

The Australian Fires: A Prayer for Conversion

In the Beginning,
God created lush vegetation and
All living things: animals and birds,
And "all manner of creatures."
And "God saw that it was good."

But now, in the remnants of the garden,
Flames consume the trees,
Bark and branch.
And the good green is turned to grey ash.
Animals are plunged into
A nightmare scenario,
Wild to escape the burning.
Ecosystems collapse, and
All manner of creatures are destroyed.

God, who created this earth
As a garden, full of life and living things,
Forgive us as we witness the destruction
Of your gift of this world, once so fresh and verdant.

Give us the hope and the courage
To add our voices to the cry
For the renewal of the earth,
For confronting climate change,
For calling, over and over again,
For the end of dependence on fossil fuels,
For justice for this fragile earth.

May we honor all that has been destroyed
With a renewed and firm commitment
To proclaim the goodness of all of Creation,
To change hearts as well as laws,
To restore the garden, to protect new life,
To be the guardians of these sacred gifts.

Amen

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