



JAEI

February 2021 Environmental Prayer Diary

The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide subjects for your reflection and prayer as the Spirit moves you)


Archbishop Thabo Makgoba has made a renewed and urgent call for prayer in the time of the renewed record highs of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Daily noon-time prayer

God bless the world,
 Give it wisdom at this time,
 Grant us relief and release,
 Be with those who are ill,
 And bless the carers fighting this pandemic,
 For Jesus Christ's sake,
 Amen



Prayer to conclude worship

Lord God, in this season of fear and uncertainty,
 as we face the threat of the coronavirus,
 Grant us the wisdom and determination to walk in one another's shoes,
 The confidence and the humility to draw closer to you and to those affected,
 Empower us to pastor those who are ill, to weep for the dead, to support the healers and to care for and love one another.
 And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always.
 Amen

Monday	1	<p>By faith I gaze up to the heavens and know within its vastness that this is your creation, planned and effected within eternity.</p> <p>By faith I pluck an ear of corn, and know within its symmetry lies the chemistry of life, the potential of creation within my hand.</p> <p>By faith I listen for your voice, and know the whisper that I hear breathed a world into existence, yet listens to the prayer within my soul.</p> <p>By faith I strive to do your will, and know the door that I approach may lead me to shadows, where my role is to become your light.</p> <p>By faith I cling to your word, and know the strength that I receive has its source within the love that is at the centre of all things.</p>	
---------------	----------	--	---

<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>World Wetlands Day</p> <p>2021 Theme - “Wetlands and Water”</p> <p>Wetlands are essential to the health of our ecosystems, and their importance is focused on in a number of Sustainable Development Goals [By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes (SDG Goal 6)] as well as the Aichi Targets and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity formulated at the 2010 Convention on Biodiversity. However, none (or very few) of the targets have been reached, putting wetlands increasingly at risk of destruction.</p> <p>So, what do wetlands do for our water?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Wetlands purify our water</p> <p>Wetlands are great filters! They trap sediments and remove pollutants, which helps to purify water. This certainly beats expensive, human-made filtration systems.</p> <p>Wetlands store our water to ensure supply during dry periods</p> <p>Wetlands work like giant sponges. They store water and then slowly release it, and this helps to deal with dry seasons with little rainfall.</p> <p>Wetlands can prevent floods</p> <p>When rivers burst their banks, wetlands can store the excess water, and slow it down so it distributes more evenly over a floodplain. The roots of trees and other vegetation also help slow the speed of flood waters.</p> <p>Wetlands recharge ground water</p> <p>In the past, city planners either filled in wetlands areas or dammed them, adding pipes that would lead the water to the ocean as fast as possible. But now we know that wetlands allow water to soak into the ground, and to replenish the natural ground-water supply.</p> <p><i>Our Creator designed wetlands with the utmost care to serve the environment (and ultimately us) – consider what actions we can take to improve wetland security.</i></p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>“We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it. Maybe we could give up saving the world and start to live savingly in it.”</p> <p><i>Wendell Berry</i></p>



<p>Thursday</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Encyclical Letter <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> of Pope Francis on the Fraternity and Social Friendship</p> <p><i>Lacking a plan for everyone</i></p> <p>15. The best way to dominate and gain control over people is to spread despair and discouragement, even under the guise of defending certain values. Today, in many countries, hyperbole, extremism and polarization have become political tools. Employing a strategy of ridicule, suspicion and relentless criticism, in a variety of ways one denies the right of others to exist or to have an opinion. Their share of the truth and their values are rejected and, as a result, the life of society is impoverished and subjected to the hubris of the powerful. Political life no longer has to do with healthy debates about long-term plans to improve people’s lives and to advance the common good, but only with slick marketing techniques primarily aimed at discrediting others. In this craven exchange of charges and counter-charges, debate degenerates into a permanent state of disagreement and confrontation.</p> <p>16. Amid the fray of conflicting interests, where victory consists in eliminating one’s opponents, how is it possible to raise our sights to recognize our neighbours or to help those who have fallen along the way? A plan that would set great goals for the development of our entire human family nowadays sounds like madness. We are growing ever more distant from one another, while the slow and demanding march towards an increasingly united and just world is suffering a new and dramatic setback.</p> <p>17. To care for the world in which we live means to care for ourselves. Yet we need to think of ourselves more and more as a single family dwelling in a common home. Such care does not interest those economic powers that demand quick profits. Often the voices raised in defence of the environment are silenced or ridiculed, using apparently reasonable arguments that are merely a screen for special interests. In this shallow, short-sighted culture that we have created, bereft of a shared vision, “it is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit under the guise of noble claims”.^[12]</p> <p><i>Prayerfully consider how this is affecting our own Country</i></p>	
<p>Friday</p>	<p>5</p>		

<p>Saturday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Your Creation</p> <p>O Lord, grant us the grace to grow deeper in our respect of And care for your Creation. <i>Lord, hear our prayer.</i></p> <p>O Lord, help us to recognize the sacredness of all of your Creatures as signs of your wondrous love. <i>Lord, hear our prayer.</i></p> <p>O Lord, help us turn from the selfish consumption of Resources meant for all and to see the impacts of our choices on the poor and vulnerable. <i>Lord, hear our prayer</i></p> <p>Trevor Stockton, <i>CAFOD volunteer from St Anthony of Padua parish in Wolverhampton.</i> https://cafod.org.uk/</p>
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>The Lambeth Conference Journey shares ‘Prayers of Hope for the World’. <i>Featuring prayers from Anglican bishops - and the wider Lambeth Conference Community - this journey brings prayers from around the worldwide Anglican Communion.</i></p> <p>Creator God, we thank and praise you for giving us the opportunity to be co-creators with you and to ensure the sustainability of “Mother Earth,” our meeting place with God. God as a community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit teach us as the Anglican community to work together for mutual respect with one another and your creation. We repent for our negligence leading the earth to be in peril from loss of habitats and species. Help us to be caretakers of your gifts, protecting the land from abuse, and ready to share with all in need. Amen</p> <p>Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya <i>Swaziland, Southern Africa</i></p> <div data-bbox="1294 730 1449 891" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1198 965 1485 1144" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="432 1373 1485 1496" data-label="Text"> <p>Sadly Bishop Ellinah passed away on 19th January from Covid19 complications. Deepest sympathy to her family, friends and the Diocese of Swaziland. Rest in peace and rise in glory, dear Bishop Ellinah</p> </div>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Go gently, my friends: feel the good earth beneath your feet, celebrate the rising sun, listen to the birds at dawn, walk gently under the silent stars knowing you are on holy ground held in love - in the wonder of God's creation.</p> <div data-bbox="1129 1619 1485 1832" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Peter Millar <i>from 50 New Prayers from the Iona Community</i></p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>The world is round so that friendship may encircle it.</p> <p>Pierre Teilhard de Chardin</p>

Wednesday

10

SDG Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies



Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.


Facts & Figures:


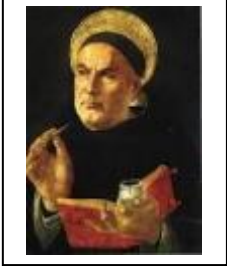

- Among the institutions most affected by corruption are the judiciary and police
- Corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion cost some US \$1.26 trillion for developing countries per year; this amount of money could be used to lift those who are living on less than \$1.25 a day above \$1.25 for at least six years.
- The rate of children leaving primary school in conflict affected countries reached 50 per cent in 2011, which accounts to 28.5 million children, showing the impact of unstable societies on one of the major goals of the post 2015 agenda: education.
- The rule of law and development have a significant interrelation and are mutually reinforcing, making it essential for sustainable development at the national and international level

Goal 16 Targets:

- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

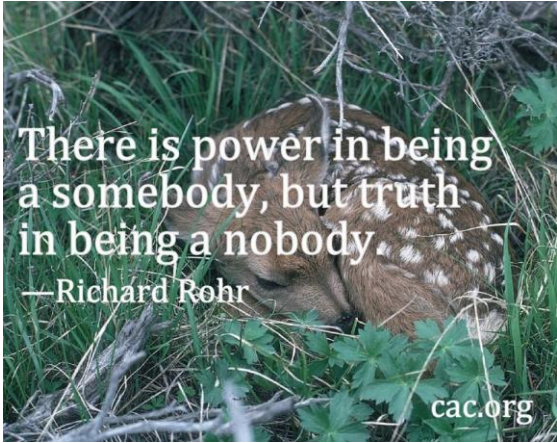
Prayerfully consider this topic and how you are able to contribute to the positive outcome of this Goal.

<p>Thursday</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>The idea of a natural world that dwarfed humanity and its creations long persisted, even into modern times ... Now a new study in Nature by a team of scientists from the Weizmann Institute in Israel upends that perspective. Our constructions have now – indeed, spookily, just this year – attained the same mass as that of all living organisms on Earth. A couple of years ago they worked out the first part of the equation, the mass of all life on Earth – including that of all the fish in the sea, microbes in the soil, trees on land, birds in the air and much more besides. Earth’s biosphere now weighs a little less than 1.2 trillion tonnes (of dry mass, not counting water), trees on land making up most of it... The stuff we build totted up to something like 35 billion tonnes in the year 1900, rising to be roughly double that by the middle of the 20th century... In the past 20 years it has doubled again, to be equivalent to, this year, the mass of all living things.</p> <p>https://theconversation.com/anthropocene-human-made-materials-now-weigh-as-much-as-all-living-biomass-say-scientists-151721</p> <p>Acknowledgement: https://greenchristian.org.uk</p> <p>Prayer Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth. Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing. Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise and our hands to share. May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread and our footsteps be worthy of following, for they lead to you.</p>
<p>Friday</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>Matthew 5:13-16</p> <p>Salt and Light</p> <p>¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.</p> <p>¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.</p> <p>¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>13</p>	 <p>Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.</p> <p>Khalil Gibran</p> <p>BrainyQuote</p>

<p>Sunday</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Lord God, teach us to value our possessions aright. Help us never to think more of them than of people. Make us ready to use them freely for the good of others and to share them generously without grudging. Thank you for the beautiful things that we enjoy possessing. May our enjoyment be wholesome and right, and may we hold lightly to all that we own. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who became poor that we might become rich for ever.</p>	
<p>Monday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>“One will observe that all things are arranged according to their degrees of beauty and excellence, and that the nearer they are to God, the more beautiful and better they are.”</p> <p>Saint Thomas Aquinas <i>Italian Dominican friar & priest (1225-1274)</i></p>	
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>Sing Praises, One and All</p> <p>Sing praises, one and all, who for few brief hours Share in the Festival The Master's love of flowers. Let Nature, hand-in-hand with Art, Amazed our eyes and warm our heart.</p> <p>How long it took to form The wildflowers at our feet! What ravages of storm, What stress of cold and heat! By Nature taught, how patient those Who learned to cultivate a rose!</p> <p>So take what Nature gives With awe and gratitude: For everything that lives, Its purpose understood, In which we glimpse the beautiful. Believing we are free</p> <p>To serve God's great design, We cry, ' He cares for me, and makes his purpose mine'. Here, in this Festival of Flowers, Rejoice that such a life is ours!</p> <p>Fred Pratt Green <i>Words © 1982 Hope Publishing Company</i></p>	

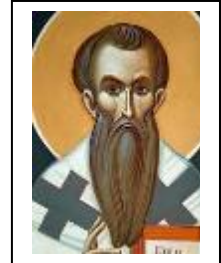
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>God Creates Things that Create Themselves</p> <p>In Romans 8:22, Paul says, “From the beginning until now, the entire creation as we know it has been groaning in one great act of giving birth.” That is a very feminine notion of creation, giving birth slowly through labour pains. It complements Genesis’ masculine statement: “Let there be light!” (1:3). Just this one line from Paul should be enough to justify a Christian belief in evolution. Yet to this day, the issue of evolution still divides some Christians, questioning what is rather obvious: that God creates things that create themselves. Wouldn’t this be the greatest way that God could create - to give autonomy, freedom, and grace to things to keep self-creating even further? (Non-creative minds tend to not see or allow creativity anywhere else. In fact, that is what makes them so uncreative!)</p> <p>Healthy parents love their children so much that they want them to keep growing, producing, and performing to their highest potential. Good parents are even excited when their children surpass them, as my uneducated farmer parents were when I went off to higher studies. Mature parents are generative about their children and say, in my paraphrase of Jesus’ words: “Don’t get too excited about the things that we did. You’re going to do even greater things!” (John 14:12). Immature parents only see their children as images and extensions of themselves. True love empowers and delights in the even larger and independent successes of those they love. (It is often would-be successful sons who are most resented and abused by jealous and weak fathers.)</p> <p>For a long time most people were satisfied with a very static universe. Yet Jesus understands reality as dynamic and evolutionary. Clearly there is an unfolding to the universe (we are literally still expanding!). Reality is going somewhere. It’s moving, until “In the end there will only be Christ. He is everything and he is in everything” (Colossians 3:11). The One > Multiplicity > Conscious Unity seems to be the underlying pattern. Paul clearly sees history as an ongoing process of ever greater inclusion of every lesser force until in the end, “God will be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:28). The notion of the Cosmic Christ is precisely “the One” reality that includes everything and excludes nothing. As St. Bonaventure put it, “God is the One whose centre is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.”</p> <p>Gateway to Silence: Bring creation to fullness.</p> <p><i>From Richard Rohr’s daily meditations</i> www.cac.org</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Grandfather, look at our brokenness. We know that in all creation only the human family has strayed away from the sacred way. We know that we are the ones who are divided, and we are the ones who must come back together to walk in the sacred way. Grandfather, sacred one, teach us love, compassion and honour that we may heal the earth and heal each other.</p> <p><i>Ojibway nation (Canada)</i></p>



<p>Friday</p>	<p>19</p>	
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>World Pangolin Day</p> <p>The TENTH annual World Pangolin Day is an opportunity for pangolin enthusiasts to join together in raising awareness about these unique mammals - and their plight.</p> <p>A pangolin(almost certainly proven to have been poached) was scientifically proven to be connected with the outbreak of the Covid19 Pandemic. The Chinese government continues to allow the use of pangolin scales for traditional medicine despite promises to crack down on a trade that has made them the most illegally trafficked mammals in the world. Pangolin numbers continue to decline rapidly in Asia and Africa.</p> <p>The demand for pangolins comes mostly from China and other far eastern countries, where pangolin scales are unfortunately believed to be a cure-all of sorts and pangolin flesh is considered a delicacy. In Vietnam, pangolins are frequently offered at restaurants catering to wealthy patrons who want to eat rare and endangered wildlife. There is no evidence to support claims regarding medicinal properties of pangolin scales or any other part of the pangolin.</p> <p>What you can do to help pangolins on World Pangolin Day and beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TWEET using the hashtag #WorldPangolinDay • BLOG about pangolins on World Pangolin Day • SHARE pangolin information on your social media networks • CREATE pangolin art — paint, draw, sculpt, tattoo • EDUCATE by giving a presentation about pangolins at school • SUPPORT organizations which are working to protect pangolins • INFORM traditional medicine prescribers that the use of pangolin scales is illegal (and there are no proven health benefits to consuming scales - they are made of keratin, just like fingernails!) • NOTIFY the authorities if you see pangolins for sale or if you know of anyone capturing or possessing pangolins. • PRAY for Conservationists involved in the protection of this iconic species and PRAY for law enforcement officials to be diligent in their efforts to prevent the illegal trade



<p>Sunday</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Father, we pray for all who work closely with the natural world, For farmers and gardeners who grow our food, For scientists and technologists who probe the secrets of life, For foresters who plant and harvest trees, For photographers, artists and poets who capture beauty for others to see, For conservationists and all who guard the precious heritage of the earth.</p>
<p>Monday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>"Do not despise the fish because they are absolutely unable to speak or to reason, but fear lest you may be even more unreasonable than they by resisting the command of the Creator. Listen to the fish, who through their actions all but utter this word: 'We set out on this long journey for the perpetuation of our species.'"</p> <p>Saint Basil of Caesarea (4th century)</p>
<p>Tuesday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?"</p> <p>Psalm 8:3,4</p>
<p>Wednesday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>About 41% of amphibian species & 26% of mammals are threatened with extinction - & this includes humans as well!</p>
<p>Thursday</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Creator God, This world does not often allow us such intimacy, We are crowded out by circumstances of our own choosing, seeking fellowship with each other rather than with you. Forgive our unwillingness to follow in the footsteps of your saints, to meet you in the solitude of your creation. Forgive our unwillingness to get our feet wet</p>



Friday

26

There needs to be Concrete Steps for Post-Pandemic Green Future

The pandemic has changed habits, ideas, and so much more. There is a palpable sense that the future will not be like the past, that we will speak of pre- and post-Coronavirus eras. Even the most spending-conscious governments have loosened the purse strings, devoting record sums to keep the economy, and people, afloat.

It is widely expected that further spending will be necessary to restart the economy when the time comes. A consensus seems to be growing that future stimulus spending should be leveraged to achieve climate goals. Calls and commitments for such a “green recovery” percolate through discussions of the post-pandemic future.

At the [Petersberg Climate Dialogue](#) in late April, 30 climate ministers from around the world committed to a green recovery. The president of the next UN climate change conference (COP 26), Alok Sharma, told the [Placencia Ambition Forum](#) of climate-vulnerable island nations “we must collectively support a green and resilience economy that helps us deliver our existing commitments.”

The EU has already put climate change at the heart of its recovery planning. To avoid disproportionate public money flowing to fossil fuel companies, as happened after the 2008-2009 financial crisis, we need clear thinking on how to create jobs and move towards a climate-friendly economy. A clear sense of the appropriate investments for a green recovery can help to create a policy package, ready to be implemented when the time is right.

Many of these ideas should inform a global effort. A major outcome of COP 26 should be a Sustainable Recovery Alliance. As proposed in the UK briefing, the Alliance should be flexible and open to those willing to align their domestic stimulus spending toward the Paris Agreement’s goals. The goals are straightforward, to build common understanding of what constitutes a green recovery and to learn from one another during these unprecedented, dynamic circumstances.

Global coherence is vital. Working together, countries can minimize disruption and barriers to trade and support recoveries, while fostering a global transition to a low-carbon economy. By engaging multilateral development banks, private investors, and partnerships such as Mission 2020, global investment can funnel towards climate-friendly projects that will create jobs and economic growth.

A green recovery is also what the world sorely needs. When ambition is required, countries have fallen short. [Very few countries put forward](#) new or revised pledges under the Paris Agreement. The stock of pledges submitted in NDCs leads to a [2.7 degree world](#), or higher. A global effort to leverage stimulus spending to catalyse climate ambition is a win-win that the world cannot afford to overlook. The future will not look like the pre-pandemic past. In some ways, it could be better.




This guest article (abridged) is authored by Jennifer Allan, Earth Negotiations Bulletin team leader, IISD, and Lecturer, Cardiff University.

Read full article - <https://climateactiontracker.org/climate-target-update-tracker/>

Pray for:

- South Africa has not submitted a revised pledge – pray that Government will commit to the climate pledge
- Pray that all Governments would realise the urgency of this commitment



<p>Saturday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>“Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans.”</p> <p><i>Helen Keller</i></p> 
<p>Sunday</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>Leap Day for Frogs</p> <p>What is Leap Day for Frogs?</p> <p>As February ends, pledge your support for learning more, having some fun and conserving our frogs and their habitats. Frogs are the most threatened group of species on Earth. These creatures of popular folklore are teetering on the brink of extinction and unless we act to save them, South Africa too will start losing species.</p> <p>Frogs are not just long-limbed long-leapers. These water-loving amphibians are extremely important in our ecosystems by providing food to a wide array of other animals and consuming vast quantities of insects. They are also important bio-indicators due to their sensitive skins and bi-phasic lifestyles. In other words, if they are around, it means our environment is healthy.</p> <p>The aim of Leap Day for Frogs is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness about the global amphibian crisis and the importance of wetlands in sustaining critical amphibian populations. • Create a platform for citizen science. • Raise funds for conservation activities for frogs and wetlands. • Have fun in the name of frogs! <p>The Threatened Amphibian Programme (TAP) was initiated in 2012 and aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elevate the conservation importance of frogs and their freshwater and associated terrestrial habitats within southern Africa. 2. Implement conservation actions that align with global amphibian conservation goals. 3. Bridge the gap between research and on-the-ground conservation action by supporting and implementing relevant research projects. 4. Drive social change to promote behaviours that support sustainable natural resource use to the benefit of amphibians and their habitats. <p><i>Decide what action you will take to conserve these incredible creatures. This may take the form of an information display and activities for local communities, especially the children. Share your ideas with others.</i></p> <p><i>Pray for the success of conservation efforts.</i></p>  

A Great Tree has fallen

Our hearts are broken at the loss of our beloved Bishop **Ellinah Wamukoya**.

She was truly great in the kingdom of God. The first woman Bishop in Africa, she was a true pioneer. She modelled a new way of leadership, a leadership of heart and hands that inspired and motivated those around her. She did not tell people what to do, she showed us the way. With her high levels of competency and spirituality she opened the doors for acceptance of women bishops in other countries across Africa. Named as one of the BBCs 100 women of the year in 2016, she said of her ministry "I am going to try to represent the mother attribute of God".

The last WhatsApp she sent me from hospital was after I told her that they had appointed a women assistant bishop in Kenya and she wrote "Amen dear sister, that is good news. A legacy indeed. I shall come out to celebrate. Praise God". Sadly, she did not.

She inspired us to love God and love Mother Earth. She was one of the pioneer Eco Bishops of the Anglican Communion and her Diocese became a leader in environmental sustainability . Always hands on, she planted trees, collected litter and promoted reforestation, and biodiversity conservation. The Diocese won an award for two years as Environmental champion, from the Minister of the Environment.

In her Masters Thesis she connected the Eucharist with Creation and shared this insight at Anglicans Ablaze: "Eating and drinking the bread and wine enables us to touch the clouds, the sun the earth , everything in the cosmos. Christ is food – not bread alone – being food he is life. Hungry people are all over the world – they do not have life in abundance because they do not have food".

She shared memories of carrying water long distances as a young girl and told me once that she felt that is why she became a bishop at this time, to be able to share the reality of the impact of climate change with her own stories. Like Esther , she came into her position 'for such a time as this'.

When she was already in hospital a prayer that she wrote was sent out by the Lambeth Conference, she wrote:

"Creator God, we thank and praise you for giving us the opportunity to be co-creators with you and to ensure the sustainability of "Mother Earth" our meeting place with God. God as a community of Father, son and holy spirit teach us as the Anglican Community to work together for mutual respect with one another and your creation. We repent for our negligence leading the earth to be in peril from loss of habitats and species. Help us to be caretakers of your gifts., protecting the land from abuse, and ready to share with all in need. Amen

The Archbishop of Canterbury tweeted back – "Thank you, Bishop Ellinah."

Thank you indeed dear Bishop. The great tree has fallen, but the seeds you have sown across the Green Anglicans movement of Southern Africa, Central Africa and Kenya, and the Anglican Communion across the whole world have been planted. You have taught us, you have inspired us, you have shown us the way. Now it is our task to let those seeds grow – so that your memory may be blessed.

"To be of the Earth is to know
the restlessness of being a seed,
the darkness of being planted,
the struggle towards the light,
the pain of growing into the light,
the joy of bursting and bearing fruit,
the love of being food for others,
the scattering of your seeds,
the decay of the seasons,
the mystery of death
and the miracle of birth."

John Soos

Hamba Kahle Bishop Ellinah.

Canon Rachel Mash,

Environmental Coordinator

Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

