

Prayer of Caring for Earth's Gifts

Reader 1: Let us pray. (pause) In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the Earth, the Earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss.

All: And God saw that it was good.

Reader 2: Spirit of Life, Light of the Universe, teach us to love this Earth, our home. We dwell together on this tiny, fragile planet, this beautiful blue orb floating in the embrace of space.

All: Help us to appreciate your abundant gifts.

Reader 3: To be alive in this magnificent, self-organizing universe – to participate in the dance of life with senses to perceive it, lungs that breathe it, organs that draw nourishment from it – is a wonder beyond words.

All: Teach us gratitude, O Spirit of Abundance.

Reader 4: This is also a dark time, filled with suffering and uncertainty. Like living cells in a larger body, we feel the trauma of our world. Spirit of the Dark, teach us not to be afraid of our own anguish, or anger, or fear, For these responses show us the depth of our caring, and the truth of our interconnectedness with all beings.

All: Create in us compassion for the suffering of the earth and all its beings.

Reader 5: God of Hope, help us to know in our bones that we carry not only the particles of the origin of the Universe, but also its original wisdom.

All: We know that a new world can emerge from our dreams.

Reader 6: Spirit of Love, help us to trust that, even though we cannot clearly see how it will turn out, we are called to let the future into our imagination.

All: Give us the strength to choose to take part in the self-healing of our world.

Reader 7: Great Spirit of on-going Life, open our ears to the call of Earth. Give us the courage to follow our hearts, to always reach toward that which brings us joy. And knowing how deeply our lives intertwine, lead us to join with others with whom we can find strength and common purpose.

All: Allow us to turn our minds and hearts toward one another in trust, giving love, seeking comfort, and celebrating together, all the days of our lives. Amen.

*Adapted from a pastoral prayer by Rev. Katherine Jesch
In Joanna Macy's work, she often reflects on the abundance of Earth's gifts
and our special responsibility to care for those gifts.
This prayer is based on her "Guidelines for Living."*

Source: <http://uuministryforearth.org/earthsunday/Readings.pdf>