



Dear God, thank you for the world. For the air we breathe, the sun which provides heat, solar energy and light, and for the water to drink and sustain our current destructive way of living. Thank you for the plants that grow in ways we cannot explain. For the wonder of tomatoes that grow when we have not planted them for gooseberries which seed themselves, grow wildly and then provide juicy, nourishing fruits. Thank you for air plants of which there are more than 550 varieties, which are so complex that we can't possibly understand them. For how they use their roots to attach themselves to tree branches and how some produce the most exquisite flowers. These are miracles provided for us every single day. Thank you.

As humans, we seem incapable of caring for the earth, forgive us for this violence we partake in daily. We are all engaged in and participate in polluting the earth. It is not always someone else or even someone else's problem. But we live like it is and with the pandemic we are even more reluctant to pick up – what is other people's waste. We have to be more careful with the world and yet we are not despite so many warning

signs – like the warning signs in a car, that it needs more oil, or water or air in the tyres – we respond to *these* warning signs but soon there will literally not be any more oil, any more water or any more air not just for cars, but for everything and everyone else too.

Lord remind us there is no world out there, we are not inside this church building as if the world only begins to exist once we step outside. The wooden pews we **sit on and pray with** were shaped from trees. The stained glass windows which are impossible to ignore, are made of sand and the colours dance with the light provided by the sun. The words we sing or speak here can only form through breathing air. These words can pollute or protect the world for there is no there and then here. We are always already of the world.

Thank you, Lord for love and care, for forgiveness and grace, for beauty and wonder and for the ways they can sustain us. Help us to recognise that every shade of green on even the tiniest leaf is for all of us, to share and rejoice with and be comforted by. Help us to think about how to include, how to love others more deeply, show care in real ways and be in touch with the earth in ways that demand a different way of living from us. The world is made for love, we need to see that love, recognise that love and love it deeply in return.

Amen,

Rose-Anne Reynolds

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