## Praise the Blessed One!

# For through love all was created

Ps 148 (Nan Merrill)

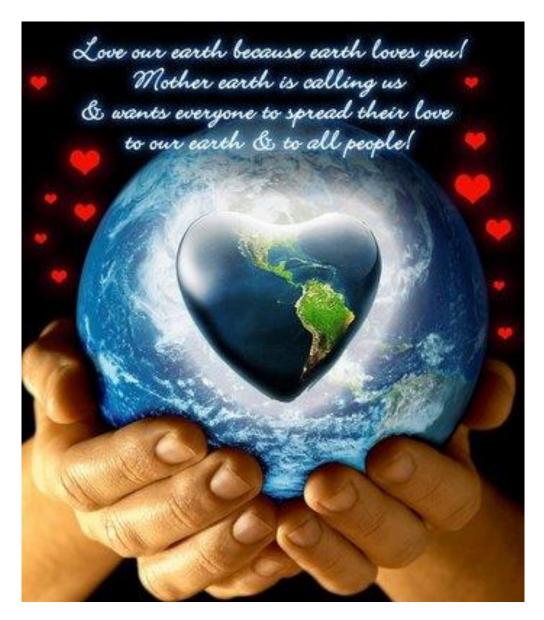


Image 'Untitled' by Sherry. Source: http://www.lovelettertotheearth.com/

PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL PRAYER

GOD'S HEALING MERCY IS FORGIVNESS: THE EARTH

Gathering Hymn: One of your own choosing or

#### **HOLY GROUND**

by Joyce Johnson Rouse

From the cornfields with the tassels gently waving To the rocky coastlines where the oceans pound, You can hear all nature whisper if you listen "We are standing on Holy Ground".

From the landfills where we blindly leave our refuse To the graveyards where we softly lay our dead, From the pastures where the hooves of cattle wander To the houses where we take our daily bread,

From the battlefields where some have died for freedom To the halls where sometimes justice can be found, Under boardrooms, churches, factories and playrooms We're learning it's all Holy Ground.

Consecrated in the beginning Mother of all living things Sacred to all who are hearing the call The Earth is a paradise that sings.

From the ancient forests hearkening primeval To the clearcuts where tragedies abound Under palaces and barrios and bridges It's all the same, its Holy Ground Every inch of it is Holy Ground.

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#### Welcome into the Circle of Prayer:

We gather today to rejoice in the creation of the world and to pray for the wellbeing of all of life. Most gracious God, you alone know the full extent of the destruction we have wrought and what needs to be done to remedy it. We pray for people around the globe who suffer because of environmental damage. We pray for the defenceless creatures harmed or made extinct by your selfishness and ignorance. We pray for the oceans, air, mountains, and plants and soil that life and health may again pulse in them. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us that we may have the passion and wisdom to work effectively to restore creation. Bless the Earth and all its life in every way.



### Reading: What have you done to me?

.....from day to night You bring me to an end. Is 38:13B

I am the spawning salmon too weak to swim upstream

I am the sickened song bird dying from pesticides

I am the unprotected top soil ripped away by swirling rains

I am the great rivers and lakes invaded by murky garbage

I am homeless creatures searching for a lost habitat

I am the emptied rain forest weeping from being raped

I am the gentle dolphin tangled in gluttonous fishing nets

I am the graceful antelope hit by the speeding vehicle

I am all species of plant and creature threatened, poisoned, destroyed

I am Earth, your nurturing Mother, wounded and in sore distress

Who will hear my cry?
Who will bear my sorrows?
Who will come to my aid?
Who will free me from my pain?

#### **Joyce Rupp**

From The Cosmic Dance: An Invitation to Experience Our Oneness

#### **Time for Personal Reflection and Sharing**

#### Litany:

#### **Living in Harmony**

(adapted from Words for the Journey for Teens by Lisa Freemantle, Les Miller & Melinda Rapallo-Ferrara)

May we use the world's resources that we need with love, humility and thoughtfulness, without guilt, without fear, without waste.

All: May we live in harmony with earth

May we live together with animals and all creatures with which we share this planet, being careful not to harm them or their habitats.

All: May we live in harmony with earth

May we respect the life in our lakes, rivers and oceans, using them with care and being mindful in our efforts not to pollute them.

All: May we live in harmony with earth

May we learn to live our means, by reducing our waste and continuing to reuse and recycle all that we can.

All: May we live in harmony with earth

May we plan to leave the world in a state that all future generations will be able to enjoy, ensuring that it is filled with resources, life, and kept healthy and clean.

All: May we live in harmony with earth

**Closing Prayer: Celtic Blessing** 

Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you, deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you, deep peace of the watching shepherds to you, deep peace of the Son of peace to you!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEmvQqg EpQ