



PRAYER GUIDE FOR THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE



Welcome

Pray with us for the fifteenth Lambeth Conference in 2022

Thank you for praying with us for the fifteenth Lambeth Conference – which will meet in Canterbury, the United Kingdom, between 26 July – 8th August 2022.

This short prayer guide is for churches and communities that would like to pray for the conference and all those attending. It contains an outline of what the conference covers, and prayers from Anglican religious communities around the globe.

There are contributions from religious communities in Europe, Africa, Oceania, the Americas, and Asia. These communities vary greatly. Some are of monks or nuns living in monasteries or convents. Some are of “dispersed” communities whose members, although having taken vows of religious life, live separately in their own homes. Yet other communities are new forms of monastic life, drawing on the wisdom of the older traditional forms and living it out in new ways.

These communities all have one thing in common. That’s daily prayer. We share in the offering of the church’s prayer known as the daily office (principally morning and evening prayer). We sit in silent reflection and intercession. Prayer drives us ever deeper into the mystery of God, and ever deeper into engagement with the world.

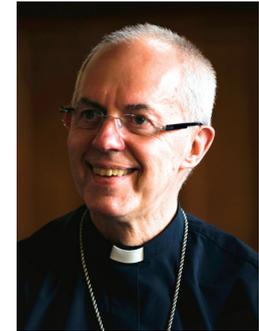
Through this prayer guide we hope that the prayers we share here will encourage all who use it to unite in prayer for the bishops gathered in the Lambeth Conference.

Brother Christopher
The Minister General of the First Order Brothers of the Anglican Society of St Francis



What is the Lambeth Conference?

Every bishop of the Anglican Communion is invited to the Lambeth Conference – which is convened by The Most Reverend Justin Welby – The Archbishop of Canterbury. The Lambeth Conference has met since 1867, happens once-a-decade and is a significant event in the life of the Anglican Communion. The conference will explore church and world affairs. Outcomes of the conference will shape the life of the Anglican Communion in the decade ahead.

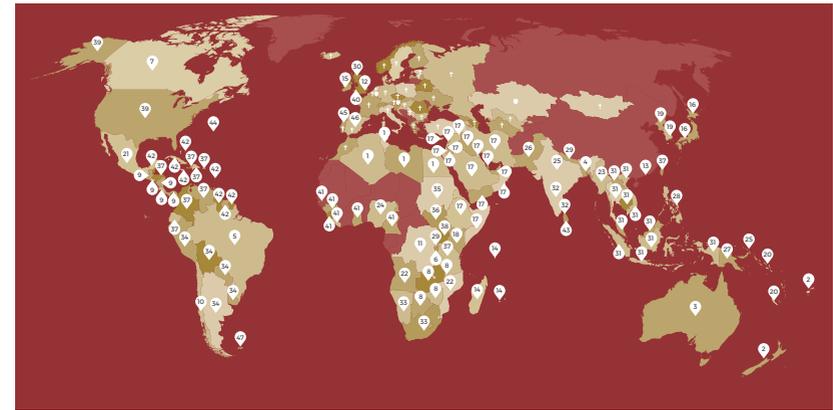


Features of the conference

What can you pray for?

As well as the bishops and spouses attending, the conference will involve a number of different teams that have been planning and preparing for the conference for a long time.

Please pray for the volunteers and stewards that are sharing their time to support the event; the chaplaincy and worship teams who will provide spiritual guidance and pastoral support throughout the conference; the speakers and contributors that will deliver sessions and the wider conference staff.



Pray for the Anglican Communion

The Lambeth Conference is for Anglican Bishops from across the Anglican Communion. Present in 165 countries around the world and serving millions of Christians worldwide, the Anglican Communion is a network of independent and interdependent churches. Please pray for the bishops and their spouses attending, and the churches and communities they represent around the world.



1 Peter – The biblical theme for the conference

As the Lambeth Conference explores the theme of being 'God's Church for God's World', the Biblical focus for the event will be the book of 1 Peter. Each day the conference community will listen to a Bible Exposition and take part in a Bible study. The Bible study groupings will mix bishops from different dioceses around the world, so that they can hear more about one another's contexts. Bishops' wives and husbands will also meet for their own programme of Bible study.

Lambeth Calls

Bishops will share 'Lambeth Calls' throughout the event that align with the themes being discussed. They will be clear statements, outlining ways in which the Anglican Communion might seek to be 'God's Church for God's World' in service, mission, action and justice. Following the event, dioceses and parishes will also be invited to consider how they might best respond to the calls and take them forward in future years.



Themes being discussed

Each day, the Lambeth Conference will combine a programme of Bible Study with bishops' discussions on key themes in the life of the church, including: Mission and Evangelism, Anglican Identity, Christian Unity, Inter Faith matters, Discipleship, Safe Church, Reconciliation, Human Identity and Environment and Sustainable Development.



The joint programme (spouses)

Welcoming the wives and husbands of bishops from across the Anglican Communion, the conference will be a key opportunity for spiritual reflection, growing connections and sharing stories about the vocation and ministry experiences of spouses across the Anglican World. As well as participating in some of the conference sessions with bishops, there will also be some bespoke sessions for spouses to attend.

The online conference

The conference is being hosted at Canterbury – with some of the event being shared online. Registered delegates will be able access the conference through the official event platform. Other parts of the event will be live streamed, so that delegates and wider audiences can view them. Pray for those that may opt to take part in the online conference due to issues with travel or COVID regulations in their setting.



Pray for the Lambeth Conference

A guide to themes and prayers for each day of the conference

We invite you to pray for each day of the conference and all those attending. In this prayer guide, you can read a summary of what's happening each day and prayers shared by Anglican religious communities around the globe.



Pray for the days of retreat and opening days of the event

What does it mean to be God's Church for God's World? The conference community of bishops and spouses will start the event in prayer, Bible study and contemplation. Hosted at the University and Canterbury Cathedral, the days will be devoted to seeking God's wisdom and calling as we embark on our Lambeth Conference journey, of walking, listening, and witnessing together. Spouses will attend a separate retreat. The opening days will also feature The Archbishop of Canterbury's opening address to the conference.



Community of Hope Weavers



Community of St Mary of Nazareth and Calvary

 A PRAYER FROM:

The Community of Hope Weavers, Church of England. Also active in Europe.

Gracious God, we thank you that in Jesus you reconcile the world and all who are in it to yourself. Touch the hearts of those attending the Lambeth Conference to extend your peace to all, and to work for the reconciliation of all creation. Bless them with your grace and love as they connect with one another and with you. May your Spirit of peace hover over their conversations and their resting times, and may your gracious will be done in the life of the Anglican Communion and in the whole of your precious world. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace. Amen.

 A PRAYER FROM:

Chama cha Mariamu Mtakatifu (Community of St Mary of Nazareth and Calvary), Anglican Church of Tanzania.

Our prayer for the Lambeth Conference and the life of the Anglican Communion is for Christian Unity. We pray for Christian Unity as our Lord Jesus Christ said in John Chapter 17:21-23 that all of them may be one so that we may be brought to complete unity and the world should know that we are in Christ and Christ is in us. May the life of the Anglican Communion bring people to Christ, to know him, to believe him so that the world may be saved and we may fulfil the words of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pray for mission and evangelism

BIBLE FOCUS:

1 Peter 1: 1-25 – Called in to hope and holiness

Learning from 1 Peter's vision of church, the day will explore mission and evangelism in the Anglican Communion, as part of the Global Church.



A PRAYER FROM:

The Church Mission Society. Church of England – working with partners across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

Lord, as you have entered into our life and death and in all the world you call us into your death and risen life. Forgive us our sins; and draw us we pray, by the power and encouragement of your Spirit, into an exchange of gifts and needs, joys and sorrows, strength and weakness with your people everywhere; that with them we may have grace to break through every barrier, to make disciples of all peoples and to share your love with everyone for your glory's sake. Amen.

Opening service day

The official opening of the conference will be marked by a special service at Canterbury Cathedral. Bishops attending the Lambeth Conference have travelled from all around the world to take part in this event.

Conference discussions later in the day will explore the importance of safe church.

A PRAYER FROM:

The Community of the Gospel, the Episcopal Church.

O good and gracious God, we come with joyful hearts of expectation, offering prayers to you for unity, strength, and great success at the Lambeth Conference.

As the bishops of your church gather to seek your direction, to share with each other, and to carry out your will, we pray, dear Lord, that you continue to fill them with the Spirit of love, and that it is manifested in the transformed lives of these shepherds, and the flock to whom they minister.

And then, Lord, it is our plea, that the transformed children of your Kingdom would, through missionary zeal, seek to transform others, by your love flowing through us.

These mercies we ask, in the name of the one loved us to death; Jesus the Christ. Amen.



Community of the Gospel

Pray for the Anglican Communion

BIBLE FOCUS:

1 Peter 2: 1-12 – A holy people following Christ

Present in 165 countries, the Anglican Communion is a diverse, global network of independent and interdependent churches. Representing a wide range of Christian traditions, cultures and languages, the conference will discuss the life of the Anglican Communion.

A PRAYER FROM:

The Brotherhood of St Gregory, The Episcopal Church.

O God, by your grace and Spirit you have raised up witnesses and servants in many lands and cultures: Pour out your blessing upon the churches and provinces of the Anglican Communion, and upon their leaders as they gather for fellowship in the Lambeth Conference, that their diversity may enrich their common witness and service to the honor and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FROM:

The Community of the Holy Name, Diocese of Zululand, Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Holy omnipresent Father, who while you are in heaven, You looked down on earth and its surroundings.

We pray for the Anglican Communion, spread throughout the world.

We pray that you will pour out your Holy Spirit as you did at Pentecost.

Help us Lord to have passion to read and receive your word. Send us revival and make us holy.

Help us to give generously.

We pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to operate freely Within the Anglican Communion.

Make all your people realise the power of accepting Jesus Christ

As the Lord and Saviour.

Rise people who will visit those who are newly born again.

We ask in Jesus Christ's name.

Amen.

The Brotherhood of St Gregory



Pray for reconciliation and peace

BIBLE FOCUS:

1 Peter 2: 13-3:22 – Resistance and resilience in Christ

Ministering in a complex world is challenging. The conference will explore ways to follow the model of Jesus and lead in a way that builds unity and reconciliation.

A PRAYER FROM:

The Congregation of the Companions of St Benedict, Anglican Diocese of Cameroon, Church of the Province of West Africa.

Lord God, who reconciled people to you through Jesus Christ's intercession and resurrection, you granted us peace in Christ through your blessing to your followers and you call upon us to build peace among human beings, just as your apostle Paul did when he exhorted their followers to be at peace with all people, (Ro 12:18); You call us to pray and supplicate to you with gratitude (Phil 4:6): we pray for peace for all those who will attend the Lambeth Conference and for the life of the Anglican Communion. Yet, let us understand that all genuine reconciliation can only be attained if we ourselves are first reconciled to you: And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil.4-7). Amen!



A PRAYER FROM:

The Third Order, Society of St Francis, Pacific Province; Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, also in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Our prayers are for the people suffering in the world, particularly those living in the midst of violent conflict. We pray also for the Anglican Communion's continuing support of those who work in areas of conflict.

We pray that where there is violence, the Anglican Church will call for peaceful solutions and deeper dialogue. We pray for new approaches to these problems and for solutions which will reflect the power of Christ's love and advance his kingdom.

We pray that real and practical support will be given to those who suffer and those who work alongside them, especially Christians in the Anglican Communion who now are suffering for their faith. We ask that the Bishops will commend them, and urge all churches to pray and take action to advocate in their communities and countries for peace to prevail.



Pray for the environment

The church has a vital role to play in the global response to the climate crisis. The conference community will visit Lambeth Palace for a day of prayer, reflection and symbolic action on the environment and sustainable development.

A PRAYER FROM:

The Third Order, Society of St Francis, Province of the Americas, The Episcopal Church. Also in Caribbean and South America.

Spirit of Love, illumine our hearts and minds to discern the way forward as brothers and sisters ready and willing to respond to the desperate needs of your creation.

We recall St. Francis who reminds us:

“All things of creation are children of the Father and thus brothers of man. God wants us to help animals if they need help. Every creature in distress has the same right to be protected.”

Help us, gentle Spirit, to have the ears to hear the cries of creation, the eyes to see the tears of creatures on the brink and the will to act to heal the suffering all around us.

Inspire our time together, dear Lord, to find a way to rekindle the love for all Creation and embrace the care exemplified by indigenous peoples.

Spirit of Love, keeper of life, inspire us to keep a loving vigil over the needs of creation and take such action that will truly serve to protect and preserve it. Amen.



The Third Order

A PRAYER FROM:

The Community of the Sisters of the Church, Solomon Islands Province. Anglican Church of Melanesia.

Lord of the universe, you have created this beautiful world and entrusted it to our care to respect and protect it. Help us to see creation through your eyes that we may see your beauty, goodness and the wonder that surrounds us. Lord, we have fallen short of your glory and have polluted the blue ocean that reflects your unending love and disrespected the inhabitants that dwell there. We have not recognized that our lives and survival depend very much on the respect and care we show your creation. You came to set us free from bondage so help us to care for our mother earth that feeds us daily. Protect us from over-harvesting our natural resources and deforesting the natural beauty of the forest. Increase our love for you so that we may be able to educate our younger generation to care and protect this fragile environment. May the people living in these islands grow in their love and knowledge of you through appreciating the environment they depend upon; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Community of the Sisters of the Church

Pray for Christian unity

BIBLE FOCUS:

1 Peter 4: 1-19 – Suffering in Christ

Bishops will explore Christian unity and inter faith Relations. How can we be a church that walks together with Christian sisters and brothers from other denominations? How can we learn from and engage in constructive dialogue with other faiths as we respond to issues in our world?

A PRAYER FROM:

The Community of the Holy Name, Diocese of Zululand, Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Lord Jesus, you are the father to all the people of the world Especially, those who had confessed that Jesus is Lord. We pray for peace and unity among the Christian family. Let your Holy Spirit dwell and intervene among us when we have different views so as to do the work you sent us to do and fulfil your will. You are the only one who can bring peace and tranquillity among your people. Without you, there is nothing we can do, you are our rock and salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



A PRAYER FROM:

Inter faith relations – A prayer from the order of St Helena, the Episcopal Church.

Our prayer for the Lambeth Conference and the life of the Anglican Communion is that we open our hearts to peoples of other faith traditions: where there is a history of hurt and pain, may we seek reconciliation; where there are differences in beliefs and practices, may we engage in respectful dialogue; where we have been divided in our mission and values, may we strive to transcend these differences in our shared responsibility for peace and for stewardship of this precious earth. We pray for sacred friendships to grow and flourish in our common desire to live holy lives as we seek the divine presence.



Pray for discipleship

BIBLE FOCUS:

1 Peter 5: 1-14 – Authority in Christ

The bishops will explore what it means to grow churches that are intentional about discipleship – developing communities of faith that nurture Christians to follow Jesus and develop their spirituality.

A PRAYER FROM:

The Order of St Benedict – Mucknell Abbey, Church of England.

Holy and loving God, we thank you for calling us to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

As we grow in our discipleship we ask for the gift of eager curiosity to discover ever deeper and richer meaning in Jesus’ way of life and teaching.

Give us the grace to recognise their implications for our own attitudes and ways of living, and rather than take refuge in past assumptions, give us the courage to respond to the challenges with trustful obedience.

May our discipleship be our increasingly faithful witness to your Risen Christ who dwells in us and to your unbounded love for all your creation.

We ask this as members of Christ’s mystical body here on earth. Amen.



The Order of St Benedict

A PRAYER FROM:

The Community of the Holy Name, Diocese of Zululand, Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Heavenly Father, you are the only living God. You bring light in the darkness, you bring hope because you are the God of love.

Lord God, make us one as you are one in the Holy Trinity. Help us realize that you are the source of unity and that if we are not united we cannot defeat our enemy, the devil.

Let the Holy Spirit take control and keep us united as Christians so that the whole world may confess that we are the children of God and praise him who is our strong tower.

We pray for our Christian families and all other institutions. When we get weary on the way, unity in Christ will always give us strength to rise on wings like eagles and sing praises to God in the highest.

So, dear Lord, keep us united in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.



The closing of the conference

The conference closes with summaries from the week, giving thanks to God for all that has happened and looking to the future – asking what will it mean to be God’s Church for God’s World in the decade ahead?

 A PRAYER FROM:

The Sisters of Jesus Way, Church of England.

Our prayer for the Lambeth Conference is the prayer of Jesus for His Disciples and for All Believers in John 17;

“Holy Father protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one.” (John 17:11). “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me....I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me”. (John 17:20-22)

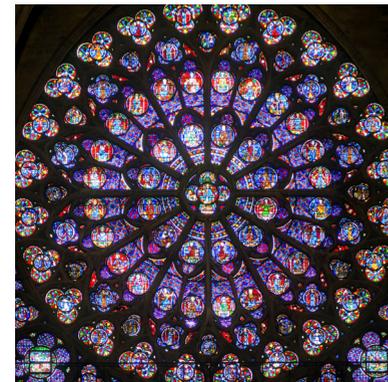
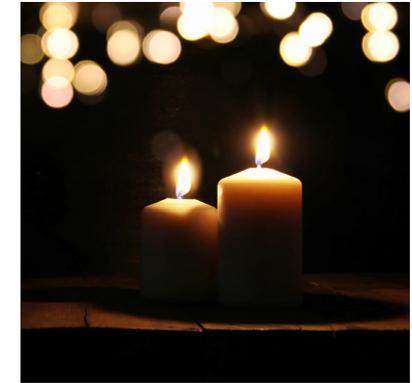
Captain of Israel’s host, and guide
Of all who seek the land above,
Beneath thy shadow we abide,
The cloud of thy protecting love;
Our strength, thy grace; our rule,
thy word;
Our end, the glory of the Lord.

By thine unerring Spirit led,
We shall not in the desert stray;
We shall not full direction need,
Nor miss our providential way;
As far from danger as from fear,
While love, almighty love, is near.
(Charles Wesley)



The Lords Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into
temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.



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