

poem

Freedom is as freedom does

In September 2017, as National Poetry Day approached again, [Tearfund](#) challenged their supporters to write a short poem about freedom... it was that call to action that inspired this poetic voicing of many of the Sanctuary's core values and prayers:

Freedom is as freedom does

I'm still learning freedom is as freedom does;
it's about the you – as well as the me – contained in us...

Heaven's maths and kingdom equality are set by the one who is also three,
one who multiplies his connection-reflection in billions more like me.

The West tells me: "live the material gospel of individuality!"
But I cannot be free if I'm bound up in someone else's slavery.

Consumer culture persuades me "make more to have more to one day be enough".
But I'll never find my wings in the service of amassing endless stuff.

It's not real plenty when it comes at such poverty-sustaining cost.
It's not seeing the world if others' homes and habitats get lost.

It's simply not real *life* if it clutters my days with distraction
and robs me of time and space with my One True Satisfaction.

So God of freedom, crash through all my self-justifying defences;
help me see better through this matrix and come to my senses.

It was for freedom that you so extravagantly set us free,
not for comfort, but for upward and outward relational liberty.

For I am not just *I* – I am in you and I am in your body.
So I am less with every threat to – every theft from – our corporately.
But I am more – and I am *free* – when I surrender to you; utterly.