



# Hope for the world

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## Waiting Patiently For A Climate Resilient World

Today, COP21 comes to a close in Paris. Most of us hope that it has produced a fair agreement that sets us on a pathway towards a more stable climate and keeps us safely within the limit of 2C warming.

But however well it is presented by our leaders in Paris today, the agreement probably won't be enough to keep us under this ceiling. We know we have to bring to the end our addiction to fossil fuels and shift to sustainable, low-carbon way of living. Indeed globally, we need to get to net zero emissions within little over 50 years.

Yet we live in a world where 1.3bn don't have access to electricity. Without access to a regular power supply, how can we educate our children, run our businesses and enjoy a good lifestyle?

So it's no surprise that developing countries – in particular the least developed who emit so little – have fought hard to put access to finance, technology and adaptation on the agenda alongside emissions reductions.

I'm hoping that the Paris talks end the waiting for a transformation to sustainable, climate resilience and low carbon economies. And it's in this hoping, waiting and expectation that I see a parallel in what we must do in Advent, and more widely in our Christian living.

Paula Gooder's excellent Advent Book 'The Meaning Is In The Waiting' reminded me that the Bible describes a lot of waiting. From Abraham and Sarah, through the prophets to Mary, there was often a lifetime of waiting for events beyond their control. For those of us working on climate change, it often feels like this.

But it is an active waiting to which we are called – this and every Advent – in which we can play our part in making God's world a better place. And I'm encouraged at the activity that many people are driving towards a more climate resilient world.

The retreat from coal, the massive rise of investment in solar energy, the growth of the green bond market, cities and countries both north and south investing in climate resilience, are all signs of this.

It can also be a fairer world, and many have been calling not just for zero emissions but zero poverty. This isn't a dream. Zero poverty-zero emissions is achievable within a generation. We know what we need to do to get rid of global poverty, and to tackle climate change.

There is much expectation around the decisions made in Paris today. Many will be disappointed having hoped for more. Some will be delighted. But many of us will be wondering what it means for the future. And I am sure we will face more waiting. But it can be active waiting in which we work for a just and climate-resilient world.



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