

Walking Gently on the Earth



*Group is seated in a circle.
Take turns reading meditatively.*

A Prayer for Global Restoration**

Good and Gracious God,
Source of all Life,
all creation is charged
with your Divine Energy.

Ignite your Spark within us,
that we may know ourselves
as truly human and holy,
irrevocably part of the Web of Life.

All creation
- each star and every flower,
- each drop of water and every person,
- each and every atom,
down to its very electrons,
explodes with the revelation
of your Sacred Mystery.

Our minds alone cannot fathom such splendo
Our hearts can only respond in awe,
praise and gratitude.

Forgive us we pray, our ignorance
and insecurities which

- blind us to your Thumbprint writ large,
- deafen us to the sacred space
between two heartbeats,
- prompt us in arrogance
to demand and dominate,
- numb us to the destruction we've caused,
- hold us hostage to "either-or"
thinking and living.



May we always walk gently upon this earth,
in right relationship,
- nurtured by your Love,
- taking only what we need,
- giving back to the earth in gratitude,
- sharing what we have,
- honoring all with reverence,
- reconciling and healing,
- mindful of those who will come after,
- recognizing our proper place as part of,
not apart from, your creation.

Grant us the strength and courage, we pray,
for such radical transformation into your kingdom.

Then we, too, with the very stones will shout,
"HOSANNA"

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Reflection on Above Prayer

Contemplative Silence

Reading

For, lo, the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of the singing birds is come,
and the voice of the turtle
is heard in our land.
(Songs of Songs 2: 11-12)

Contemplative Silence

Prayer of Directions

Everyone stands and gathers into a circle. All share in a time of holy silence. Then drum or flute music is softly played throughout the blessing. One person recites the following prayer, another recites the next, and so on.

Prayer

Loving Creator, we owe our existence to you.
All living creatures come from you.
Today we find ourselves coming here
to remember the gift of life.
As we look around ourselves,
we recognize the life of trees and
all other life forms to which we
and they are related.
We bless you this day. All: Amen.

(All face EAST)

From the East the sun comes everyday and
spreads light over all living things.
It speaks to us of your love.
As we think of all the people and
things that live to the east of us.
We ask for wisdom and understanding
that what is done at this place may be
for the benefit of everything and everyone.

All: Amen

(All face SOUTH)

The South makes us think of warmth.
We thank you for the gifts that come to us
from the South.
Help us not to waste them.
Help us to remember
the needs of all our relatives,
especially those that cannot speak
for themselves.
May what we do here and what is done here
in the future be a blessing.

All: Amen



(All face WEST)

The sun sets in the West
and our day comes to an end.
Give us abundant waters to fill our rivers
lakes, and oceans.
Help us to value the gift of water.
May there be an abundance for our land
and its wildlife and peoples
for generations to come.

All: Amen

(All face NORTH)

As we look North, we think of cool winds,
cleansing breezes that cause leaves
to fall to the earth to rest.
As we are gathered here,
teach us patience and endurance.
May we lighten one another's burden.

All: Amen

Conclusion

Closing Prayer (together)

Our Father, Great Mother, feed our spirits.
Clothe our hearts that we may serve you and
truly bring that Love into our world. Amen.

Closing Song

Suggestion: “[Canticle of the Sun](#)” (*Marty Haugen*)

Acknowledgments

“Walking Gently on the Earth” adapted by: [Sharon Rae McCarthy, OSM](#), from a ritual originally prepared by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration; from [Hill Connections](http://hillconnections.org) (<http://hillconnections.org>), a web site linking [Contemplation](#) and [Social Justice](#).