



# fully human

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technology our saviour?

## Opening Prayer

*O God,  
you wonderfully created  
and yet more wonderfully restored  
the dignity of human nature;  
grant that we may share the divine life  
of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. Amen*

*ANZPB p. 557, Collect for Christmas 1*

## Reflection by Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

“One of the reasons sometimes given for not being too alarmed by predictions of ecological disaster is that we are underrating the possibilities that will be offered by new technologies. Apart from the assumption that we have time to spare in this matter, what is startling is the appeal to ‘technical change’ in these general terms as a messianic resource.

To appeal to a technical future is to say that our most fundamental right as humans is unrestricted consumer choice. In order to defend that, we must mobilise all our resources of skill and ingenuity, diverting resources from other areas so that we can solve problems created by our own addictive behaviours. The question is whether, even if this were clearly possible, it would be a sane or desirable way of envisaging the human future. Religious belief claims, in the first place, that I am most fully myself only in relation with my creator; what I am in virtue of this relationship cannot be diminished or modified by any earthly power. In the natural environment there is a dimension that resists and escapes us; to be aware of that is to grasp the implications of belief in human dignity.”





## Going deeper

1. Why do you think the Archbishop describes the appeal to reliance on technology as “messianic”?

2. What “addictive behaviours” could the Archbishop be referring to?

3. Who and what decides how human skills and ingenuity are used and what are the reasons for the decisions?

Apart from pursuing new technology, how else could we use them?

4. People work harder and harder to “increase their standard of living”.

How does this fit with religious beliefs that it is our relationship with our Creator that should be the defining character of humanity?



## Readings and Discussion

### Read Micah 6:6-8

1. What sort of religious observance is the poet rejecting, and why?
2. How might the way of living that the LORD requires affect the current ecological crisis?

### Read Matthew 6:19-21

1. What does Jesus mean by “treasures in heaven”?
2. How would being obedient to the command “Do not store up for yourselves...” mean acting responsibly in relation to our environment?
3. How does this impact on our “full humanity”?

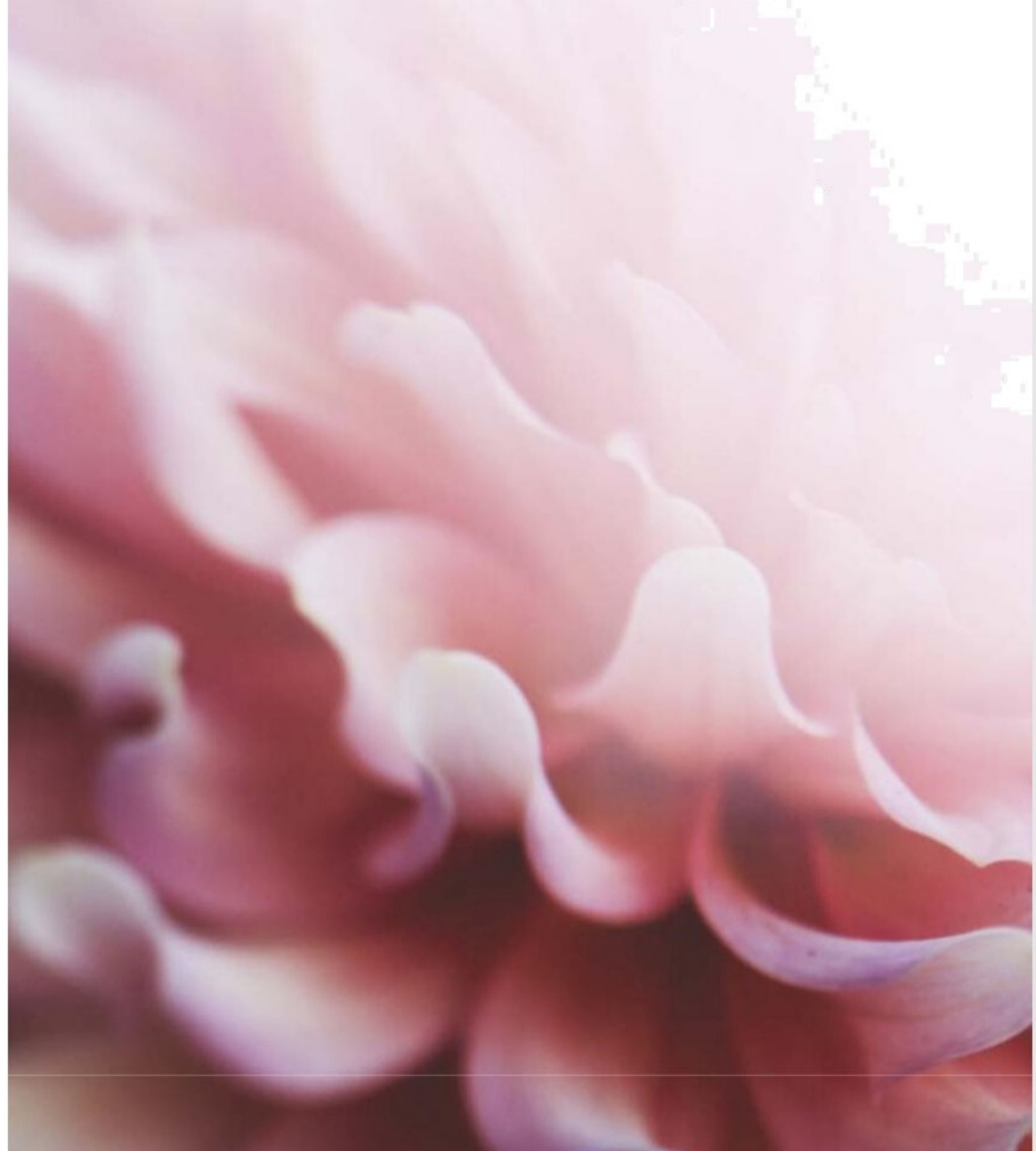
## Prayer

*God of peace let us your people know  
that at the heart of turbulence  
there is an inner calm that comes  
from faith in you.*

*Keep us from being content with things  
as they are,  
that from this central peace  
there may come a creative compassion,  
a thirst for justice,  
and a willingness to give of ourselves  
in the spirit of Christ.*

*Amen.*

*ANZPB p.464*





## Closing Prayer

*Lord, in these times when we fear we are  
losing hope*

*Or feel our efforts are futile,*

*Let us see in our hearts and minds the  
image of your resurrection,*

*And let that be the source of courage and  
strength.*

*With that, and in your company,*

*Help us to face challenges and struggles*

*Against all that is born of injustice.*

*From the Philippines*





## Journal entry

Jesus is our image for what it means to be human and we try to model ourselves on him. In the coming week try to imagine how Jesus would handle the lifestyle decisions that you face every day and their impact on the environment.