

Litanies and Prayers¹ for a Growing Awareness of our Common Stewardship of the Earth

(Compiled for Earth Vigil at Christ Church, WFB on January 21, 2017)

A Prayer of Awareness

Today we know of the energy that moves all things: the oneness of existence, the diversity and uniqueness of every moment of creation, every shape and form, the attraction, the allurements, the fascination that all things have for one another.

Humbled by our knowledge, chastened by surprising revelations, with awe and reverence we come before the mystery of life.

A Litany for the Four Directions

Leader 1: Let us give thanks for the East, for the ancient hills and valleys and streams without end, for the green Atlantic from the reaches of Maine to the Florida Keys, for larch and hemlock, for black bear and mountain trout, for cardinals and eastern bluebirds, for heat in the hayfields of late August:

Response: We bless you, O God, for the East. (pause)

Leader: Let us give thanks for the West, for soaring mountains and searing deserts, for waters roaring into the Pacific Ocean, for Columbia River salmon, snow buntings and western meadowlarks, for ponderosa and Jeffrey pine, for the mists of the Oregon coast and for the Olympic peninsula:

Response: We bless you, O God, for the West. (pause)

Leader: Let us give thanks for the North, for the bright band of prairie and wheatfields stretching across the land, for the jayhawk and the loon, for the badlands of the Dakotas and the lakes of Minnesota, for northern pike and steeleye, for winding two-lane blacktops in the heart of Wyoming.

Response: We bless you, O God, for the North. (pause)

Leader: Let us give thanks for the South, for the broad Mississippi delta and the great Smokey Mountains, for the bayous of Louisiana, for magnolia trees, for the kiskadee and egret, for catfish and parrotfish and for the cotton and the colors on the sands and strands of the southland:

Response: We bless you, O God, for the South. ((pause)

Leader: Good God, Creator of the world, draw us into prayer and celebration as we gather to remember the gifts of your earth and the stewardship you have entrusted to us as tillers and tenders in your image.

We know that in the gathering of the people, power is present among us; your Holy Spirit stirs and moves and gives us courage to remember that all good gifts come first from you.

We praise you for this creation in the words of the Psalmist, sung by our ancestors in faith for generations:

1. Resources edited from [GreenFaith Interfaith Partners for the Environment](#) web page, and from the [Book of Common Prayer](#).

"God speaks: the heavens are made; God breathes: the stars shine. God bottles the waters of the sea and stores them in the deep. All earth, be astounded, stand in awe of God."

Keep us faithful to this gathering in faith and "bless this vine your right hand has planted." Now and forever.

Everyone: Amen.

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) **A Litany of Remorse**

Leader 2: We have forgotten who we are. We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos. We have become estranged from the movements of the earth. We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

Response: We have forgotten who we are. (pause)

Leader: We have sought only our own security. We have exploited simply for our own ends. We have distorted our knowledge. We have abused our power.

Response: We have forgotten who we are. (pause)

Leader: Now the land is barren. And the waters are poisoned. And the air is polluted.

Response: We have forgotten who we are. (pause)

Leader: Now the forests are dying. And the creatures are disappearing. And humans are despairing.

Response: We have forgotten who we are. (pause)

Leader: We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering. We ask for the strength to change.

Response: We have forgotten who we are. (pause)

Everyone: Dear Lord, you have sent us into this world to share your word. So often the problems of the world seem so complex and intricate that your word strikes us as embarrassingly simple. Many times we feel tongue-tied in the company of people who are dealing with the world's social and economic problems. (pause)

But you, O Lord, said "Be clever as serpents and innocent as doves". Help us to retain innocence and simplicity in the midst of this complex world. We realize that we have to be informed, that we have to study the many aspects of the problems facing the world, and that we have to try to understand as well as possible the dynamics of our contemporary society. But what really counts is that all this information, knowledge, and insight allows us to speak more clearly and unambiguously your truthful word. Do not allow evil powers to seduce us with the complexities of the world's problems, but give us the strength to think clearly, speak freely, and act boldly in your service. Give us the courage to show the dove in a world so full of serpents. Amen.

- Henri Nouwen

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) **A Litany for Healing**

Leader 3: To bring new life to the land. To restore the waters. To refresh the air.

Response: We join with the earth and with each other. (pause)

Leader: To renew the forests. To care for the plants. To protect the creatures.

Response: We join with the earth and with each other. (pause)

Leader: To celebrate the seas. To rejoice in the sunlight. To sing the song of the stars.

Response: We join with the earth and with each other. (pause)

Leader: To recall our destiny. To renew our spirits. To reinvigorate our bodies.

Response: We join with the earth and with each other. (pause)

Leader: To recreate the human community. To promote justice and peace. To remember our children.

Response: We join with the earth and with each other. (pause)

Everyone: We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

Return blessings, O Holy Ones,
So life's cycles can continue with beauty, balance,
And abundance. May life's cycles return blessings. (pause)

Return blessings, Sacred Earth.
So air, water, fire, and food can nourish all we hold dear.
May air, water, fire, and food return blessings. (pause)

Return blessings, Beloved Sisters and Brothers,
So all creation can share pleasure and do justice. May all creation return blessings. (pause)

Return blessings, Crawling Creatures and Winged Friends,
So the Earth can be renewed. May the Earth return blessings. (pause)

Return blessings, Trees, Flowers, Rivers, Mountains,
So nature can refresh all spirits. May nature return blessings. (pause)

Return blessings, Stars, Moons, Planets, Galaxies,
So wonder can nourish all visions. May wonder return blessings. (pause)

Return blessings, Changing Seasons,
So life's cycles can continue in peace. May life's cycles return blessings. Amen.

- Carolyn Merchant, *The Death of Nature: Women Ecology and the Scientific Revolution* (New York: Harper & Row, 1980), xv.

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) **A Reading**

Leader 4: A Canadian 14-year old's address to the 1992 UN Earth Summit in Brazil...

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) **A Litany of Gratitude**

Leader 1: We live in all things. All things live in us.

Response: We rejoice in all life. (pause)

Leader: We live by the sun. We move with the stars.

Response: We rejoice in all life. (pause)

Leader: We eat from the earth. We drink from the rain. We breathe from the air.

Response: We rejoice in all life. (pause)

Leader: We share with the creatures. We have strength through their gifts.

Response: We rejoice in all life. (pause)

Leader: We depend on the forests. We have knowledge through their secrets.

Response: We rejoice in all life. (pause)

Leader: We have the privilege of seeing and understanding. We have the responsibility of caring. We have the joy of celebrating.

Response: We rejoice in all life. (pause)

Leader: We are full of the grace of creation. We are graceful. We are grateful.

Response: We rejoice in all life. (pause)

Everyone: O Great Spirit

Whose breath gives life to the world and whose

Voice is heard in the soft breeze, we need your

Strength and wisdom.

May we walk in Beauty.

May our eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make us wise so that we may understand what you have taught us.

Help us learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

Make us always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes so when life fades, as the fading sunset,

Our spirits may come to you without shame.

The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,

The world and all those who dwell in it.

- Native American Prayer

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) A Litany for God's Guidance

Leader 2: O sing to God a new creation song.

People: For God has done marvelous things. (pause)

Leader: We are born citizens of God's world.

People: For God has done marvelous things. (pause)

Leader: Let us see the earth as children of the earth.

People: Give us a clear vision, O God. (pause)

Leader: May our sights be greater than house to house.

People: Give us clear vision, O God. (pause)

Leader: Grant us the knowledge to make tough choices for our world.

People: God, year with us from the foundations of the earth. (pause)

Leader: Cause us to share life from generation to generation.

People: God, you are with us from the foundations of the earth. (pause)

Leader: Challenge our stewardship to renew the heights with living things.

People: God's hands are upon all creatures who live upon the earth. (pause)

Leader: Many and great are your things, O God, maker of earth and sky.

People: God's hands are upon all creatures who live upon the earth. Amen (pause)

Everyone: O, King of the Tree of Life, The blossoms on the branches are your people,
The singing birds are your angels, The whispering breeze is your Spirit.

O, King of the Tree of Life, May the blossoms bring forth the sweetest fruit,
May the birds sing out the highest praise. May your Spirit cover all with his gentle breath.

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) A Litany of Praise

Leader 3: "The Earth. . . is a sparkling blue and white jewel. . . laced with slowly swirling veils of white. . . like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery." (Edgar Mitchell, US Astronaut)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (pause) - Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic

Leader: "O moving force of Wisdom, you encircle the wheel of the cosmos, you encompass all that is, all that has life, in one vast circle." (Hildegard of Bingen)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (pause) - Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic

Leader: "It could be that god has not absconded but spread, as our vision and understanding of the universe have spread, to a fabric of spirit and sense so grand and subtle, powerful in a new way, that we can only feel blindly of its hem." (Annie Dillard, naturalist writer)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (pause) - Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic

Leader: ". . . stardust is not just fairy-tale magic; it is what we are really made of. . ." (Elisabet Sahtouris, Ecofeminist)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (pause) - Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic

Leader: "Great Spirit, . . . give me the strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is! . . . all over the earth the faces of living things are all alike. . . This is my prayer; hear me!" (Black Elk, Oglala Sioux)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (pause) - Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic

Leader: "There is not anything new to be born. It has been within you from the beginningless beginning. It has only to be awakened, to become aware of itself in you." (Zen saying)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (pause) - Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic

Leader: ". . . for in God we live/ and move/ and have our being." (Acts 17:28)

All: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic) **Right:** ". . . When you stand in the presence of the moon, you become a new creation. . . The elementary particles of your body have absorbed an influence and in that sense they--and you--are brand spanking new, a human being resonating everywhere with moonlight." (pause)
- Brian Swimme, physicist

Leader: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)

All: "We shall not cease from exploration/ And the end of all our exploring/ Will be to arrive where we started/ And know the place for the first time." (pause) - T. S. Eliot, poet

Leader: "All creation is a song of praise to God." (Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)

Everyone: I am the one whose praise echoes on high I adorn all the earth I am the breeze that nurtures all things green I encourage blossoms to flourish with ripening fruits. I am led by the spirit to feed the purest streams. I am the rain coming from the dew That causes the grasses to laugh with the joy of life. I am the yearning for good.

- Hildegard of Bingen

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) **A Litany for Growth**

Leader 4: God, Source of all life, how excellent is your name in all the earthy.

All: All people glorify your holy name together.

Leader: The majesty and vastness of your creation wraps us round with power and wonder.

All: We thank you, O God. (pause)

Leader: For the fertility to nourish cattle and fields, for the means allowing persons and families to survive.

All: We thank you, O God. (pause)

Leader: God made these great works, the gardens and seas; God's hands these wonders wrought.

All: We praise you, O God. (pause)

Leader: For the joy of being a part of nature throughout all our days and in all our ways.

All: We praise you, O God. (pause)

Leader: That it may please you to sustain that mighty power which made the mountains rise and sets forth each morning's challenge.

All: We beseech you to hear us, O God. (pause)

Leader: That it may please you to continue to guide us through the dark nights and never ending days of our creation.

All: We beseech you to hear us, O God. (pause)

Leader: O God, whatever is true, whatever is just, we have received from your hand.

All: We praise you, O God, and bless your Holy Name. Amen. (pause)

Everyone:

With beauty before me,
May I walk.
With beauty behind me,
May I walk.
With beauty above me,
May I walk.
With beauty below me,
May I walk.
With beauty around me,
May I walk.
Wandering on a trail of beauty,
Lively I walk.

- Navajo Prayer

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) **A Litany of Confession**

Leader 1: We have forgotten who we are.

All: We have forgotten who we are. (pause)

Leader 2: We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos.

Leader 3: We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.

Leader 4: We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

All: We have forgotten who we are (pause)

Leader 1: We have sought only our own security.

Leader 2: We have exploited simply for our own needs.

Leaders 3 & 4: We have distorted our knowledge. We have abused our power.

All: We have forgotten who we are. (pause)

Leader 1: Now that the land is barren

Leader 2: And the air is polluted

Leaders 3 & 4: And the waters are poisoned.

All: We have forgotten who we are. (pause)

leader 1: Now the forests are dying

Leader 2: And the creatures are disappearing

Leaders 3 & 4: And humans are despairing

All: We have forgotten who we are. We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering. We ask for the strength to change. We have forgotten who we are. (pause)

Everyone: May this Earth, whose surface undulates with many gradients, and sustains an abundant variety of herbs and plants of different potencies and qualities, support all human beings, in all their diversity of endowment, in mutually supportive harmony and prosperity. (pause)

May this Earth, replete with seas, rivers and water sources, excellent food grain from agriculture, prolific vegetation and abundant living creatures bestow upon us munificent nutrition. (pause)

Skillfully conserved by wise and alert persons, this Earth, which in ancient times was submerged in water, and is bound with the highest spiritual force, may this Earth, infused with divine force and truth, confer upon us brilliance, strength and sovereignty. (pause)

May this Earth, bearing snowy mountains and deep forests, be kind to us and give us happiness. (pause)

May the Earth's supportive surface be fertile & arable, abundantly endowed with forests, and may this Earth with regular change of seasons, and with a stable base for life, provide a safe existence protected from untimely interventions. (pause)

May all mortal entities, bipeds & quadrupeds, and all communities of human beings, receive the spiritual stimulus of the ever-rising & inexhaustible Sun.

Boulders, rocks, stones, dust-particles, all these form the Earth's crust; the Earth is golden within. May the Earth support us.

- Hindu Prayer

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) Another Litany of Praise

Leader 2: Let us praise God for the wondrous works of Creation.

People: For all these gifts, we praise God's name together. (pause)

Leader: God has placed us on this earth to dress it and keep it.

People: For all these gifts, we praise God's name together. (pause)

Leader: For the common soil which nourishes and sustains all life;

People: We raise our hymn of grateful praise.

Leader: For the life giving rain to water the earth and bestow life on all beings;

People: We raise our hymn of grateful praise. (pause)

Leader: For the wonders of the plants and the animals in our world;

People: Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (pause)

Leader: For the diverse peoples who touch each life with love;

People: Let all the people praise you, O God. (pause)

Leader: God has filled the air with sound and harmony;

People: We shout and sing together for joy. (pause)

Leader: Blessed are those who grow in the grace and knowledge of God;

People: We shout and sing together for joy. AMEN. (pause)

Everyone:

All people of the earth, each and every nation
Arise and rejoice at the continued creation
Of beauty, of springtime, the yearly rebirth
Of our protector, our home, our own Mother Earth!
(pause)

Who despite our apparent lack of care
Creates bountiful splendor for all to share
From mountain tops to the deepest sea
All wonderful earthly miracles bursting free!
Yet this miracle of renewal requires the helping hand
Of the people to replenish and renew the land
From the largest of cities to the most remote farms
To unite in spirit and with the strongest arms.
Become a midwife to the birth of each flower
A guardian of our resources hour by hour
We must learn to take time to appreciate

(pause)

The miracles of which we did not create.
For God has given this wonderful treasure
And its preservation will be the measure
Of people who recognize and will celebrate
The birth of each season before it's too late.
In citizenship, in willingness to toil
We must bend our backs and tend to the soil
In stewardship, arise and applaud the worth
Of the wondrous marvel of our Living Earth!
Consider creation; Consider it now.
Amen.

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) **Another Litany of Confession**

Leader 3: We expect to encounter you in the comfort of our living rooms, O God.

All: But you are calling us out into the wildness of the desert night. (pause)

Leader: We grasp tightly to the conveniences and amenities of modern life.

All: We are so sated with rich food that we have forgotten what it means to hunger for your presence. (pause)

Leader: We are so comfortable that we forget about those who suffer.

All: Our schedules and our possessions require all our time and attention. (pause)

Leader: The noise of technology shuts out the voices of the poor and needy.

All: Lead us into the wilderness that we may remember who we are and discover who we are. (pause)

Everyone: The earth is our mother. We call her Mother earth. She is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human. She is the mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all. The earth of humankind contains all moistness, all verdancy, all germinating power. It is in so many ways fruitful. All creation comes from it. Yet it forms not only the basic raw material for humankind, but also the substance of the incarnation of God's son. (pause)

We who have lost our sense and our senses--our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are: we who frantically force and press all things, without rest for body or spirit, hurting our earth and injuring ourselves: we call a halt. We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the earth to rest. We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us, that is the ground of every unique expression of life, the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion. (pause)

We declare a Sabbath, a space of Quiet; for simply being and letting be; for recovering the great, forgotten truths; for learning how to live again. Amen

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) A Reading

Leader 4: A Canadian 14-year old's address to the 1992 UN Earth Summit in Brazil...

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) A Litany of Hope

Leader 1: May this Earth, whose surface undulates with many gradients, and sustains an abundant variety of herbs and plants of different potencies and qualities, support all human beings, in all their diversity of endowment, in mutually supportive harmony and prosperity.

All: May this Earth, replete with seas, rivers and water sources, excellent food grain from agriculture, prolific vegetation and abundant living creatures bestow upon us munificent nutrition. (pause)

Leader: Skillfully conserved by wise and alert persons, this Earth, which in ancient times was submerged in water, and is bound with the highest spiritual force, may this Earth, infused with divine force and truth, confer upon us brilliance, strength and sovereignty.

All: May this Earth, bearing snowy mountains and deep forests, be kind to us and give us happiness. (pause)

Leader: May the Earth's supportive surface be fertile & arable, abundantly endowed with forests, and may this Earth with regular change of seasons, and with a stable base for life, provide a safe existence protected from untimely interventions.

All: May all mortal entities, bipeds & quadrupeds, and all communities of human beings, receive the spiritual stimulus of the ever-rising & inexhaustible Sun. One: Boulders, rocks, stones, dust-particles, all these form the Earth's crust; the Earth is golden within. May the Earth support us. (pause)

Everyone:

We join with the earth and with each other
To bring new life to the land
To restore the waters
To refresh the air

We join with the earth and with each other
To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures
(pause)

We join with the earth and with the other
To celebrate the seas
To rejoice in the sunlight
To sing the song of the stars

We join with the earth and with each other
To recreate the human community
To promote justice and peace
To remember our children
(pause)

We join with the earth and with each other

We join together as many and diverse expressions
Of one loving memory: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.
Amen.

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) A Call to Prayer

Leader 1:

From before the world began and after the end of eternity,
You are God. (pause)
From the sea bursting out of its womb to the wind ceasing from its chase,
You are God. (pause)
In the constancy of created things, and in their rhythm of change,
You are God. (pause)
In the vastness of the universe and the forgotten corner of our hearts,
You are God. (pause)
You are our God
And we bless You.

Everyone

I see you in all things, O my God. Infinity itself is your creation. And all around are the signs of your infinity: the bursting life of countless plants; the unending song of innumerable birds; the tireless movement of animals and insects. Nowhere can I see a beginning or an end of your creation. I see the infinite beauty which infuses the entire universe.

(pause)

You are the king of the universe, and its beauty is your crown and scepter. I bow down in homage and adoration. You are immortal, imperishable, the summit of all knowledge, the power behind all movement. You designed all things, and set them in motion. The sun is your eye during the day, and the moon your eye at night. The wind is your breath, and the fertile brown earth is your heart. By your power all things are created, and by your power they are destroyed. Birth and death are in your hands. I tremble with awe and wonder when I contemplate your power.

(pause)

As the waters of a river flow to the sea, the path determined by the line of the valley, so we pass through life to death, our destiny mapped out by your will. Lord, reveal yourself to me. Show me that love, not hatred, inspires your creation. Show me that mercy, not anger guides my life. I do not ask to understand the mystery of your works; I want only to be assured of your goodness.

- Hindu Prayer

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Prayers from the Book of Common Prayer

Leader 2:

For Knowledge of God's Creation

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your

eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen* (pause).

Leader 3:

For the Conservation of Natural Resources

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*. (pause)

Leader 4:

For the Harvest of Lands and Waters

O gracious Father, *who openest thine hand and fillest all things living with plenteousness*: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let *thy* Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show *thy* loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what *thou givest*, that men and women everywhere may give *thee* thanks; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*. (pause)

Leader 1:

For the Future of the Human Race

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*. (pause)

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) More Prayers for from the Book of Common Prayer

Leader 2:

For our Country

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes

brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (pause)

Leader 3:

For the President of the United States and all in Civil Authority

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to *thy* merciful care, that, being guided by *thy* Providence, we may dwell secure in *thy* peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do *thy* will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in *thy* fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who *liveth* and *reigneth* with *thee* and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.* (pause)

Leader 4:

For Local Government

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this State of Wisconsin and city of Milwaukee the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (pause)

Leader 1:

For Courts of Justice

Almighty God, *who sittest* in the throne judging right: We humbly beseech *thee* to bless the courts of justice and the magistrates in all this land; and give *unto* them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in the fear of *thee* alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, *thy* Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.* (pause)

Leader 2:

For Sound Government

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care. (pause)

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord. (pause)

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our

laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord. (pause)

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord. (pause)

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

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(gong) More Prayers from the Book of Common Prayer

Leader 3:

For those who suffer for the sake of Conscience

O God our Father, whose Son forgave his enemies while he was suffering shame and death: Strengthen those who suffer for the sake of conscience; when they are accused, save them from speaking in hate; when they are rejected, save them from bitterness; when they are imprisoned, save them from despair; and to us your servants, give grace to respect their witness and to discern the truth, that our society may be cleansed and strengthened. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our merciful and righteous Judge. *Amen.* (pause)

Leader 4:

For Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (pause)

Leader 1:

For Joy in God's Creation

O heavenly Father, who *hast filled* the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold *thy* gracious hand in all *thy* works; that, rejoicing in *thy* whole creation, we may learn to serve *thee* with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all

things were made, *thy* Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (pause)

Leader 2:

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (pause)

Leader 3:

For Peace Among the Nations

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.* (pause)

Leader 4:

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

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Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ... (gong)

(gong) **The Great Litany**

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful,

Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,

Have mercy upon us.

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses

of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us forever.

Spare us, good Lord.

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are deceived,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States (or of this nation), and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy them,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That It may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by reason of their labor or their travel,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind, ***We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed eternal life and peace,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of all the saints, we may attain to thy heavenly kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Grant us thy peace.

O Christ, hear us.

O Christ, hear us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

Amen.

Time for SILENCE and Reflection (with music when available) ...

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If time remains, continue by returning to page one.

This is an address given by Severn Suzuki speaking for ECO at the 1992 UN Earth Summit in Brazil

We are a group of 12 and 13 year-olds trying to make a difference: Vanessa Suttie, Morgan Geisler, Michelle Quigg, and me. We've raised all the money to come here ourselves -- to come 5,000 miles to tell you adults you must change your ways. Coming up here today, I have no hidden agenda. I am fighting for my future. Losing my future is not like losing an election, or a few points on the stock market.

I am here to speak for all generations to come. I am here to speak -- speak on behalf of the starving children around the world whose cries go unheard. I am here to speak for the countless animals dying across this planet, because they have nowhere left to go. I am afraid to go out in the sun now, because of the holes in our ozone. I am afraid to breathe the air, because I don't know what chemicals are in it.

I used to go fishing in Vancouver, my home, with my Dad until, just a few years ago, we found the fish full of cancers. And now we hear of animals and plants going extinct every day, vanishing forever. In my life, I have dreamt of seeing the great herds of wild animals, jungles, and rainforests full of birds and butterflies, but now I wonder if they will even exist for my children to see.

Did you have to worry of these things when you were my age? All this is happening before our eyes and yet we act as if we have all the time we want and all the solutions. I'm only a child and I don't have all the solutions. I don't -- I want you to realize, neither do you. You don't know how to fix the holes in our ozone layer. You don't know how to bring the salmon back up in a dead stream. You don't know how to bring back an animal now extinct. And you can't bring back the forests that once grew where there is now a desert. If you don't know how to fix it, please stop breaking it.

Here, you may be delegates of your governments, business people, organizers, reporters, or politicians. But, really, you are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles -- and all of you are someone's child.

I'm only a child, yet I know we are all part of a family -- seven billion strong; in fact 30 million species strong -- and borders and governments will never change that. I'm only a child, yet I know we are all in this together and should act as one single world towards one single goal.

In my anger, I'm not blind; and in my fear, I'm not afraid of telling the world how I feel. In my country we make so much waste, we buy and throw away, buy and throw away, buy and throw away and yet Northern countries will not share with the needy. Even when we have more than enough we are afraid to share; we are afraid to let go of some of our wealth.

In Canada, we live the privileged life. We've plenty of food, water, and shelter. We have watches, bicycles, computers, and television sets. The list could go on for two days. Two days ago, here in Brazil, we were shocked when we spent time with some children living on the streets. This is what one child told us: "I wish I was rich and if I were, I would give all the street children food, clothes, medicines, shelter, and love and affection."

If a child on the streets who has nothing is willing to share, why are we who have everything still so greedy? I can't stop thinking that these are children my own age, that it makes a tremendous difference where you are born; that I could be one of those children living in the favelas of Rio. I could be a child starving in Somalia, or a victim of war in the Middle East, or a beggar in India. I am only a child, yet I know if all the money spent on war was spent on finding environmental answers ending poverty and in finding treaties, what a wonderful place this Earth would be.

At school, even in kindergarten, you teach us how to behave in the world. You teach us to not to fight with others, to work things out, to respect others, to clean up our mess, not to hurt other creatures, to share, not be greedy. Then, why do you go out and do -- do the things you tell us not to do? Do not forget why you are attending these conferences -- who you're doing this for. We are your own children. You are deciding what kind of a world we are growing up in.

Parents should be able to comfort their children by saying, "Everything's going to be all right; it's not the end of the world, and we're -- and we're doing the best we can." But I don't think you can say that to us anymore. Are we even on your list of priorities?

My dad always says, "You are what you do, not what you say." Well, what you do makes me cry at night. You grown-ups say you love us. But I challenge you, please, make your actions reflect your words. Thank you.