



Prayers and Litanies from Several Traditions

An Iroquois Prayer (adapted)

We return thanks to our Mother Earth, which sustains us.
We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which supply us with water.
We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicines for the care of our diseases.
We return thanks to the corn, and to her sisters, the beans and squashes,
which give us life.

We return thanks to the wind, which, moving the air, has banished diseases.
We return thanks to the moon and stars, which have given us their light
when the sun was gone.

We return thanks to the sun that has looked upon the earth with a
Beneficent eye.

Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit in whom is embodied
all Goodness, and who directs all things for
the good of his children.

Ashanti Prayer (Adapted)

Creator of the land and Earth, the trees, animals and humans: all is for your honor. The drums beat it out, the people sing about it and they dance with joy that you are Lord. You have pulled the other continents from the seas. What a wonderful world you have made from the wet mud and what beautiful men and women! We thank you for all the beauty of Earth. The grace of your creation is like a cool day between the seasons of heat and rain. We drink in your creation with our eyes. We listen to the birds who sing the songs of life with our ears. How wonderful and sure Mother Earth smells and all that grows here.

Now, bless us. Bless the land and the people. Bless the forests with trees and all they bring forth. Bless the fields with produce. Bless the waters that flow through the land, for water is life. Be with us in our countries and in the whole world. Prepare us for service that we should render for the sake of the world that You created, that You continue to create, that You love with an everlasting Love.
Amen.

Great Spirit Prayer Algonquin

Give us hearts to understand;

Never to take from creation's beauty more than we give; never to destroy wantonly for the furtherance of greed; never to deny to give our hands for the building of earth's beauty; never to take from her what we cannot use.

Give us hearts to understand

That to destroy earth's music is to create confusion; that to wreck her appearance is to blind us to beauty; that as we care for her she will care for us.

We have forgotten who we are. 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.

Great Spirit, whose dry lands thirst, help us to find the way to refresh your lands.

Great Spirit, whose waters are choked with debris and pollution, help us to find the way to cleanse your waters.

Great Spirit, whose beautiful earth grows ugly with misuse, help us to find the way to restore beauty to your handiwork.

Great Spirit, whose creatures are being destroyed, help us to find a way to replenish them.

Great Spirit, whose gifts to us are being lost in selfishness and corruption, help us to find the way to restore our humanity.

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind, whose breath gives life to the world, hear me; I need your strength and wisdom. May I walk in Beauty.

Canticle of the Creatures

St. Francis of Assisi

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessing.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no one is worthy to mention Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather through which you give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night and he is beautiful
and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who produces
varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living human can escape.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those who will find Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility

For the Beauty of Creation
by Peter Goodwin Heltzel

Almighty and everlasting God,
you created the world as a bountiful garden,
bringing life to every creature that moves and breathes.
We thank you for the vitality, beauty and fruit of your creation.
We pray that our roots would grow deep in the rich soil of your Word.
Water us daily with the subterranean river of life.
From seed to sapling, may we grow to be sturdy oaks of righteousness, radiating
light in dark places.
With time may the girth of our trunks
be hearty and sap-thick in protection against those who destroy.
May our branches reach out to the high heavens
and our falling leaves drift to lands far and wide for the healing of the nations.
Rejoice, O ye Earth, rejoice!
We wait and watch with the eyes of ravens and the patience of ancient trees
for that day when the trumpet shall sound
and the trees of the fields shall clap their hands.
Let thy Spirit go forth quickly, that it may renew the face of the Earth.
Friends on Earth and friends above,
let's burst forth God's peace and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A prayer from *Prayers for the New Social Awakening*.

Invocation of the Universal Unity
Rooted in the Jewish Invocation of the Sh'ma --
Rabbi Arthur Waskow

Hush'sh'sh and Listen, all peoples –

Pause from your busy-ness
and hush'sh'sh
To hear -- Yahhhhhh,
The One Breath of Life –
For all breath *is* One:

We breathe in what the trees breathe out
And the trees breathe in what we breathe out.

Hear in the stillness the still silent voice,
The silent breathing that intertwines life.

If we Breathe in the quiet,
Interbreathe with all Life
Still small Voice of us all ----
We will feel the Connections;
We will make the connections
And the rain will fall rightly
The grains will grow rightly
And the rivers will run:
All creatures will eat well in harmony,
Earthlings / good Earth.

But if we break the One Breath into pieces
And erect into idols these pieces of Truth,
And choose these mere pieces to worship:
gods of race or of nation
gods of wealth and of power,
gods of greed and addiction –
Big Oil or Big Coal –
If we Do and we Make,
and Produce without Pausing to Be;

If we heat the One Breath with our burnings --
Then the Breath will flare up into scorching,
The corn will parch in the field,
The poor will find little to eat,
Great ice fields will melt
And great storms will erupt:
Floods will drown our homes and our cities,

And the Breath, Holy Wind, Holy Spirit
Will become a Hurricane of Disaster.

What must we do?
Connect what we see with our eyes
To what we do with our hands.
Turn to sun and to wind
To empower all peoples.

Then the grass will grow,
The forests will flourish,
And all life will weave the future in fullness.

Honor the web that all of us weave --
Breathe together the Breath of all Life.

[The community simply breathes quietly for several minutes, staying aware that each breath comes from all breath.]

Jewish Prayer - Traditional

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!
The heavens declare Your glory,
the arch of the sky displays Your handiwork
In Your love You have given us the power
to behold the beauty of Your world
robed in all its splendor.
The sun and the stars, the valleys and the hills,
the rivers and the lakes all disclose Your presence.
The roaring breakers of the sea tell of Your awesome might,
the beast of the field and the birds of the air
bespeak Your wondrous will.
In Your goodness You have made us able to hear
the music of the world.
The voices of the loved ones
reveal to us that You are in our midst.
A divine voice sings through all creation.

Pray for the Wilderness
Daniel Charles Damon

Pray for the wilderness,
vanishing fast,
pray for the rain forest,
open and vast;
pray for the people who line in the trees,
pray for the planet brought down by degrees.

Learn from the elephant,
eagle and whale,
learn from the dragon fly,
spider and snail;
learn from the people in neighboring lands,
learn from the children who play in their sands.

Work for the justice created things need,
work for the health of each plant and seed;
work for the creatures abuse has betrayed,
work for the garden God's wisdom once made.

Trust that God's Christ over came nails and wood,
trust that earth's people will turn to good;
trust that creation forever will grow,
trust that God's goodness to us over flow.

Pray for the atmosphere,
pray for the sea,
learn from the river,
the rock and the tree;
work till Shalom is full harmony rings,
trust the connection of all living things.

Verses from The Quran

To Him belongs every being that is in the heavens and on earth: all are devoutly obedient to Him.

(Holy Qur'an 30:26)

There is not an animal that lives on the earth, nor a being that flies on its wings, but forms part of communities like you. Nothing have we omitted from the Book, and they all shall be gathered to their Lord in the end.

(Holy Qur'an 6:38)

Behold! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of night and day, there are indeed signs for men of understanding, men who celebrate the praises of Allah standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and contemplate the wonders of creation in the heavens and the earth, with the thought: "Our Lord, not for naught hast Thou created all this! Glory to Thee!

(Holy Qur'an 3:190-91)

Prayer at the 2015 National Religious Coalition for Creation Care

Prayer Breakfast

Reverend Thomas Carr

Hear the words of St. Basil the Great from the 4th century:

“I want creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that wherever you go, the least plant may bring you a clear remembrance of the Creator. . . . One blade of grass or one speck of dust is enough to occupy your entire mind in beholding the art with which it has been made.”

O Sacred One, through Your creative goodness we see you everywhere, in everything, if we'd only open the eyes of our hearts. You are creating always, before time and through time and space – always, always. We pray that you would create in us now new hearts, hearts that see through the fog and maze of this moment for your creation, and move us to do what is right and good and life-giving for all.

We come, each one of us with our own desires, aspirations and yearnings for the world you so love. And we come together as one people with so many different ways of relating to You, to do the work of loving, healing and restoring this sacred planet and all life within. So, let us be humble to know that we can always learn something new, especially from those with whom we disagree. Strengthen us, we pray, for the task in which we are engaged. Empower us, to speak truth to those who have the power to turn around this train wreck we are on. And as we speak and act, remind us to listen because You are speaking still, Your Spirit still moves in places and people and circumstances where we'd never dream possible, because You are always doing a “new thing.” Let us listen in order that we might see the new thing You are doing with the eyes of our hearts.

Amen.

A Prayer from Jewish Tradition

Creator of peace, compassionate God,

guide us to a covenant of peace with all Your creatures
- birds and beasts as well as all humanity-
a reflection of Your image of compassion and peace.
Give us strength to help sustain Your promised
covenant abolishing blind strife and bloody warfare,
so they will no longer devastate the earth, so discord will no
longer tear us asunder.
Then all that is savage and brutal will vanish,
and we shall fear evil no more.
Guard our coming and our going, now toward waking,
now toward sleep, always within Your tranquil shelter.
Beloved are You, Sovereign of peace, whose embrace encompasses
all humanity and all life.

Prayer of Awareness

John Philip Newell

It is in the depths of life that we find you,
at the heart of this moment,
at the center of our soul,
deep in the earth and its eternal stirrings.
You are the Ground of all being
the Well-Spring of time
Womb of the earth,
the Seed-Force of the stars.
And so, at this moment,
we wait,
not for blessings from afar,
but for You,
the very Soil of our soul,
the eternal Freshness of each day,
the first Breath of morning light,
the gentle Kiss of sleep of night.

Prayer of Saint Basil the Great - 4th Century

O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things ... to whom thou gavest the earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised the high dominion of humanity with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to thee in song,

has been a groan of travail. May we realize that they live not for us alone but for themselves and for thee, and that they love the sweetness of life.”

Responsive Prayer

We give you thanks and praise, O God of creation, for the grandeur of all that you
have made,

We thank you, God.

For the healing waters of creation, which bring life and health, purity and pleasure,

We thank you, God.

For the richness of the good Earth that brings forth fruits and flowers, a pleasure to
taste and a joy to behold,

We thank you, God.

For the birds of the air, the crawling creatures of earth, the fish in the seas, and for
all creatures great and small with whom we share this precious web of life,

We thank you, God.

For the light of day, the deepening mystery of night, the wonder of the stars, and
the call of the unknown in the universe,

We thank you, God.

From heedless misuse and dishonoring of the wonders of your hand,

Good Lord deliver us.

From the destruction of life, abusing our companion species,
and polluting the habitat we all share,

Good Lord deliver us.

From the folly of imagining ourselves separate from the fate of your whole
creation,

Good Lord deliver us.

For the courage and honesty to confess how little we have cared for your gifts,

Strengthen us, O Spirit.

For the conviction that you have called us to love and restore the Earth,

Strengthen us, O Spirit.

For the wisdom to repent and the determination to begin our stewardship anew,

Strengthen us, O Spirit.

Loving, ever creating God, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every
living creature: May we be always thankful for your loving providence; and may
we remember our calling to be faithful stewards of all that is Yours. Through
Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

From the 7th Assembly, World Council of Churches, 1991

“Come, Holy Spirit, come! Renew the whole creation:
Where families are fractured and children are forced to fight for survival;
Where more resources are spent on arms and destruction than
on the relief of disease and poverty;
Where our worth is measured by our possessions and positions;
Where God’s creation is besieged by pollution, and greed
threatens our environment;
Where countries are torn by differences and innocent blood is
spilt by disregard for life:
Where warfare sets nation against nation and nuclear holocaust
looms ominous on our horizon:
Giver of life, sustain your creation.
Spirit of truth, set us free and heal our wounds.
Spirit of unity, reconcile your people.
Holy Spirit, transform and sanctify us.
Come, Holy Spirit, come! Renew the whole creation. Amen.”

Litanies

A Litany of Sorrow

Leader:

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.

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.

Leader:

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

Response: We have forgotten who we are.

Leader:

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

Response: We have forgotten who we are.

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. (Allow for a period of silence)

A Litany for Healing

Leader:

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.

Leader:

To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures

Response: We join with the earth and with each other.

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.

Leader:

To recall our destiny

To renew our spirits
To reinvigorate our bodies

Response: We join with the earth and with each other.

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.

**All: We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery:
for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life. (silence)**

A Litany of Gratitude

Leader:

We live in all things
All things live in us

Response: We rejoice in all life.

Leader:

We live by the sun
We move with the stars

Response: We rejoice in all life.

Leader:

We eat from the earth
We drink from the rain
We breathe from the air

Response: We rejoice in all life.

Leader:

We share with the creatures
We have strength through their gifts

Response: We rejoice in all life.

Leader:

We depend on the forests
We have knowledge through their secrets

Response: We rejoice in all life.

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.

Leader:

We are full of the grace of creation
We are graceful
We are grateful

All: We rejoice in all life

Litany for God's Guidance

Leader: O sing to God a new creation song.

People: For God has done marvelous things.

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

People: For God has done marvelous things.

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

People: Give us a clear vision, O God.

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

People: Give us clear vision, O God.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

source: service from August 1992, "Coming to See"

Litany of Praise

Left: "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." *(Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)*

Right: "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." *(Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)*

Left: "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." *(Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)*

Right: ". . . 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." *(Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)*

Left: "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." *(Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)*

Right: "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." *(Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic)*

Left: ". . . 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." *(Brian Swimme, physicist)*

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

Left: "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." *(T. S. Eliot, poet)*

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

Source Unknown

Litany for Growth

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

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.

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

All: We thank you, O God.

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

All: We praise you, O God.

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.

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.

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.

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.