

What can you do?

Sign our Prayer Petition and let your government officials know that the Deepwater Horizon well may be capped, but people of faith are still concerned about our brothers and sisters in the Gulf and the long-term recovery of the region, its people, and its creatures. Petitions can be sent to: Eco-Justice Programs, National Council of Churches USA, 110 Maryland Avenue, NE, Suite 108, Washington, DC, 20002 or tedgar@ncccecojustice.org

Prayer Petition for the Gulf

We call on you to rise above partisan politics to ensure a comprehensive and effective response to this crisis. As people of faith we encourage you to:

- Work with stakeholders
- Hold responsible parties accountable
- Ensure that help reaches those in need
- Commit to a long-term recovery
- Take steps to prevent future disasters
- Respond to yet-unknown needs

The situation that continues to unfold in the Gulf demands a comprehensive, but more importantly, moral response. The bonds that connect us to one another and to all Creation have been damaged in the Gulf. We have failed as a country to protect not only ourselves but the gifts with which we have been blessed.

As we begin to move forward and prepare as a nation for our recovery from this spill, we urge you to remember God's commitment to us and to Creation, and to honor God's vision of health and wholeness for all.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Church: _____

City, State: _____

Email: _____



National Council of Churches USA
Eco-Justice Programs
110 Maryland Ave., NE, Suite 108
Washington, DC 20002
info@ncccecojustice.org



Seeking God's Grace for the Gulf

A Day of Worship,
Reflection, and Healing

October 3, 2010

“The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.” *Psalms 24:1-2*

On April 20, 2010, BP's Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded, killing 11 workers and injuring over a dozen more. In the 85 days that followed, 60,000 barrels of crude oil gushed daily into the Gulf of Mexico, leading to the closure of rich fishing grounds. Oil inundated beaches and marshes along the Gulf Coast, wrecking havoc on coastal eco-systems and harming animals such as birds and sea turtles.

BP finally succeeded in capping the well in late summer, but not before an estimated 4.9 million barrels of crude oil spilled into the Gulf. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the spill killed 4,080 birds, 525 sea turtles, and 72 marine mammals.

Communities along the coast are still feeling the impact both economically and environmentally—from tourism to fishing. The National Council of Churches, together with many of its member communions, is seeking ways to bring the moral voice to the oil spill response. By striving to protect communities—both human and nonhuman—we can live out our call to be stewards of God's creation.

OPENING PRAYER

Prayer For The Gulf (adapted from the Evangelical Environmental Network)

God, Creator of all things, You make all things new, renew us.

We turn to You seeking your direction for a crisis in our nation. Our brothers and sisters around the Gulf of Mexico struggle in fear, grief, and despair. Livelihoods and dreams have been destroyed for generations to come. Your marshes and lands, necessary for life have been affected for decades. Wildlife, both birds of the air, and creatures of the sea continue to suffer, all because of human induced disaster.

Almighty God, forgive us our sin, and renew our lives to be the good stewards as You created us.

Humbling ourselves, and placing our lives into Your care.

We pray for the people in despair that you would provide peace and hope. And we seek restoration for the sea, the land, and all who live and inhabit them.

We turn to you O God for You are our hope, our peace, our joy, and our Creator.

Litany

Litany for the Gulf—A Time for Reflection

By Rev. Neddy Astudillo

We give you thanks, oh LORD, for you are good.

Because your love endures forever!

We give you thanks, God of gods.

For your love endures forever!

You alone made all great wonders,

For your love endures forever!

With your understanding you made the heavens,

For your love endures forever!

It was you who spread the earth out upon the waters,

For your love endures forever!

It was you who made the great lights

For your love endures forever!

And who gives food to every creature.

Because your love endures forever!

Lord of lords, today life seems to demonstrate that our actions hurt that which you created by love. Lord, in your mercy,

Continue loving us, forever!

Today we ask you for the protection of our brother, the Sea, and furthermore for the millions of hermit crabs abandoning their shells, and getting out of the water. Protect them! Give them shelter. Lord, in your mercy,

Love them forever!

Today we pray for the birds, their offspring, for the fish of the sea, the turtles, the whales, the dolphins, all those who breathe your breath, who eat and live in the sea that you created. Hold in them your Spirit, chase them away from danger, Lord in your mercy,

Love them, forever!



Lord, today we pray for all of those who live of the sea, the fishermen and women, those who live of tourism, vacationers, and those of us who do not know how to live without the sea,

Keep loving us, forever!

Give wisdom to those who have the solution in their hands to correct the oil spill. Move their hearts, so that not one marsh, not one coral is left untouched as they heal your beautiful creation.

Keep loving them, forever!

All of these things we ask, in the name of the one who told us to share your Good News with all of creation. Loving God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer. Amen.

Hymn

Ocean Hymn (written after the spill)

www.nccecojustice.org/downloads/Ocean%20Hymn.pdf

O God, the great, wide seas are yours!

You carved the oceans' rugged floors.

You set the waters in their place

And made all sea life by your grace.

You also made humanity

To care for earth and sky and sea.

Forgive us when we disobey

And fail to care for what you've made.

Consuming more than what we should,

We harm the waters you call good.

Forgive us when we fail to be

Good stewards of your wondrous sea.

We pray for those who seek to care

For troubled waters everywhere—

For those who work to stop the spill

Of all that would destroy and kill,

For those who work with loving hands

To tend your marshes, shores and sands.

God, may we hear your call anew

To care for all these gifts from you.

May we protect the sea and shore

By using less, conserving more,

And humbly learning how to live

As stewards of this world you give.

