



Dear CTWR Friends,

As those already aware of the present climate emergency, we are reaching out to you today with an invitation to broaden our community response.

It is deeply painful to witness the harm that increasing climate change is causing to all life across the earth. We ask ourselves: *How can we better care for each other and all interconnected life systems while confronting this massive reality together?* Perhaps one way is by gathering together **to grieve the past and present inaction** in responding to the global environmental crisis and **to find hope in recognizing our option to take action that is rooted in justice and compassion.**

These thoughts and questions have prompted a small group of local activists to begin organizing public climate emergency vigils throughout this Fall. These vigils are inspired by, yet different from, public climate strikes that we may have attended in our region. Our aim is to set aside time and provide space for quiet solace together so that we can move forward with hope and commitment, drawing on the wisdom and spiritual gifts from a diversity of the members of this community.

A vigil is a time for observance, purposeful watching, and wakefulness. The gatherings being planned will include reflections, stories, and times of silent meditation. They will evolve as we go forward.

**Details about the climate vigils can be found on the webpage here:** <https://bit.ly/climate-vigils-wr>

#### **We invite you to:**

**Connect with us.** We welcome your thoughts on how these vigils may engage your faith community. Reach out to us at: [climatevigilswr@gmail.com](mailto:climatevigilswr@gmail.com)

**Share the word.** Help get the word out by sharing information about these gatherings with people you know.

**Recommend a speaker.** Vigils will include voices from across faith traditions, speaking to connections between faith and climate justice. Speaking time will be no more than 10 minutes. Note that all potential speakers need to connect with our team first to discuss potential fit, and to agree to guidelines for the vigil. If you know someone who may be a good fit for this role and may be interested to speak, please contact us at [climatevigilswr@gmail.com](mailto:climatevigilswr@gmail.com).

**Stickers and posters.** We have designed stickers and posters that can be shared digitally and as prints. Both are attached. Please share them with others.

**The time to act, to reflect, and to gather is now.**

In solidarity for a sustainable and just future,

Faith Climate Justice Waterloo Region  
The Climate Emergency Vigil Committee

Barbara Schumacher, Isaiah Ritzmann, Kai Reimer-Watts,  
Laura Hamilton, Becky Voll and Henriëtte Thompson