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The World

Lima, Peru

1 – 12 December 2014

Representatives of 195 countries will gather for the next round of negotiations in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Lima is a crucial step on the road to the December 2015 Paris conference - which must achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate

It is hoped the Lima conference will achieve:

- *a clear draft of the universal agreement*
- *determination to build a low carbon resilient future*
- *initial capitalisation of the Green Climate Fund*
- *mobilisation of a broad coalition of actors turning potential into reality on the ground*

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary UNFCCC

Light for Lima

As the delegates gather, people around the world will be holding vigils and lighting lights to show our leaders the way, and asking them to find the courage and generosity that is needed for a successful outcome

This Advent reflection is offered
as one such Light for Lima



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*In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from
on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who
dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to
guide our feet into the way of peace*

From the Song of Zechariah, Luke 1: 78-79



God's light shines in the darkness
And the darkness has not understood it

God's light shines in the darkness
And the darkness has never overcome it



Jesus, this Advent we remember once again that you
came as light into a dark world

Your light first shone for frightened shepherds and
foreign travelers in a turbulent world that struggled
to find room for you



God's light shines in the darkness
And the darkness has not understood it



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The powerful felt threatened by your infant spark
and tried to snuff it out



©Thomas Perry

God's light shines in the darkness
But the darkness has never overcome it



Your nascent flame was guarded and nurtured
in a humble family and in a modest place,
until it was time to set the world alight



© Helen Harrison

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Jesus, this Advent we look and long
for your coming again to our world

Lighten our darkness



Lighten our darkness

Climate change is often talked about as something that is going to happen in the future - but it's happening NOW in the Pacific.

Recent storms and unprecedented flooding in the Solomon Islands are the culmination of increasing changes in our environment that we have been observing for years, and the poorest are hit the hardest

Tagolyn Kabekabe, Pacific Facilitator of the Anglican Alliance



Lighten our darkness

Human influence on the climate system is clear...

In recent decades, changes in climate have caused impacts on natural and human systems on all continents and across the oceans

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth
Assessment, Synthesis Report



© Anglican Alliance

Lighten our darkness

Continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems

IPCC Fifth Assessment, Synthesis Report



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Lighten our darkness

Farmers are struggling to adapt to the changes [in the climate]. Their wisdom is not working in the changed situation and that is putting them in a serious struggle to survive. The worst impacts of climate changes are now a reality

Mitigating it or adapting are a big challenge for Bangladesh-like countries but they are not the creators of the problem – only sufferers

Bishop Paul Sarker, Bangladesh



Lighten our darkness

There are multiple mitigation pathways that are likely to limit warming to below 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels. These pathways would require substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades and near zero emissions of carbon dioxide and other long-lived greenhouse gases by the end of the century

IPCC Fifth Assessment Synthesis Report



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Lighten our darkness

Science has spoken.

There is no ambiguity in the message.

Leaders must act;

time is not on our side

UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon



© Elizabeth Peay

Lighten our darkness

*We have the means to limit climate change.
The solutions are many and allow for continued
economic and human development.
All we need is the will to change*

Rajendra Pachauri, chair of the IPCC



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Lighten our darkness

At the heart of the pathology of ecological crisis is the refusal of modern humans to see themselves as creatures, contingently embedded in networks of relationships with other creatures, and with the Creator

Michael Northcott,
Professor of Ethics, University of Edinburgh



Lighten our darkness

The effects of climate change will be very negative for these vulnerable communities.

As the poorest people in one of the world's poorest communities, their voice is almost inaudible in decision-making that impacts radically upon them.

Yet they are the ones who grasp in tangible ways what it means to live in partnership with creation

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town



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Jesus, the facts of climate change are frightening.

Our hearts ache for those living with its reality,
and we grieve for what we are doing to your
beautiful world.

We can feel small and helpless,
overwhelmed by the darkness
that threatens to engulf us



But you are our Advent hope
for you came and dwelt among us,
bringing your light
to a frightened and troubled world,
proclaiming God's upside down kingdom,
exalting the lowly, feeding the hungry,
challenging the powerful
and teaching that the meek will inherit the earth



Jesus come afresh among us,
kindling the fire of love,
fanning the flames of justice,
setting our hearts ablaze

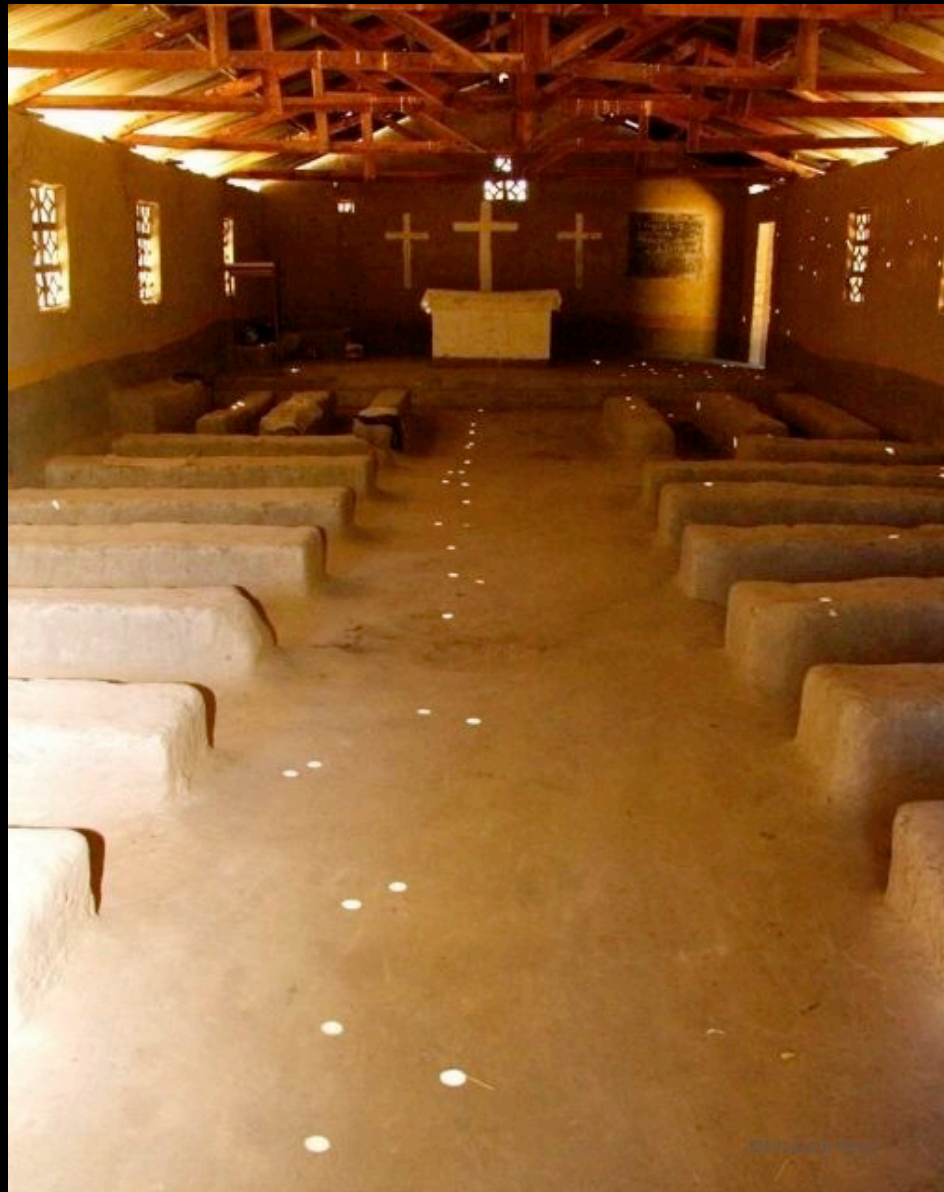
Help us to shine as lights in the world



We lift before you the climate talks in Lima and all the negotiations that will take place this coming year.

We pray that a strong, just and binding agreement will be reached.

Give clarity of thought and steadfastness of purpose to those who gather, lead and make decisions



May the cry of the earth, its creatures, and its people
be heard above the clamour of short-term interest and
those who deny reality

Inspire, uphold and bless all who speak truth to power.
May we be counted among their number
and, with them, offer our affirming flame



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AMEN

Take action:

- Add your voice. Around the world, people of faith are signing a petition urging world leaders to prevent devastating climate change: www.ourvoices.net
- Join the growing body of Christians praying and fasting for the climate on the 1st of each month: www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk



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www.ccow.org.uk