

## God's Generous Promise

Loving Father, we thank You for your generous promise to us that You will continue to send the seasons, day and night, cold and heat, springtime and harvest, for as long as there is an earth for us to stand upon.

We thank You that these gifts, and the work of human hands, have given us food to eat, clothes to wear, and all the other bounty that the natural world offers. And we are grateful, that although we do not understand Your plan for us or for Your creation, we can trust in Your promise to continue to send these gifts, and to care for us.

Father, we thank You too that You have made us stewards of the world. We are sorry that we are often not good stewards. We waste Your gifts; we pollute; we do not care properly for our environment, or for the creatures that share it with us. Make us understand that all things in creation are Yours, we have them on trust only, and the Earth is not ours to exploit as we will.

Father, You have promised to continue to send these generous gifts, and so we have faith that You will. But help us to see that we have a responsibility too. May we all be prepared to play our part, however small, in caring for Your creation. Grant that we tread lightly upon the planet as we go about our daily business. Be with our leaders as they struggle to balance the needs of a growing human population with a catastrophic decline in the number of the earth's species. Encourage a spirit of co-operation and understanding among the nations so that nothing is wasted, and all may benefit equally from your gifts.

So, Father, make us trustworthy stewards of Your world, partners with You in Your continued generous promise, committed to ensuring that the fruits of Your bounty will be enjoyed by our children, and our children's children, for as long as there is an earth for us to stand upon.

Amen.