**Mercy & Courage**

*Questioning our smallness*

A Prayer from Judith Russenberger

Loving God,

we strive to follow your ways of righteousness and justice in the world.

Yet we feel small and inept,

and lay before you, our dilemma.

Will you stand by if humanity continues to ignore your ways,

following a path instead that leads to self-destruction?

Lord have mercy.

Will you stand by if 5000 choose not to follow the crowd?

For the sake of the few, will you protect us all from self-destruction?

Lord have mercy.

But loving God,

will you stand by if only 500 choose not to follow the crowd?

For the sake of the few, will you protect us all from self-destruction?

Lord have mercy.

But loving God,

will you stand by if only 50 choose not to follow the crowd?

For the sake of the few, will you protect us all from self-destruction?

Lord have mercy.

Loving God, strengthen our resolve to do what is right,

to stand up for the marginalised,

to safeguard creation and protect life,

even when we feel small and ineffective.

Give us the confidence to share our concerns

and our hopes for the planet,

so that we can encourage & welcome others

to follow the path of righteousness and justice.

**Amen**