

### **Psalm 31: 9-16**

Be gracious to the earth, O God, for it is in distress;  
the ice caps melt away from the warming of rampant  
industrialization,  
the soul of the trees of the field,  
which once clapped their hands, are scattered  
and the bodies of creatures are endangered.

The life of soil is spent in single-crop farming,  
and years of care for national parks  
and all the sacred places of God's children  
are just sighs to those who mine them.  
The strength of pollinators fails  
in the midst of their migration,  
and the bones of the mountain tops  
are choking the waterways.

The earth's body is the scorn of the powerful,  
a horror is the rainforest become a savannah.

It has become an object of dread  
even to those who long to repair its damage.  
On the streets or in the sky —  
those who monitor carbon emissions  
long to flee, but there is nowhere to go.

The earth has passed out of mind of the wealthy.  
It has become a broken vessel.

Those without grandchildren  
or whose grandchildren mean nothing to them  
or who do not know  
that children everywhere are their progeny  
scheme together, plotting to be rich now  
and escape somewhere, someday.

They take the life of the earth.

But we trust in you, O God, and know that you trust in us.  
Our times are in your hands, and your times are in our hands.

Deliver us from all who scheme destruction.

Let your light shine upon us and teach us to be savers for you,  
to become the doers of your steadfast love.

**John 14: 1-14** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.