



Photo © Sean Hawkey

# Engaging Youth

Holy God,  
 earth and air and water are your creation,  
 and every living thing belongs to you:  
 have mercy on us as climate change  
 confronts us.

Give us the will and the courage  
 to simplify the way we live,  
 to reduce the energy we use,  
 to share the resources you provide,  
 and to bear the cost of change.

Forgive our past mistakes, and send us  
 your Spirit, with wisdom in present  
 controversies and vision for the future to  
 which you call us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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In 2018, climate activists gathered in Poland for COP24. As world leaders wrestled with meeting the carbon emission targets set in the Paris Accord, a 15-year-old from Sweden named Greta made it clear that young people will be paying the price of climate change for decades to come.

Jessica Steele, a PWRDF Youth Council member and climate activist from British Columbia, represented PWRDF at COP24. "Throughout the two weeks, I heard land and water defenders from local communities share how climate change is already affecting them and their cultures. I heard refugee experts project the millions of people who are going

to be displaced by climate related drought and famine." Yet despite the testimonies, the progress was interminably slow, says Steele. To prevent the devastation of climate change will require large systemic changes and "politicians do not seem to be acknowledging the need for urgency."

By participating in COP24, in the ACT Alliance Youth Community of Practice (COP), as well as local and diocesan initiatives, PWRDF's Youth Council is committed to sharing knowledge and opportunities to take action on climate change, while accompanying a generation on the frontlines of climate action.

- PWRDF PARTNERS**
- Youth Council
  - Other youth in Canada
  - ACT Alliance
  - KAIROS



**FOCUS**

Educating and  
 engaging youth on  
 climate justice