

OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE

Call to Prayer: O Gracious Creator, Source of All that has ever been and will ever be,
it is You we acknowledge as we come together in this moment.
May our senses awaken to your Presence everywhere.
May we see you in smiles, in robins, and in sprouting seed.
May we hear you in the gentle breeze and the hum of the bee.
May we encounter your Presence this day in creation, within the whole Earth Community.
Teach us to care for and honor all beings, all places, on Earth, our home. Amen.

Song: *Earth, Our Home* (by Jan Novotka, download attached mp3, for IHM use only) or use another appropriate song

*We live on a wondrous spinning jewel: so fragile and precious is She!
Oh Earth, beautiful one! Oh Earth, awesome and good!
Gentle planet, giving all; Oh Earth, our home!*

Pause in Gratitude for our wondrous Earth

Reflection: *To Be of the Earth*, by John Soos *Earth Prayers*, p. 288

*To be of the earth is to know
The restlessness of being a seed
The darkness of being planted
The struggle toward light
The pain of growth into the light
The joy of bursting and bearing fruit
The love of being food for someone
The scattering of your seed
The decay of the seasons
The mystery of death
And the miracle of birth.*



Sharing: Which of the phases from *To Be of the Earth* speak most to and why?

and/or

Planting: Have some seed and soil in a pot available for planting. As each person plants a seed she might offer a Prayer of Praise for Earth, our home.

Reading from *The Hymn of the Universe* by Teilhard de Chardin

The world is still being created, and it is Christ who is reaching His fulfillment in it. When I heard and understood that saying, I looked around and saw, as though in an ecstasy, that through all nature I was immersed in God. God is everywhere.

Now I am coming again to see the possibility of allowing myself to follow my first impulse without any danger of diminishing my personality or of finding that what I am grasping is a phantom. Every breath that passes through me, envelops me, or captivates me, emanates, without any doubt, from the heart of God; like a subtle and essential energy, it transmits the pulsations of God's will.

Every encounter that brings me a caress, that spurs me on, that comes as a shock to me, that bruises or breaks me, is a contact with the hand of God, which assumes countless forms and yet always commands our worship.

Every element of which I am made up is an overflow from God. When I surrender myself to the embrace of the visible and tangible universe, I am able to be in communion with the invisible that purifies, and to incorporate myself in the spirit without blemish.

God is at work within life. God helps it, raises it up, gives it the impulse that drives it along, the appetite that attracts it, the growth that transforms it.

I can feel God, touch God, and live God in the deep biological current that runs through my soul and carries it with it. God shines through and is personified in all creation.

The deeper I descend into myself the more I find God at the heart of my being. I begin to see how the kingdom of God and cosmic love may be reconciled; the bosom of Mother Earth is in some way the bosom of God.

Silent Reflection:

*If my eyes could
see the
radiance of God
shimmering everywhere,
how would
it transform me?*



Song: *Shimmering Presence* (by Jan Novotka, download attached mp3, for IHM use only) or use another appropriate song

*There is a still, vibrant energy shimmering in all things,
shimmering in all beings, shimmering everywhere.
Behold it and you'll be transformed, for it is the Presence of the Holy.*

Closing Prayer (from A New Zealand Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit, Earth Maker, Pain-bearer, Life Giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
For you reign in the glory of power that is love, now and forever. Amen.