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**Living Psalms Book**

*Psalms in the form of words and art, reborn in the specific contexts of our world, privileging the voices of historically marginalized communities and those acting in solidarity with them.*

**Living Psalms for Creation Justice**

**Lent, 2020**

*(To accompany* ***Journey Toward Hope****)*

**Living Psalm 51—Confession**

**For the Healing of Nature**

*To any leader. A Psalm of David, when he took what he wanted, uncaring of the death and damage it caused, which was great.*

*(responsive)*

Have mercy on us, O God,

with the love that shaped all creation,

**for we confess that we have been the ones**

**who blotted out --**

**made endangered and extinct --**

**creatures of air and land**

**by destroying their habitats.**

If there is any clean water left, wash us,

**but only after the creatures**

**of the oceans and lakes and rivers**

**return and are healed.**

For we know our transgression --

we have torn off the tops of mountains  
**and our sin has fracked deep**

**into the very fissures of the earth.**

Against you, melting your glaciers, we sin,  
and we have done what is evil.

**Wildfires rage across Australia, California,**

**and the Amazon rainforest**

**and fox and koala and ocelot**

**judge us by their death.**

Indeed, we are guilty against the newly born --

**who will be eleven years-old,**

**when our greed changes their earth**

**beyond hope of repair.**

You desire truth but we clutch lies

about the climate.  
**Help us repent so we can hear wisdom,**

**and make us wise enough to repent.**

Let us not be clean,

**but dirty in a community garden,**

and wet with sweat

**because we have walked and biked,**

**taken buses instead of cars,  
washed only with quick showers.**

Let us taste the joy of locavores,

**celebrate grizzly, wolf, gray whale,**

**sea lion, panda,**

**who have come back to thriving**.

Most of all -- let our hearts be stirred

not by what makes us wealthy in money

but what makes us wealthy in future.

**Create in us a pure heart, O God,**

**and renew in us**

**the Spirit that hovers over your creation.**

Then we will let our children teach us,  
honor sacred lands of indigenous peoples,  
**open our lips for national parks  
and our mouths for wildlife refuges.**

Deliver us from being destroyers, O God,  
**and give us tongues that call for change.**    

For you have no delight

when we pile abundance on abundance.  
**The gift that pleases you**

**is one pollinator saved --  
butterfly and bee, O God, is our acceptable prayer.**

*(for one voice)*

Have mercy on us, O God,

with the love that shaped all creation,  
for we confess that we have been the ones

who blotted out --

made endangered and extinct --

creatures of air and land

by destroying their habitats.

If there is any clean water left, wash us,

but only after the creatures

of the oceans and lakes and rivers

return and are healed.

For we know our transgression --

we have torn off the tops of mountains  
and our sin has fracked deep

into the very fissures of the earth.

Against you, melting your glaciers, we sin,  
and we have done what is evil,

so that wildfires rage across

Australia, California,

and the Amazon rainforest

and the fox and koala and ocelot

judge us by their death.

Indeed, we are guilty against the newly born

who will be eleven years-old,

when our greed changes their earth

beyond hope of repair.

You desire truth,

but we clutch lies about the climate.  
Help us repent so we can hear wisdom,

and make us wise enough to repent.

Let us not be clean,

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because we have walked and biked,

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**Living Psalm 51 for Ash Wednesday—for the Healing of Nature** was written by The Rev. Maren Tirabassi.

**Living Psalms Book is created by UCC Witness & Worship Artists’ Group,***a Network of UCC connected artists, activists and ministers bridging the worship and liturgy of the local church with witness and action in the community.* *Maren Tirabassi, editor*

***Logo*** *is detail from* ***Living Psalm 80*** *by Sophia Beardemphl, Redwoods, CA.* *Recovering from significant bullying, Sophia, age nine, read Psalm 80 and thought of brokenness that needs mending. She drew this broken and mended bowl.*

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