# Prayer for African Drought Relief

Caring God,

Our failure to care for creation continues to cause pain and suffering beyond imagining.

Across Africa

lush lands are becoming barren;

water is becoming scarce;

soil is eroding;

livestock are dying;

and people are in growing need of food assistance.

Devastated, like the land, we join our prayers with

the millions of people in southern African countries, including Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, and Swaziland, who will require food assistance this year

and the millions of people in Ethiopia who will require food aid.

We give thanks to partners on the ground who are often the first responders and who themselves can be among the affected.

And we give thanks for the work of the United Nations World Food Programme, ACT Alliance, and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, whose work provides sustenance to the countries in Africa facing extreme drought.

Creator, help us to remember that our actions, no matter the size,

can yield either abundance or scarcity.

May our prayers and deeds bring about abundant life.

Amen.

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**The Moderator Rev. Simon Hansford, has prepared the following prayer for those affected by the drought in rural Australia. Please feel free to use this prayer in church services and for personal reflection.**

We pray for the land
we hear the promise you have spoken in Isaiah
of the refreshment of the creation;
of water in the desert,
of renewal for the land,
of hope, of life.

We name our simple need – rain for our thirsty land.
Our tanks and dams are nearly empty,
like our hopes for this season.

Please, loving God, bring us rain
to renew the ground, to replenish our dams,
to bring some chance of feed,
to bring the possibility of some reward
to those who have toiled so hard.

We turn to you in faith and hope.

We pray for our community
We pray for all those whose lives
are under the shadow of drought.

We think first of those who work with the land,
for farmers and their families,
for those who rely upon the land for their life and relationships.

We pray for contractors, merchants and truck drivers,
for rural counsellors and support workers,
for all our rural community.

May the refreshment of your Spirit,
present in miraculous and truly human ways,
be with all of us as we move forward into the days ahead.

We pray, too, for justice;
for fair prices for our stock and our wool and our crops.
We pray for governments, banks and corporations –
to be driven by the wisdom
of community, justice and compassion
not simply the folly of the dollar and the bottom line.

We pray for each other,
keep us aware of the needs of those around us:
for those who are struggling,
who are grieving,
who are ill, who are dying.

Restore those who are far from you
with the knowledge that they are loved and valued.

Give them not just a sense of renewal,
but a sense of hope and purpose for lives
that are finding the journey hard.

Let us see the miracle of healing
in relationships,
in lives,
in communities,
where there is illness
and hope is far away.

Keep us always conscious of the task we have
in ministry and mission in your world.

We offer all these prayers in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**