-4 June 2023

**In many translations of the Bible the very first sentence starts, “In the beginning God...” Before time, God is “I AM”.**

It is God who brings order out of chaos and creates the universe. He sets man on the earth and commands him to care for his creation with the help of woman, a working partnership of marriage.

**Our theme for the World Weekend of Prayer 2023 recognises that we live in God's creation: he has made it our wonderful home to look after.**

It is a beautiful home in which we have a duty to work together to deliver comfort, security and love for the children of this era and the generation to come.

Let's focus our prayers at this year's event on praise for God's creation, for actions to care for creation and for interventions together to support children most impacted by the decay of creation, a decay that works through our human failings.

*For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. (Romans 8: 19)*

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## A message from Phil Green, Chief Executive of Viva

**Having joined Viva as Chief Executive in December 2022, I am thrilled to commend this year's World Weekend of Prayer.** It reflects my passion of encouraging children to lead us in praise and prayer.



*“Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.” (1 Kings 8: 27)*

**In 2022, more than 800,000 children and adults, in 25 countries, took part in the World Weekend of Prayer.** I'm looking forward with eager anticipation to June 2023 for even more children to praise God for His creation and to pray that we might work together to overcome the challenges we face: *Jesus replied, “What is impossible for people is possible with God.”* (Luke 18: 27, NLT)

## LIGHT SEPARATED FROM DARKNESS

DAY 1

**READ:** Genesis 1: 1-5

**CREATION PRAISE:** God brings order out of chaos.  
Electricity for light at night

**CARE FOR CREATION:** Renewable sources for electricity

**CARE FOR CHILDREN TOGETHER:** Jesus to shine light where the darkness of bad behaviour is a threat.

**PSALM 145:** 'I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.' (v 1-2)

**ACTIVITIES:** Go to <https://youtu.be/EegzzyLlnZQ> and, with the help of Mrs Mukyala Moyler, make an Interplaylands Model world.



## SEPARATION OF WATER AND SKY

DAY 2

**READ:** Genesis 1: 6-8

**CREATION PRAISE:** For clouds that bring rain

**CARE FOR CREATION:** Wise use of water: dams, irrigation, pumps and pipes

**CARE FOR CHILDREN TOGETHER:** Clean, unpolluted water to drink for all

**PSALM 145:** 'Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty – and I will meditate on your wonderful works.' (v 3-5)

**ACTIVITIES:** Make an adjectives list for God's amazing creation. Collect and measure rainwater.



## LAND FORMED WITH TREES, FRUIT AND VEGETATION

DAY 3

**READ:** Genesis 1: 9-13

**CREATION PRAISE:** Hills and valleys to live in. Fruit and vegetables to eat.

**CARE FOR CREATION:** Good crop yields but with care of soils for the future. Limit cutting down of forests.

**CARE FOR CHILDREN TOGETHER:** Adequate fresh fruit and vegetables for growing children

**PSALM 145:** 'They tell of the power of your awesome works - and I will proclaim your great deeds. They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.' (v 6-8)

**ACTIVITIES:** Plant seeds – grow food. Nature walk – hug a tree.



## DAY, NIGHT. SUN, MOON AND STARS

DAY 4

**READ:** Genesis 1: 14-19

**CREATION PRAISE:** For sunlight and seasons. For gravity that holds the universe together

**CARE FOR CREATION:** Reduction of man's influence on climate. Less extremes in weather.

**CARE FOR CHILDREN TOGETHER:** Help for children and families impacted by natural disasters: fire, drought and floods

**PSALM 145:** 'The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you. They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.' (v 9-12)

**ACTIVITIES:** Nature walk to observe weather, moon and stars. Small community activity to reduce flooding risk.



## FISH AND BIRDS - BE FRUITFUL

DAY 5

**READ:** Genesis 1: 20-23

**CREATION PRAISE:** The beauty of fish and birds. The finally balanced systems in which they live. God's gift as food.

**CARE FOR CREATION:** Management to avoid over fishing. Using farming systems that can last (sustainable) for fish, poultry meat and eggs

**CARE FOR CHILDREN TOGETHER:** All families having enough protein in diets. Protection of children from diseases crossing over from food production.

**PSALM 145:** 'Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.' (v 13-15)

**ACTIVITIES:** Nature walk to explore birds. Litter pick – reduce plastic into the seas. Prepare a healthy balanced meal together



## ALL LAND CREATURES. DOMESTIC ANIMALS. MANKIND

DAY 6

**READ:** Genesis 1: 24-31

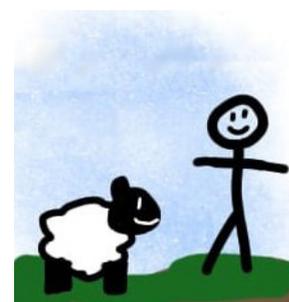
**CREATION PRAISE:** Land creatures and their interactions. Man and woman for marriage and children in families.

**CARE FOR CREATION:** Wisdom in balancing the needs of an expanding human population and wildlife.

**CARE FOR CHILDREN TOGETHER:** Protection of marriages to be filled with love, mutual care and harmony. Children within marriages to be well cared for and nurtured.

**PSALM 145:** 'You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfils the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.' (v 16-19)

**ACTIVITIES:** A-Z of animals (Play a game together where you take it in turns to name an animal beginning with a different letter of the alphabet). Make fingerprints – all unique. Make a bug hotel. Make a wormery from kitchen waste.



## A DAY OF REST

READ: Genesis 2: 1-3

DAY 7

**CREATION PRAISE:** God's plan to assign one day a week as rest and a time to focus on worship.

**CARE FOR CREATION:** Looking after ourselves: mankind. Good routines and balance of work, rest and play.

**CARE FOR CHILDREN TOGETHER:** Children in cities can enjoy good, regular and special days in family with adequate access to green spaces.

**PSALM 145:** 'The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.'  
(v 20-21)



## PLEASE PRAY WITH US

### 1. GOD CREATES THE WORLD

Thank you, God, for the light of the day and night. Thank you God for the light I have in my home. Thank you God for the gift of rain that waters the earth. Please send rain to those who need it most Almighty Creator God, you are so powerful. Thank you that you made the world and you made me.



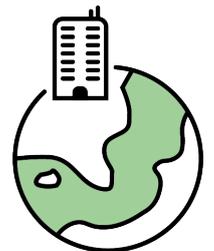
### 2. OUR HOME GETS BROKEN

You made a good world. You made everything perfect. We have upset your world because of our carelessness and greed. Lord forgive us! Creator God, you asked us to look after the oceans, yet we have filled them with our waste. Forgive us for our carelessness and ignorance.



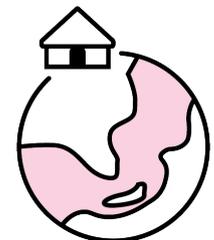
### 3. JESUS REBUILDS

Lord God, you have given us amazing minds that can solve problems and create amazing things. Help me to create some beautiful green spaces. Living God, help me to be creative like you. Help me to make a home for things that matter and find better ways to dispose of unusable things.



### 4. GOD'S WORLD, OUR HOME RESTORED

Almighty Creator of the universe, thank you for coming to earth to find me again, when I had run away from you and your guidelines. Thank you, Jesus, that you have power over creation. Yet you have chosen to leave us as stewards of your world. Help me to be a good steward.



*Prayers from the resource, 'Stewarding our world,' by Miriam Friday/Viva/CRANE in Uganda.*

Artwork by: Vansh (13) India - day 1; Musinguzi (6), Uganda - day 2; Annalie (10) Germany - day 3; Jatin (16) India - day 4; Isabel (9) Cuba - day 5; Evie (12) UK - day 6.

The World Weekend of Prayer campaign is a global initiative held over the first weekend of June every year, uniting hundreds of thousands of adults and children globally. It is organised by Viva, a charity dedicated to changing more children's lives to fulfil their God-given potential in 42 community networks worldwide. Find out more at [www.viva.org](http://www.viva.org)