

Prayer Resource: U.S. Withdraws from the Paris Agreement

If you're not sure what to say, or how to say it, in response to the withdrawal of the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, consider using this short summary and prayer as a guide.

On Monday, November 4, President Trump began the formal process of withdrawing the U.S from the Paris Climate Agreement. This action by the president deepens the climate crisis as it reverses the United States' initial commitment to reduce greenhouse gases up to 28% by 2025.

The Paris Agreement, which entered into force November 4, 2016, was signed by 196 countries. Each of these nations committed to tackling climate change and supporting a transition to a clean economy. There was hope that U.S. leadership in this agreement would strengthen its impact abroad and increase renewable energy usage in the U.S. Now that the U.S. has begun the formal process to withdraw from the agreement, we continue to pray for national and international cooperation in response to the threat of climate change.

Our world belongs to God - every square inch of it. Because of this, we affirm a commitment to work vigorously to protect and heal the creation for the glory of the Creator. Despite this setback, we will continue to be faithful stewards of creation, voices for justice, and public examples in the effort to live sustainably with our God-given resources in the spirit of the Paris Agreement.

God our Creator, we confess.

We have not cared for your creation you have called us.

We have been selfish and wasteful.

We have been short-sighted and partisan.

We have been lulled by comfort and profit.

We have forgotten our identity as the caretakers of your world.

We have sinned. Help us to change.

God our Sustainer, we are afraid.

The threat of a warming climate -- of extreme weather, of rising seas, of floods and droughts, of displacement and war -- is sobering and frightening.

We know that those who are most impacted by this decision are the ones who are most marginalized: the orphan and widow, the migrant and the poor.

We know that when we turn a blind eye to their suffering, we turn a blind eye to you.

Embolden us, Lord, with a fierce love for our you and for our neighbor.

May our trust in your providence look more like courage than complacency.

God our Redeemer, we are your people.

The power that brought Jesus out of his tomb is a power that dwells among us today.

It is the power of life, of abundance, of promise, of hope.

Fill us with that power.

Help us to be loving, intelligent, energetic, courageous and imaginative in the ways that we respond.

Help us to draw nearer to one another, and nearer to you, in the work that is to come.

Draw near to us and show us the way.

Come quickly, Lord. Amen.

