**A Prayer for COP26** **on Friday.**

**Turn away from cynicism to life**

We stand at a tipping point, O God,

teetering between life and death:

Shall we fall or rise?

“Choose life!”

Shall we retreat into our shells, bury our heads in the sand:

Or shall we step forth into a new age of sustainability?

”Choose life!"

Shall we ignore the science, hide ourselves in the trappings of consumerism:

Or shall we openly embrace renewable lifestyles?

“Choose life!”

Shall we pointlessly mourn the loss of polar bears and elephants,

bees and butterflies,

Or shall we live our lives so that all may live?

“Choose life!”

Shall we fly to the ends of the earth while ice sheets melt:

Or value the future by enjoying what is local?

“Choose life!”

Shall we disregard floods and droughts, storms, and heat waves,

as seasonal blips:

Or acknowledge them as already-present signs of climate change?

“Choose life!”

Shall we close our ears to cries of help from farmers and islanders

as their lands disappear:

Or shall we join voices in calling for justice?

“Choose life!”

Holy God,

prompt us and urge us,

encourage and propel us,

to now change our lifestyles

so that all may have life and live!

Amen