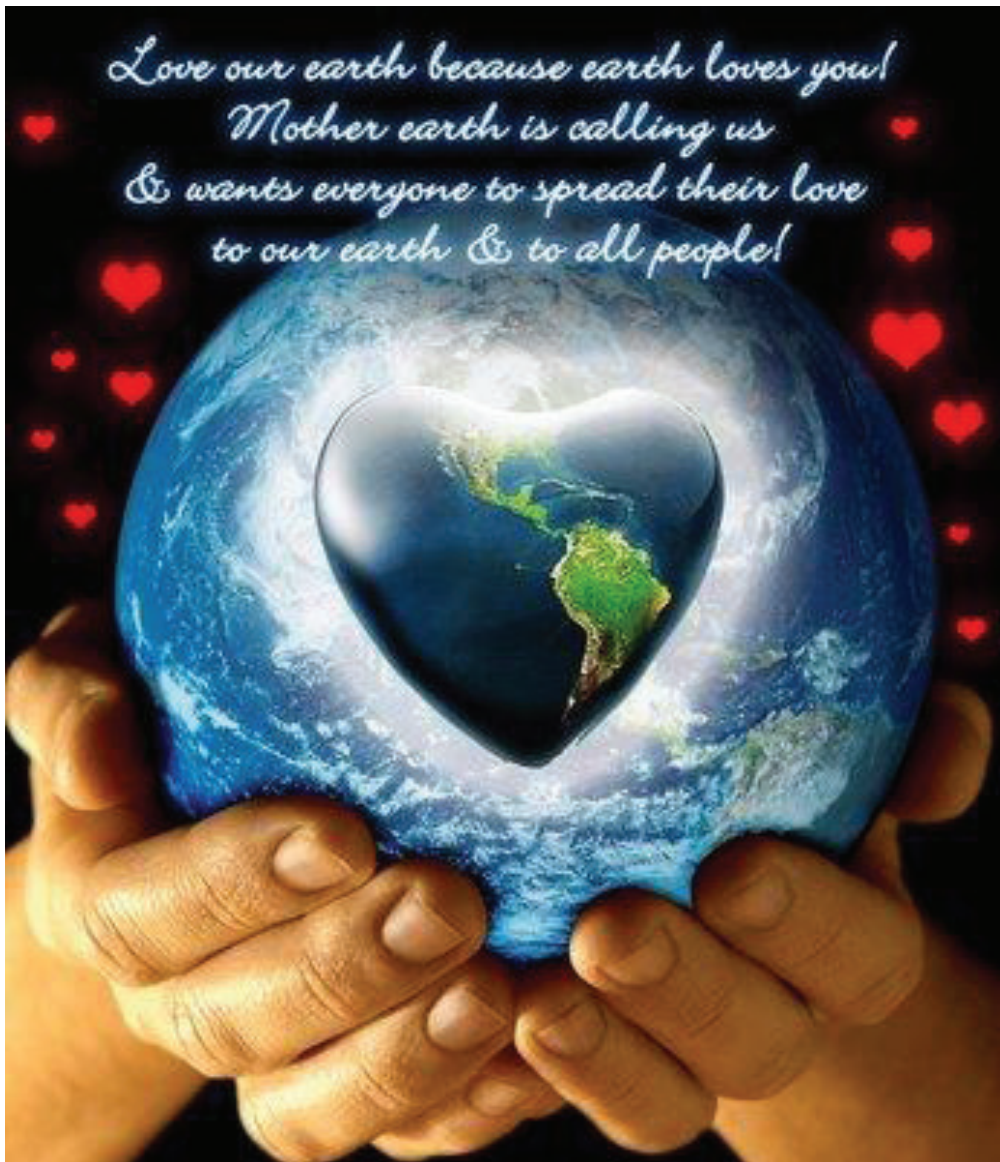


Praise the Blessed One!

For through love all was created

Ps 148 (Nan Merrill)



PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL PRAYER

GOD'S HEALING MERCY IS FORGIVENESS: 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