**Talking Climate Justice Tour: event script**

This word version of the script contains the same copy as the notes section under each slide of the Talking Climate Justice Tour PowerPoint. This script has been left open for you to edit. Think about who is attending your event and how much knowledge and understanding they already have of climate justice. You can use as much or as little as you want depending on who is in the room and the time you have. At the very bottom you will find three quotes that can be printed/written on larger sheets to display at your event to prompt people’s thoughts. These are also included at the end of the PowerPoint.

We recommend that you read through the whole script and all the instructions in the DIY kit and then plan your event.

Don’t forget to feed back to us after your event: <https://caid.org.uk/feedbackform>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Slide No.** | **PPT Slide content** | **Script** |
| 1 | Talking Climate Justice Tour  [Name of Church/location] | **Welcome**  Welcome to Talking Climate Justice Tour **[Location/church] (edit the PPT slide to reflect the name of your church or community)**. **I’m xxx (introduce yourself and anyone helping to lead this event).**  We’re here as a church/community because we face one of the biggest challenges in history – the climate crisis.  We know that the climate crisis is driving poverty around the world, and that as the church we are called to stand against injustice. We need to recognise and respond to the fact that people who have done least to cause the crisis are suffering the worst impacts.  While we face huge challenges, we also have the resurrection hope of God’s kingdom come. It’s that hope that draws us together and connects us to our sisters and brothers around the world.  We’re each called to bring what we have when it comes to serving the world around us. Each of us has ideas, insights and dreams of how the world could be.  Today/Tonight we have the chance to dream into being how the church here in [your location] can respond to the climate crisis. We have the opportunity to spark ideas to make climate justice a top-of-mind issue for churches across Britain and Ireland..  We all have a part to play, we’re part of thousands of Climate Justice conversations, that are stirring up action across the UK. |
| 2 | Talking Climate Justice  Opening prayer  Hope and challenge  Reflect and talk  Invite and act  Next steps  Closing prayer and commissioning | The world over, every successful movement started with conversations – from dismantling apartheid to dropping unjust debt. And I’m not just talking chit chat!  I’m talking about honest conversations that name the challenges our world faces, that stir our anger and fuel our hope. Open conversations that give us the space to explore new ideas, and brave conversations that dream new dreams and move us to action.  That’s what we’re here for today!  Here’s how we’ll be spending our time together.  **\*You can edit this slide to put in your timings, add anything you would like to, including guest speakers etc**   * Hope and challenge – we’ll take a closer look at the climate crisis and how the church can respond with hopeful action. * Reflect and talk – this is our chance to reflect on what we’ve heard. We’ll be using some key questions to get us talking and dreaming! * Invite and act – our gathering and our conversations will only matter if they stir us into action for climate justice. * Next steps – we’ll share our ideas and collectively commit ourselves to our next steps. * We’ll close our time in prayer and commission one another as we step out. * Finally, after our conversations, we (you the leader/team) will be sharing the key points from our conversation with Christian Aid so that they have a picture of what’s on our minds and in our hearts. |
| 3 | Opening prayer  Creator God, You have created us, and the world, because you are love.  The world is hurting from the climate crisis. This crisis hurts us all, especially our global neighbours.  God, change our world, our communities, and us with your love. We want to journey with you, to create a better future for everyone.  God, be amongst our conversations, may they be filled with resurrection hope and power.  Help us to serve others, and all of creation, so your world can be what you want it to be. Amen. | Let’s dedicate our time of conversation in prayer  **\*Read the prayer on the PPT** |
| 4 | Hope and challenge | Ok, before we get into the detail, I’m going to ask you to turn to your neighbour and ask each other: **when was the last time you had a conversation about the climate crisis – and did that conversation lead you to do anything about it?**  **\*Give people a couple of minutes to have a conversation – this should be short and snappy and get people thinking about how regularly we actually talk about the climate crisis and it’s impacts around the world. You can ask for a couple of people to share their response.**  We might be surprised how often or even how little we talk about the impacts of the climate crisis – at home, work or church. And what we do (or don’t do) as a result.  To have honest conversations about how we’ll respond to the climate crisis it’s vital that we take time to understand both the impact it is having on people living in poverty, and the opportunity we have in this critical next decade.  **\*In this section think about how much people at your church already know. The script is flexible and you can use what you think will help people to engage with the issues.**  **You can invite guest speakers or simply use the PowerPoint slides and script to guide you through. You will also find videos to download on the Tour resources page that you can use. Look through the script and decide what will work for your event:** <https://caid.org.uk/tourDIY> |
| 5 | Our challenge | **\*In this section you can choose how much of the script you would like to use depending on how familiar your church community are with the challenges of the climate crisis.**  Here’s our challenge:   * The world is heating up. Industrialisation, burning fossil fuels and unsustainable consumption have dangerously increased the levels of carbon dioxide in the air we breathe. * This has led to more extreme climate events, rising sea levels and critical threats to human life. As global temperatures rise, we will continue to see communities suffer the loss and damage of increasing droughts, storms and floods. * People living in poverty are the most vulnerable to these changes. They are often more reliant on the natural environment for their survival, and more likely to live in areas that are exposed to storm and flood risks and damage. Poverty also means people are often with out the means to cope when hit by climate impacts * The climate crisis is driving and worsening poverty. It’s estimated that 130 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty by the climate crisis by 2030. * It is the great injustice of our time that those least responsible often lack what they need to adapt to or survive such extreme weather events. * Currently, national and global commitments to tackle the climate crisis fall short of what is required to stop the crisis. |
| 6 | Zimbabwe | Let’s look at an example.  In Zimbabwe temperature rises have resulted in unpredictable rainfall and longer-lasting droughts, meaning crop production has declined.  People living in poverty in Zimbabwe are vulnerable to these changes because they are heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture. People’s ability to grow enough food to eat increasingly hangs in the balance.  This is the reality right now. If things don’t change, the people of Zimbabwe will become even more vulnerable to changes in climate, they will struggle to earn a decent living or provide enough food for their families. It’s simply unjust. |
| 7 | ‘The greatest challenge women face here is hunger. Children will not be able to go to school because they do not have food.  Livestock would not have water, they need to go a long distance to get water, and sometimes cannot even get it.  But as women we are very much affected because we use much more water. Thus, we suffer more as women when there is a drought.’  Agnes Machona, Zimbabwe | Agnes Machona lives in north-east Zimbabwe. She reflects on the impact of the crisis where she lives.  **\*Read Agnes’ quote**  \*Agnes has worked with Christian Aid partner BRACT to improve access to water and reliable agriculture in her district. |
| 8 | How did we get here? | Reflecting on Zimbabwe as an example, we have the opportunity to dig a bit deeper and ask ourselves why these things are happening around the world in the first place.  We have to get to the root causes of the interlinked problems of poverty and the climate crisis. Only then can we together be part of rooting the problems out in the long term. |
| 9 ,10 | ‘For me, environmental justice is deeply connected to issues of the enslavement of Africans and the birth of capitalism. The rewards from enslavement fuelled the industrial revolution, put the ‘great’ into Great Britain. They used the proceeds from slavery and colonialism to build an infrastructure in this country to colonise India, Africa, Asia – and by extracting the resources from those places, were able to develop steam trains, industry, which paved the way for the electrification of the world.’  Rev Alton Bell, Senior Pastor, Wembley Family Church | Let’s read this quote from Alton Bell, who helps us reflect on the root causes.  **\*Read the quote from Alton Bell (slides 9 and 10)**  **\*Give a moment for people to reflect on the quote**  **\*Ask:** “In pairs for a few minutes discuss what they think the root causes of poverty and the climate crisis are.”  There are deep roots to poverty, and deep roots to the climate crisis – and the two have walked hand in hand.  The way the world works today echoes the power imbalances and injustices of the past. We’ve built a world where wealth has been hoarded in the global North while the majority of people in the global South have been pushed into poverty.  This wealth has led to growth which has been fuelled through the extraction and burning of fossil fuels, which has led to rising temperatures and the impacts that we’ve heard about in Zimbabwe  This is the world we live in. Our world is governed by rules, laws, systems, structures and social norms that mean that some thrive, while some are struggling to just survive.  For example, national and international rules govern how many fossil fuels we’ll dig up and burn vs how much we’ll invest in renewable energy. Ultimately these rules determine how fast the world heats up and how hard the impacts will be felt by the people who are most vulnerable.  But people made the rules, which also means that people can also change the rules. We’ll have time in our conversations later, to think about how we can be part of changing the rules, so that everyone can thrive.  The challenges that people are facing in Zimbabwe are being felt around the world in climate vulnerable countries, and acutely amongst people living in poverty.  **\*Below are some additional ways that you can prompt people to think about the impacts of the climate crisis**   * **Print out the three quotes slides at the end of the PPT slide deck (and the end of this document) and put them up around your venue. These quotes provide further global South perspectives on what climate justice means.** * **Show one of the videos we have provided for download on climate justice. This could be during a break or as people are arriving. There are subtitles so they can be played without sound.**   **You don’t have to use everything that has been provided! Think through your event, who is coming and what will work best in the time you have.** |
| 11 | Where we find hope | We know that the challenges are real and unjust. We can react to that in all sorts of ways. We might feel a bit overwhelmed, we might feel apathetic, powerless or distressed by what’s happening around us.  These are totally normal ways to react, maybe we feel small and weak – lots of people in the Bible certainly felt that way. Many people across social movements felt that way too before they changed things for the better.  This makes it all the more important that we look to where we can find hope and courage to act.  **\*Ask the group to reflect on their own for a moment where their sources of hope come from in the face of the challenge of injustice.**  As people of faith we are spurred on by the resurrection hope of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit. |
| 12 | ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’  Luke 4:18-19 | We follow Jesus who, at the very start of his public ministry, made it clear that standing with those who have been marginalised and those living in poverty is essential to a life of faith. |
| 13 | ‘Even as Christians pray for the heavenly paradise, we are called to bring that kingdom into being in the here and now. We are called to build God’s kingdom, to care for creation, and to work to transform any unjust and exploitative structures that harm the earth and its people’  Bishop of Croydon, Rosemarie Mallett | Bishop of Croydon, Rosemarie Mallet sums up our role as the church when it comes to the injustice of the climate crisis.  **\*Read quote from Bishop Rosemarie**  We are called to live out this mission in every way possible. That might be by changing our everyday lives, but there is no mistake that Jesus chose to quote an Old Testament prophet in his first very public appearance. The prophets challenged the status quo, called out injustice and hypocrisy and painted a picture of a better world.  Just like them, we - the church - need to remind ourselves of our obligations to each other. To not be afraid of tackling the root causes of the climate crisis. To dream and share the vision of a restored creation.  This could be by changing the ways we operate as churches (think divestment from fossil fuels) to challenging the government to support those effected by the crisis, or lobbying banks to change their policies on investing in oil and gas. |
| 14 | Vanessa Nakate and Agnes Machona | Many people in fragile countries already demonstrate this boldness in the face of extraordinary challenge as they rise up to tackle the climate crisis.  The most marginalised people it the world, and the most impacted by the climate crisis, are black women living in the global South. The injustice of poverty, gender inequality and racial inequality mean they are often the least heard, and yet they are stepping up and leading the way for climate justice.  We heard from Agnes earlier – she is taking a chance on new agricultural practices to bring water to her community in pursuit of a sustainable crop and food for her family.  Vanessa Nakate, a young Ugandan woman, has been raising the alarm about the climate crisis in her home nation of Uganda, and across the world. Holding firm to her faith, she has called out the unwillingness of rich nations to act. |
| 15 | Image from YCCN relay outside St Paul’s Cathedral with Christian Aid | Here in the UK many churches are joining in hopeful action, using what they have to build the movement for climate justice.  Thousands of churches and Christians have prayed, lobbied and marched for climate justice during the last decade. Old and young Christians are raising their voices.  Christian Aid supporters played a crucial role in the public call for a Climate Change Act in the UK back in 2008 – the first of its kind in the world. Since then, churches have joined schemes like Eco Church in their droves, switched en-mass to clean energy and just last year the Young Christian Climate Network led a powerful relay to COP26. |
| **16** | ‘Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread… because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.’ Deuteronomy 31:6 | The challenges are real, but we cannot ignore them. Our faith is packed with stories of the least likely, the least qualified and the weakest being called by God to serve the world around them.  In whatever challenges we are facing we are not left alone but empowered by God who is with us to take action.  We may feel small, weak and unqualified to take action and challenge giants of government, corporations – and even our own denominations. But God chooses us and there are lots of ways that we can act for change.  **\*Read bible verse**  The need to act is urgent. This is a fight for the future of our world. We need to act now and into the future.  During the next section of our time together we’ll have the opportunity to respond to what we’ve heard. To bring our dreams. ideas and insights.  We’ll think about our role and the role of our churches in the struggle for climate justice. |
| 17 | Break time | But for now, a short moment for you to reflect, take a break, and grab a cup of tea or coffee.  **\*Decide how much time you have and how long a break you want to give.** |
| 18 | Reflect and talk | Now it’s time to talk!  Now we come to our all-important conversations. Some of the questions might be challenging, and we might not know all the answers. But let’s have courage, and remind ourselves that even creating the space to grapple with these issues is taking a step forward.  **\*You can arrange your conversations however you would like to. You will find a couple of ideas in the DIY kit and a suggestion below. The next three slides will have each of the questions you will be discussing and in the notes section a few prompts that may be useful. Make sure you plan in enough time for people to get through the questions and feed back to each other.**  **SUGGESTION: Print each question and place around the room along with flip chart paper and pens for people to capture their answers. Split people into groups and invite the groups to move from question to question allowing 15 mins for each. As each group moves, collect their answers paper and start collating the ideas for taking action into themes e.g. political action, raising climate justice in the church, get the church talking more etc. You will need at least two people to do this. This will help your group see all their ideas in a clear way after your conversation.**  **\*Read the DIY guidance on how to make sure everyone can participate in the conversation.**  **\*Make sure you find a way to capture your conversations so you can feed back to Christian Aid.** |
| **19** | **When have you been part of or seen hopeful climate action with people in your community/locally?** | PROMPTS:   * **What was it?** * **What made you think: ‘Yes! I want to be part of that’?** * **Why was it hopeful?** * **Who was involved?** * **If you weren’t involved what made you think: ‘I could do that’?** |
| **20** | **We need to tackle the root causes of poverty and the climate crisis. This means changing laws, policies and practices. These changes can be in our churches, government, corporations.**    **What ideas do you have for how your church can tackle poverty and speak up for climate justice?** | PROMPTS   * **Think about your local, regional and national church – what actions are possible in 6 months, 1 year and in 5 years?** * **How can great eco church and lifestyle actions be communicated to politicians (MPs, MSPs, AMs etc) to help build the case for national/international action on climate justice?** * **What would make climate justice a top of mind issue at church?** |
| **21** | **Bishop Rosemarie Mallett says we are called to build God’s kingdom, care for creation, and work to transform any unjust and exploitative structures that harm the earth and its people.**  **How does your faith motivate you to act for climate justice?** | Prompts   * **How does your faith give you courage to act for climate justice?** * **What do we need as Christians and churches to embed climate justice into our discipleship?** |
| **N/A** | **NO SLIDE** | **\*Take a short break here.**   * **Collate the key ideas for actions that your church could take for climate justice that have come up in the conversation. We suggest using one sheet of paper to show one theme of ideas. In the next section, ‘Invite and act’ you can invite people to come and look at all the ideas.** * **You may want to particularly look at the answers to question 2 ‘what ideas do you have for how your church can tackle poverty and speak up for climate justice?’** |
| 22 | Invite and act | It’s been great to hear the buzz of conversation in the room as we grapple with the challenges before us! We’ve heard your ideas, dreams and insights bubbling up.  We might find that we also have questions, worries and things that we need to take away and reflect on - and that is totally fine! We know we can’t solve everything in one conversation, and we know that we can’t solve everything on our own. That’s why we need to keep talking.  And more importantly keep acting together!  From our conversations we have lots of options and ideas for how we can act for climate justice.  Now I’m going to tell you about a couple of initiatives from Christian Aid that we can get involved with, and then summarise the ideas that emerged from our discussions today.  **\*You might like to mention that both these initiatives can be part of working towards an Eco Church award under Community and Global engagement. It can also be useful to highlight that speaking out for justice compliments practical environmental actions your church is already taking e.g. moving to zero carbon** |
| 23 | Letters for creation image and bullet points | Letters for Creation is a prophetic arts project that enables people of all ages to learn about climate justice and respond creatively with art that captures their hopes for the future.  This art can then be used in exhibitions in our local community: in school, in church, in a village hall, in the closest cathedral! It’s a great way to reach out to people including local decision-makers like our MP.  Christian Aid has all the resources you need to get your church involved; materials to help people learn about climate justice, materials to help facilitate art making and materials to help you get the most impact from an exhibition.  **Visit caid.org.uk/letters4creation** |
| 24 | Loss and damage campaign image | As we’ve heard, the injustice at the root of the climate crisis is that those who have done least to cause it are suffering the worst effects.  We believe that polluters must pay for the loss and damage caused by their actions.  We can join Christian Aid in campaigning for a dedicated international fund to help communities cope with the loss and damage that they face.  Again there are lots of ways for your church to join the campaign, from MP briefings, petitions and church activity packs.  **Visit caid.org.uk/campaigns** |
| 25 | Our ideas | So what did we come up with? How can we be part of calling for climate justice now and in the future as a church community?  **\*Either ask someone to read the summarised ideas or invite people to come and have a look at all the answers.** |
| 26 | What we do next | Now it’s time for us to decide what we do next. Let’s have courage – let’s be bold! We’re going to…  **\*you can decide how you would like to help people work out what do to next. We suggest that you invite people to stand next to the idea they are most interested in and then ask them to think about what their immediate next step will be to progress that idea/action. If you have a whole range of great ideas, you may decide as a group to put them all into a climate justice plan for your church.**  **\*It’s important that there is a clear next step for people to take. However you’ve organised your next step discussion, ensure that there are clear actions to take forward and that it’s clear who will be leading and taking part in these.**  **\*This is a good time to share that you will be feeding back to Christian Aid what’s come up in your conversations and what you’re planning to do next.** |
| 27 | ‘Let us consider how we can spur one another on in love and good deeds’  Hebrews 10:24 | We’ve come to the end of our time together. We have listened, we have talked. As the book of Hebrews encourages us to do, we have spurred one another along to love and good deeds!  Let’s encourage one another now in prayer and commissioning to live out our calling to build the kingdom and call for climate justice. |
| 28,29,30 | Commissioning and closing prayer  Before God who gives us all we need  Before one another with whom we are in community  We commit to live lives that build the  kingdom  We commit to stand with our sisters and brothers around the world living in poverty  We commit to calling for climate justice in every way we can  We bring our dreams, our ideas, our insights  We bring our skills, our talents, ourselves  We offer what we have before God in pursuit of justice and the common good  Let justice roll down like a river, may righteousness flow like a never-ending stream.  May we be filled anew with the joy of creation as we pray, act and give for the restoration of creation and the flourishing of all people.  In the name of the Creator, Son and Spirit, Amen. | **\*you may like to stand together as you pray or be able to see each other as you pray together** |
| 31 | Let’s go! | And now it is time to go, out into the world we have been given to look after.  It’s exciting to take these next steps towards climate justice with you. |
|  | **ADDITIONAL QUOTES THAT CAN BE USED DURING YOUR EVENT** | |
| 33 | ‘It’s the worst injustice that the world has ever known. This is why we need to ask the countries that are most responsible to take appropriate measures to address the issues. They need to repay and repair, and pay for the damage that has been done’  Aldrin Calixte, Haiti Survie, Haiti | Quote from Haiti |
| 34 | ‘Some communities feel the impact of this climate change more. It’s not always okay to be in the comfort of your house in one of the higher communities, and you have everything, and someone in the world is feeling the impact.’  Nigerian, 25 years, Male | This quote is taken from a young Nigerian man reflecting on climate justice |
| 35 | ‘I find it painful to watch the news these days – everyday pictures of animal carcasses, bridges being washed away, schools flooding, swarms of locusts as a result of increased heat. Listening to leaders making efforts or trying to delete the language of loss and damage is very frustrating.’  Joab Okanda, Pan Africa Advocacy Advisor at Christian Aid, Kenya | Quote from Kenya |