



all-consuming

justice for the earth

Opening Prayer

*Listen to the water, air and earth;
creation's treasure store.*

*They're wounded for the want of being
listened to:*

*They cry and too few hear;
they slowly die and too few mourn.*

*And yet
through those who give attention,
who stretch both hands
to touch, embrace, and tend;
through those who marvel, reverence, and
kneel and cup the water, feel the breath of
heaven, and hear the humming earth, >>*

>>

*a healing comes
and there are seeds of hope;
here is tomorrow
germinating in today.*

*Listen to the stories, dreams and thoughts
of those who have no voice.
They're wounded for the want of being listened to;
They cry and too few hear;
they slowly die and too few mourn.*

*And yet
through these who give attention,
who stretch both hands to touch, embrace, receive;
through these who labour, claim their dignity
and drink the cup of suffering,
breather winds of change,
and earth their dreams in struggle,
healing comes
and there are seeds of tomorrow
germinating in today.*

*Be just - sharing in their truth.
In finding them,
you find yourself.*

Kate Compston - Hampshire

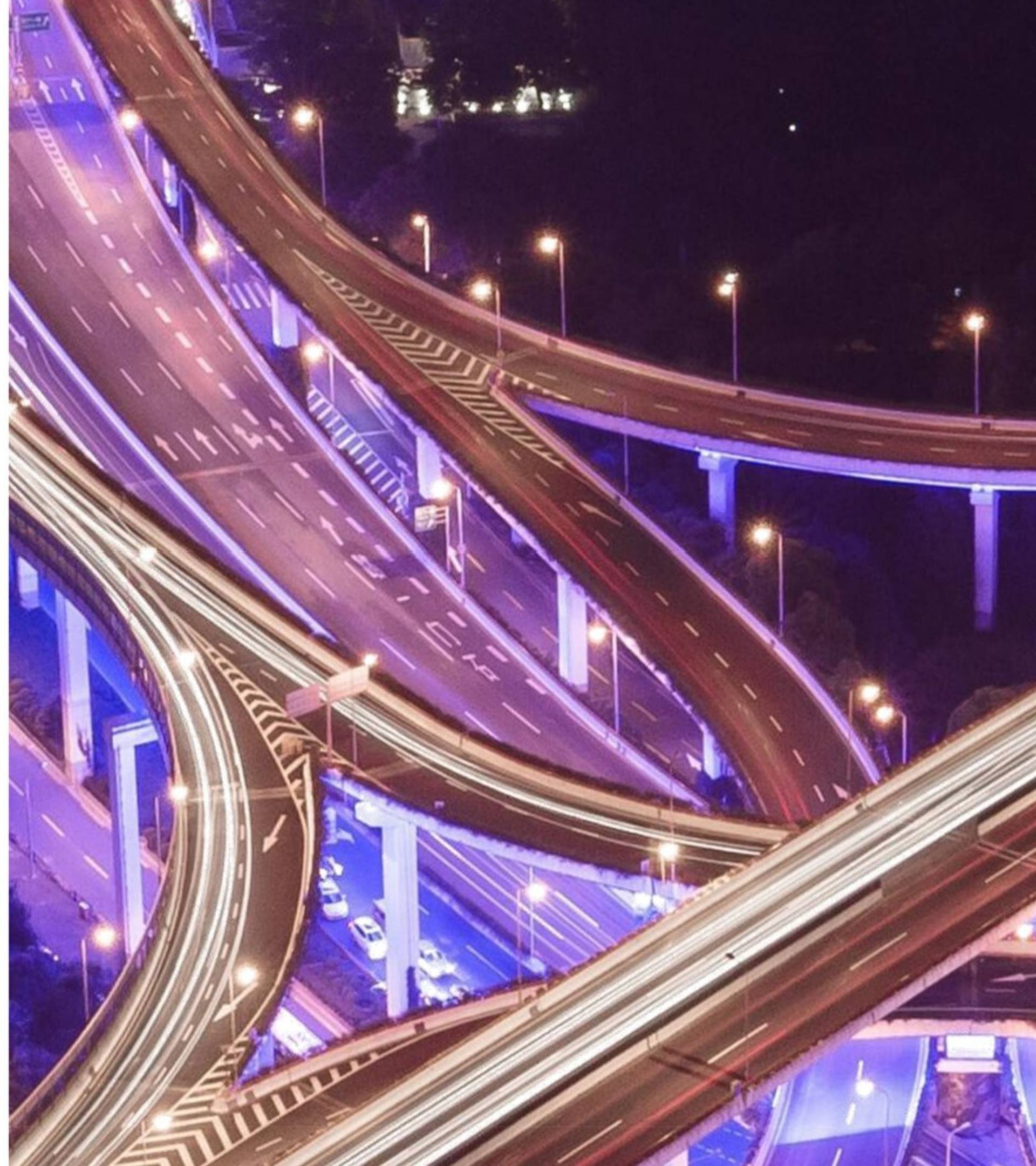


Reflection by Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

“We know a little about the way in which economic ‘rationalisation’ to meet the requirements of the World Bank at the end of the eighties put pressure on Rwanda, contributing to the social rootlessness that leads to militarisation. We are conscious of the poisonous legacy of colonial manipulation of tribal rivalry, but we are only slowly recognising the role of population growth, environmental degradation and consequent land shortage in fuelling the conflicts that followed.

When we speak about environmental crisis, we are not to think only of spiralling poverty and mortality, but about brutal and uncontrollable conflict. An economics that ignores environmental degradation invites social degradation – in plain terms, violence.

Needless to say, it will be the poorest countries that suffer first and most dramatically, but the ‘developed’ world will not be able to escape: the failure to manage the resources we have has the same consequences wherever we are. In the interim – just as within so much of urban society in wealthier countries – we can imagine ‘fortress’ situations, struggling to keep the growing instability and violence elsewhere at bay and so intensifying its energy.”





Going deeper

1. The Archbishop describes the spiral of poverty and violence typical of many countries in the global South, brought about by colonisation, corporate control, corrupt leadership, and the restructuring demands of the World Bank. What sort of pressures does this put on the environment?
2. Some companies make their profits with no consideration of human rights, workers wages and conditions, or environmental damage. How can we encourage investors/shareholders to be mindful of these effects on others and on the environment?



Readings and Discussion

Read Hosea 4:1-3

1. What does Hosea mean by saying that “the land mourns”?
2. How does Hosea see the condition of the land relating to human activity?
3. How should we interpret this today?

Read Isaiah 65: 17-25

1. What is the central idea of Isaiah’s vision?
2. What is God’s role in bringing about this vision, and what place do humans have in it?
3. In light of this, how might we be called to cooperate with God in this creative work?

Prayer

Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

ANZPB p.490





Making it Happen

The contents of our shopping bags connect us to the Earth, from which the goods originated, and to the people who produced them.

1. Familiarise yourself with - and introduce family, friends and neighbours to - fairly traded goods.
2. Work to make your community/town/parish become a Fair Trade one.

(Tea and coffee is an easy place to start - ask your supermarket or visit a Trade Aid shop for more ideas and resources).

Closing Prayer

*Oh God, whose word is fruitless when
the mighty are not put down, the humble
remain humiliated,
the hungry are not filled, and the rich are:
make good your word and begin with us.*

*Open our hearts and unblock our ears
to hear the voices of the poor
and share their struggle,
and send us away empty with longing
for your promises to come true
in Jesus Christ.*

Amen

Janet Morley - "Tell Out My Soul"





Journal entry

1. Take 10 items from your shopping this week and list them. Can you visualise the hands that have prepared them?

Write about who and what you see.

2. See if you can assess how these goods' production, transport and packaging has affected the Earth and its people:

In what ways can you change your shopping habits, so you are contributing to a just and sustainable world?