

Life-giving God

We take a moment to gaze at You, at this aspect of You, and to become aware of what response this description raises in us. Wonder? Delight? Scepticism? Despair? We don't try to fix ourselves but merely allow the truth of where we find ourselves to be present, as we contemplate You.

Life-giving God

Breather of life, it is You who first breathed life into us, making it possible for us to enter into the fullness of being. You have demonstrated to us that You not only start life in us but You continue to offer and give Your life-giving breath. It was not a once-off, task-done event but rather an ongoing, never-ending, freely-given gift.

When Your life-giving is fully received it begets life-giving. We see it in Jesus and we see it in true Jesus followers like Arch Desmond Tutu...this receiving and giving, receiving and giving, receiving and giving. And when we stop to listen very carefully, we can hear the whole of creation breathing in this way. Our own breath picks up this rhythm of filling, giving, filling, giving, filling, giving.....

Your giving of life holds much depth and needs time to unearth its vitality. Often we withdraw too early, gathering what life we can without waiting for it to deepen and mature. We miss the invitation to learn to breathe in a different way...to practise a way that sustains and fills. We are easily tempted to turn away impatiently looking elsewhere for more immediate satisfaction. In that turning we do You a huge injustice as we conclude that Your breath alone cannot fill us, cannot satisfy us. We keep looking...never finding...never filling...never giving.

So we ask You to forgive us our hurry, our addiction to quick fixes, our not giving time to sync our breathing to Yours, of thinking we know better.

Please will You meet us, O Giver of Life, where we are at in our wonder, delight, scepticism and despair. Breathe in us Your life so that we may bow to Your ways, to trust that they do indeed bring life, leading us to become people, who in turn, bring life in our shallow-breathing, suffocating world.

Amen

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