

*A Thanksgiving for Wilderness*

Creator God, we thank you that you show your face to us  
in wilderness and desert places.

We praise you for the deep places of the sea,  
and for coastlines smashed by surf  
and caressed by gentle waves.

We praise you for the sun-baked, wind-swept lands,  
and for rocks and mountains older than human memory.

We praise you for the rivers that sculpt the plains,  
and for salt lakes that wait for the blessing of times of flooding.

We praise you for the fragile life that flourishes  
in places too hot, too cold, or too dry for human comfort,  
and for forests rising  
through tropical rain and cool southern mist.

We thank you for showing your glory in creation  
to the first people of Australia,  
and for their long and careful custody of the land.

We thank you for new ways of protecting the land  
so that future generations may also rejoice in your handiwork.

Give us grace to recognise your wonders  
in the dust at our feet and the haze on the horizon,  
and in all the creatures you have made,  
in their astonishing diversity.

And give us voices to praise you in awe and gratitude,  
both now and for evermore. **Amen.**